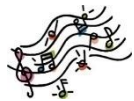


COME AWAY¹

The sound of my lover,
Swift as any deer.
Now at my window,
Calling me so near.
Ooh, come away, ooh.



**Come with me, my love, come away with me.
Come with me, my love, come away with me.
Come away, come away, come away, come away.**

My beloved speaks,
He says to me,
Set out with me
My darling one.
Spring joy is with us.
Dove and songbird greet.
Carpets of flowers,
Their fragrance so sweet.
Come away,
Come away with me, my love ... Ooh.

Dove, bright and beautiful, hiding in fear
Show me your face
Your voice, true and clear.



**Come with me, my love, come away with me.
Come with me, my love, come away with me.
Come away, come away, come away, come away.**

¹ Loosely based on Marcia Falk's translation of the Song of Songs "Love Lyrics from the Bible".

OPENING PRAYER

We come together in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **AMEN**

The Lord is Here.
His Spirit is with us.

Creator God,
Source of life and love,
Open us to your presence around us.
Creator God you are with us now.

Son of God,
Life and love made flesh,
Open us to your presence through us.
Son of God, you are with us now.

Breath of God,
Life force and love's longing,
Open us to your presence in us.
Breath of God, you are with us now.

We pause this evening on the edge of Spring,
in a moment in your eternity,
in the presence of our ancestors.
We ask that, like Brigid,
we might feel the joy
of God's welcome,
hear God's voice.
Calling.
Come.

GOD'S JOY

The Celtic imagination sees Creation as good. Hear Brigid's voice in God's joyful delight in this brief version of the Creation story.

In the beginning

1
Earth is nothing, emptiness, chaos. God's Spirit hovers over it. God said: "Light!" and light appeared.
God sees; *this is good!*

2
God separates light from dark, makes sky and water. Calls sky heaven.
God sees: *this is good!*

3
God gathers the waters together, creating land and sea. God speaks: "Earth, green up! Plants, trees, the lot. Bearing seeds. Producing fruit.
God sees: *this is good!*

4
God speaks to separate day and night, creates days, seasons, makes sun, moon and stars
God sees: *this is good!*

5
God speaks to create fish, sea life, birds, Live! Fill seas and skies!!
God sees: *this is good!*

6
God speaks: "Earth fill with animals, wild and tame, cattle, reptiles, bugs, the lot!" And God pauses ... and then speaks: "Let's make humans, male and female, In our image, like us. To care for all this ... good!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

God looks at it all, savours, enjoys it...

God sees: *this is good, this is really, really, good!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*

Bring us into your joy, God, as we pray:

Light and darkness:

This is good!

Day and night:

This is good!

Sky, earth, sea:

This is good!

Lush green land:

This is good!

Teaming with fish:

This is good!

Ablaze with birds:

This is good!

Animals, wild and tame:

This is good!

Creator God, we join Brigid,
reaching us in your eternity,
pressing us to delight in creation,
to come with excitement and joy into a new spring.

Come with me, my love, come away with me.

Come with me, my love, come away with me.

Come away, come away, come away, come away.



My beloved speaks. He says to me,

Set out with me my darling one.

Spring joy is with us. Dove and songbird greet.

Carpets of flowers, their fragrance so sweet, come away.

Come with me my love, come away with me.

Come with me, my love, come away with me.

Come away, come away, come away, come away.



MY DARLING ONE²

God put Adam into a deep sleep, removed a rib from his side, and closed the flesh around the opening. Genesis 2: 21

And so this woman, she was shaped
and given her name.

Eve: a noble name,
a beautiful woman, a good woman,
a part of Adam:
the best part.

A fine start
to this birthing of true children.
God's children.

And so Adam, rising out of his sleep,
no damage done (well, he did lose a rib)
sees his wife,
fair of face, elegant,
noble, wise, just, sensitive.
Happy.
Fabulous.
How lucky is he!

And so, he lets himself look at her face
HE SEES HER.
And certain beyond every precious certainty,
clear beyond clear,
wise beyond wise,
it floods out of him,
this desire to give.
This promise
that she will be cherished,

² Based on lines 1060-1072 from *Saltair na Rann*, 10th Century. Trans D Greene & F Kelly.

loved by many.
Floods out of him.
Be Loved!

And so, Creator God,

To you we pray.

For the Eve in each of us:
Clever, bright,
Noble and wise,
Good and true.

Lord, let your goodness shine in us

For the Eve in each of us:
Wise and sensitive,
Birthing God's children,
Feeling God's pain.

Lord, let your tears flow in us.

For the Eve in each of us,
Noble and just,
Shedding tears of rage
for wrongs suffered.
Tears of longing for what might still be.

Lord, let your justice stir in us.

ALL THAT I HAD HOPED FOR ³

How lonely sits the woman who once was so full of life.
She that ruled over creation but now full of strife.
She weeps bitterly in the night with tears on her cheeks;
among all her lovers, no one brings her peace.

*Ag smaointiú siar ar shaibhreas
an tsaoil, 's í i mbarr réime fadó
Sular chloígh na naimhde
a deirfiúracha gur fágadh
iad faoi chois.
Deireadh le ré mo ghlóire,
le dúil is le haisling mo chroí
Na deora géara
ag sileadh go fras,
Mo dheirfiúracha
'g fulaingt faraoir*

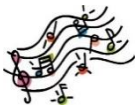
She remembers
All the precious things
Of the life that once she knew
before her sisters fell
Into the hand of the foe.
“Gone is my glory now,
And all that I had hoped for
My eyes flow
With rivers of tears,
My sisters suffer so”.

I called on your name, O Lord. From the depths of the pit
You came near when I called on you;
you told me, “Do not fear!”
You have seen the wrong done to me;
The injustice, offence and the crime.
Restore me and my sisters, O Lord,
to how we were meant to shine.

³ Adaptation of translation of Lamentations 1 by Kate Wallace Nunnley; Irish translation by Margaret Fahy

My eyes flow with rivers of tears.
What are your tears for today?
We gather them,
as water to the well
where Jesus waits.

Gathered here In God's presence
God's tears flowing in us,
God's justice stirring in us,
God's goodness shining in us.



Lord let your tears flow in us.
Lord let your justice stir in us.
Lord let your goodness shine in us.
(repeat)

GOSPEL

Come to the well, with the God who created you.

The Lord is here: **His Spirit is with us.**

Open our hearts: **Let your Word come in.**

Show us a love: **That will never run dry.**

Jesus came to the Samaritan village. Tired, he sits by the well, around noon, on his own. A Samaritan woman comes to draw water. Jesus says to her, "Please give me a drink." ⁹The woman is surprised. Jews don't talk to the

likes of her, She says “Why are you asking me for a drink?”¹⁰ Jesus replies, “If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to. You’d be asking me. I’d give you living water.”

¹¹ “But sir, you don’t have a rope or a bucket,” she says, “and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water?”

¹³ Jesus replies, “Drink this water and you’re thirsty again. The water I give quenches all thirst - a fresh, bubbling spring within, giving eternal life.”

Says she, “Give me this water! I’ll never thirst again. I won’t need to go to the well” ¹⁶

“Go and get your husband,” Jesus told her. ¹⁷ “I don’t have a husband,” the woman replied. Jesus said, “You’re right! You’ve had five husbands, and aren’t married to the man you’re living with now.” “You’re a prophet, says she ...



*We pause for a while
at the well ...*

“Come see this man who knows everything about me!”

PRAYERS

And we come from the silence of the well and we put words on our prayers. Stir up your living water in us God.

When we see your creation:

God, let your joy stir up in us.

When our hearts are broken:

God, let your tears stir up in us.

When we are silenced:

God, let your words stir up in us.

When we see injustice:

God, let your anger stir up in us.

When we see suffering:

God, let your action stir up in us.

A BLESSING WITH WATER FROM THE WELL

This water sprinkled on us all, as a visible reminder: our tears added to God's water of life, all bubbling up in us, flooding out. Love that will never run dry, stirring us up, to live and love like Jesus.

Lord let your tears flow in us.

Lord let your justice stir in us.

Lord let your goodness shine in us.



We join Jesus in his prayer: **Our Father ...**

CLOSING PRAYER

May Brigid's joy in Christ
infect us
May her generosity
empower us
Her desire for justice
unsettle us
Her passion for creation
inflame us
Her love of God
encircle us

Creator God
Delight in us
Son of God
Disrupt through us
Spirit-Water of God
Drive us out from here

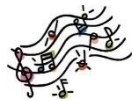
We leave here asking that we live and love

**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER
AND OF THE SON
AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

AMEN

COMING HOME WITH JESUS

The sound of my lover,
Swift as any deer.
Now at my window,
Calling me so near.
Ooh, come away, ooh.



**Come with me, my love, come away with me.
Come with me, my love, come away with me.
Come away, come away, come away, come away.**

My beloved speaks,
He says to me,
Set out with me
My darling one.
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