



The Celtic Way.

Esther De Waal writes:

"Above all the Celtic tradition has reminded me of the importance of images, those foundational images whose depths and universal character have always brought such riches to Christian understanding. . . . It now becomes vital more than ever, to recover the fundamental images of fire, wind, bread, water, of light and dark, of the heart. These are the great impersonal symbols which are universal, understood by Christian and nonchristian alike."¹

Esther de Waal, The Celtic Way of Prayer: The Recovery of the Religious Imagination

The Psalms, of course, have these features, and Celtic Christians often sang and prayed thirty psalms a day. However, the Celtic Christians also wrote new prayers and many have been passed on for centuries. This part of a prayer serves as an example of cogency and poetic repetition.

- Father who sought me
- Son who bought me
- Holy Spirit who taught me.

The most famous Celtic prayer, "St. Patrick's Breastplate," stands as a magnificent example of the visual quality of many Celtic prayers.

I rise today
in power's strength, invoking the Trinity,
believing in threeness,
confessing the oneness,
of creation's Creator.



from: The Celtic Way of Evangelism -

George C. Hunter III

Abingdon Press

2000

St Patrick's Breastplate

This translation published in Anthology of Celtic Christian Spirituality: An Anthology of Medieval and Modern Sources.

London: SPCK, 1995