

(This liturgy can be used and adapted to welcome new members of a prayer community who are not formally joining the CCC, but who wish to be part of a local community while remaining in their own denomination.)

+ GATHERING +

"Jesus, we welcome Thee, in the heart of friend and stranger.
Jesus, we welcome Thee, in the heart of friend and stranger.

Presider: We greet one another with open hearts and warm spirits.

We welcome each of you this night, who join us for the first time.

We greet the Christ within you,
we greet you as the Presence of Christ in our midst.

Come in, out of the dark, into the light of Christ's presence among us here, who gather
in his name.

Come in, out of the cold, into the warmth of Christ's embrace.

Come saint and sinner, come seeker and sought, come with your
questions, your burdens, your gifts and gratitude.

Come with all that you are and all that you are not.

Come with all that you hope to be.
All are welcome this night to come into the light of Christ, to
be the light of Christ in the world.

No matter who you are, or from whence you come, no matter how long or far you have journeyed,
welcome...welcome...welcome.

You are welcome. Find rest in our friendship...FAILTE! (silent pause)...

HYMN

"CEAD MILE FAILTE ROMHAT"

Céad míle fáilte romhat, a Íosa, a Íosa
Céad míle fáilte romhat, a Íosa
Céad míle fáilte romhat a Shlánaítheoir
Céad míle míle fáilte romhat, 'Íosa, a Íosa

Glóir agus moladh duit, a Íosa, a Íosa
Glóir agus moladh duit, a Íosa
Glóir agus moladh duit, a Shlánaítheoir
Glóir, moladh agus buíochas duit, 'Íosa, a Íosa.

TRANSLATION:

**A hundred thousand welcomes, O Jesus, O Jesus
A hundred thousand welcomes, O Jesus
A hundred thousand welcomes, O Saviour
A hundred thousand welcomes, O Jesus, O Jesus.**

**Glory and praise to You, O Jesus, O Jesus
Glory and praise to You, O Jesus
Glory and praise to You, O Savior
Glory and praise and thanks to You, O Jesus, O Jesus.**

**Presider: Let us pray: + In the name of the Father and of the Son and
of the Holy Spirit.**

All: Amen.

+ OPENING PRAYER +

**Reader: Lord Jesus, you welcomed all who came to you and taught us
that in welcoming even the least of our sisters and brothers, it is you
we welcome into our hearts. Bless now, those gathered here in your
name, that we may look upon your countenance in the faces both familiar
and new. And make us to know, Lord, that in your body there can be no
strangers among us; only friends whom we have not yet met. Amen.**

Please be seated.

+ LITURGY OF THE WORD +

First Reading: Hebrews 13:1-3, 5-6, 8

Lector: A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

**Continue to love each other as brothers and sisters, and remember
always to welcome strangers, for by doing so, some people have
entertained angels unaware. Keep in mind those who are in prison, as
though you were in prison with them; and those who are being badly
treated, since you too are in the body. Put avarice out of your lives
and be content with whatever you have; God himself has said: I shall
not fail you or desert you, and so we can say with confidence: With the
Lord on my side, I fear nothing; what can human beings do to me? Jesus
Christ is the same today as he was yesterday and as he will be for
ever.**

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Pause for silent reflection.

Responsorial: Psalm 131: Childlike Trust in God

Lector:

Lord, I hold myself in quiet and silence.

All:

Lord, I hold myself in quiet and silence.

Lector:

**Lord, my heart is not haughty, I do not set my sights too high.
I have taken no part in great affairs, in wonders beyond my scope.**

All: Lord, I hold myself in quiet and silence.

Lector:

**No, I hold myself in quiet and silence, like a little child in its
mother's arms,
Like a little child, so I keep myself.**

All: Lord, I hold myself in quiet and silence.

Lector:

Let Israel hope in the Lord, henceforth and forever.

All: Lord, I hold myself in quiet and silence.

Pause for silent reflection.

**After several moments of quiet, a priest/deacon goes to the center of
the circle to retrieve the Gospel and taking it up, proclaims the
gospel.**

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Priest: The Lord is with you.

All: And also with you.

Priest: +A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: +Glory to you O, Lord!

**‘When the Son of man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels,
then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All nations will be
assembled before him and he will separate people one from another as
the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his
right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those
on his right hand, ‘Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take as your
heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the
world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you
gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome, lacking
clothes and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you
came to see me.’**

**Then the upright will say to him in reply, ‘Lord, when did we see you
hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you
a stranger and make you welcome, lacking clothes and clothe you? When
did we find you sick or in prison and go to see you?’**

**And the King will answer, ‘In truth I tell you, in so far as you did
this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.’**

**Then he will say to those on his left hand, ‘Go away from me, with your
curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his**

angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food, I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink, I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, lacking clothes and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me.” Then it will be their turn to ask, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or lacking clothes, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?” Then he will answer, “In truth I tell you, in so far as you neglected do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.” And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the upright to eternal life.’

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

Welcoming Reflection: _____

+ PRAYER OF WELCOMING AND ENCIRCLING CAIM +

The New Comers are now led into the center of the circle by the CCC member standing nearest to them. Once they are in place in the center, CCC members lay hands on them. All move in closer to fill in the gaps, thus creating a circle within a circle.

The Lorica

I bind unto myself today the strong Name of the Trinity, by invocation of the same, the Three in One and One in Three.

I bind this day to me for ever, by power of faith, Christ's incarnation; His baptism in the Jordan River; His death on cross for my salvation; His bursting from the spiced tomb; His riding up the heavenly way; His coming on the day of doom; I bind unto myself today.

I bind unto myself today, the great love of the Cherubim; the sweet "Well done" in judgment hour; the service of the Seraphim, Confessor's faith, Apostle's word, the Patriarch's prayers, the Prophet's scrolls; all good deeds unto the Lord, and purity of virgin souls.

I bind unto myself today the virtues of the starlit heaven, the glorious sun's life-giving ray, the whiteness of the moon at even, the flashing of the lightning free, the whirling wind's tempestuous shocks, the stable earth, the deep salt sea, around the old eternal rocks.

I bind unto myself today the power of God to hold and lead, his eye to watch, his might to stay, his ear to hearken to my need. The wisdom of my God to teach, his hand to guide, his shield to ward; the Word of God to give me speech, his heavenly host to be my guard.

Against the demon snares of sin, the vice that gives temptation force, the natural lusts that war within, the hostile ones that mar my course; or few or many, far or nigh, in every place, and in all hours, against their fierce hostility, I bind to me these holy powers.

Against all Satan's spells and wiles, against false words of heresy, against the knowledge that defiles, against the heart's idolatry,

against the wizard's evil craft, against the death wound and the burning, the choking wave and poisoned shaft, protect me Christ, till your returning.

Beginning with these chants, as Art+ prays each "Christ" phrase very slowly, CCC members may randomly, appropriately, and gently lay hands on the corresponding part of the newcomer. Do what comes naturally and try to ensure that all newcomers are attended to. You may move from one person to another as the prayers continue.

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the Name, the strong Name of the Trinity; by invocation of the same: The Three in One and One in Three, of whom all nature has creation: Eternal Father, Spirit, Word, praise to the Lord of my salvation, salvation is of Christ the Lord. Amen.

Presider: Dear Friends: In Christ we welcome you, in his name we bless you, and it is his peace we offer to you; a peace which the world cannot give. Thus, to all gathered here: Peace be with you.

All: And Also with you.

Presider: Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

All share a sign of peace and welcome, saying, "Failte!"

+ CLOSING PRAYER +

Presider: Let us pray.
Now Lord, let your servants go in peace;
Your Word has been fulfilled:
Our eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people:
a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people
Israel.

All: Protect us Lord as we stay awake, watch over us as we sleep. That awake we may keep watch with Christ and asleep rest in his peace.

Presider: As we keep watch with Christ throughout the night, let our light shine in the darkness, and let us celebrate the gift of one another and rejoice in each other's company. For this we give thanks and make this prayer in the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord.

All: AMEN!