

The disciples of course did not immediately start the work of fishing for people. They began a period of learning the values of Jesus by being in his company.

7. Closing Prayer

Deep peace of the running wave to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the sleeping stones to you.

Deep peace of the soft rain to you.

Deep peace of the pure red of the flame to you.

Deep peace of the pure green grass to you.

Deep peace of the pure brown earth to you.

Deep peace of the silver of the dew to you.

Deep peace of the pure blue of the sky to you.

Deep peace of the pure white of the moon to you.

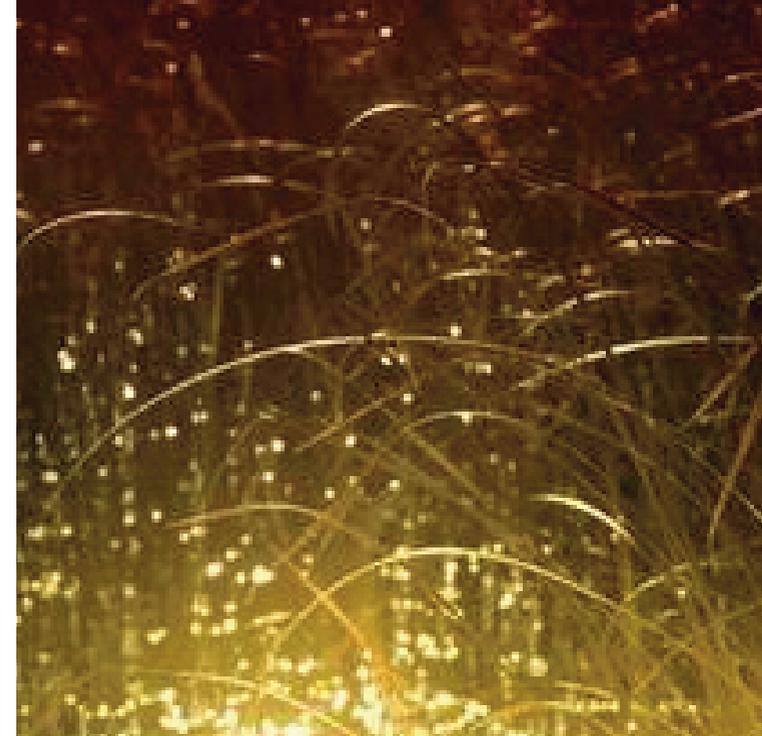
Deep peace of the flock of stars to you.

Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.

Deep peace from the heart of Mary to you and from Bridget of the mantle.

Deep peace! Deep peace!

*Adapted from Under the Dark Star
by Fiona McLeod*



Catching Slivers of Light
Second Sunday of Lent
Feast of St. Patrick



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1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

I arise today
Through the strength of heaven
Light of the sun
Speed of lightning
Swiftness of wind
Depth of the sea
Stability of earth
Firmness of rock.

I arise today
Through God's strength to pilot me;
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me;
God's ear to hear me;
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me,

Christ to comfort me and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in the hearts of all that love,
Christ in the mouth of friend or stranger
God's angels to protect me.
Prayer of St. Patrick 461 AD

2. Gospel text Luke 5:1-11

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered: "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said. "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" For he and his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

3. Quiet Moment

People can read over the story again and pick out a word or short phrase that strikes them and say it out loud. When everyone has had a chance to speak, people can silently listen to what God is saying to them in their hearts linking it with themselves, their community, society/world. Then some sharing.

NB Not a time for argument.

4. Reflection questions for Feast of St. Patrick

1. Reading back over the opening prayer, which phrase strikes you? Why?
2. Patrick 'launched into the deep' to fish for the Irish, what treasure has he left with us?

5. Prayers

Mentioning the people/situations we want to pray for....

6. Background notes for Luke 5: 1-11

In this account Luke places Jesus in Capernaum. He has had to leave Nazareth because 'a prophet is never welcomed in his hometown' – people had wanted to throw him over a cliff. In Capernaum he healed many sick people at night – when they could come to him without fear – and then Simon's mother-in-law during the day.

Up to that we hear nothing about Peter being captivated by the healings. But now it comes to fishing and a haul of fish that nearly sinks the boats and totally overwhelms him. He casts himself down in awe and fear, feeling unworthy to be in Jesus' presence.

The reference to 'fishing for people' echoes Jeremiah 16:16 where the prophet describes the gathering of the people for blessing and judgement as the activity of a fisherman. Jesus chose seven fishermen – notorious for their roughness in his culture. The invitation to them is not about judgement but about gathering in the abundant harvest of people.