

Prayers for a Sanctuary Pilgrimage – and Prayers for Our Daily Life

At the Threshold: A Rune of Hospitality

I saw a stranger yesterday.
I put food in the eating place,
Drink in the drinking place,
Music in the listening place;
And in the sacred name of the Triune God
The stranger blessed myself and my house,
My cattle and my dear ones.
And the lark says often in her song,
Often, often, often
Goes Christ in the stranger's guise.

At the Beginning of our Pilgrimage

Bless to us, O God, the earth beneath our feet.
Bless to us, O God, the path whereon we go.
Bless to us, O God, the people whom we meet.
Bless to us, O God, each thing our eyes see.
Bless to us, O God, each sound our ears hear.
Bless to us, O God, each ray that guides our way.

-A Celtic Blessing, included in Around a Thin Place: An Iona Pilgrimage Guide by Jane Bentley and Neil Paynter

At the Candles

May the light of God illumine our hearts.
May the flame of Christ kindle us to love.
May the fire of the spirit free us to live, this day, this night, and for ever. Amen.

-John Philip Newell, Celtic Benediction: Morning and Night Prayer

At the cross

Draw us to Jesus, O God
That we may draw closer to each other
and our neighbors.
Amen.

At the Baptismal Font:

A Prayer for Families and Homes

Strong, sheltering God,
We bless you for all the beautiful things of home,
Warmth and shelter when the wind outside is bitter
For the body and for the soul
Treasured gifts and treasured memories
Stability, acceptance and care.
Blessed are you, strong sheltering God.

-Kathy Galloway

At the Communion Table

Lord, give us bread
And let us eat
To give us strength
And let our strength
Help us to work
So that all
May share the bread of life. Amen.
-Jane Bentley

A prayer for continuing with our day

Lord, we ask only this:
That you would meet us on the road,
And that we, expectant,
Would recognize and know you
In your coming
And so find our lives transformed.

Amen

-Pat Benett