

Opening Song - *Be the Centre of Our Circle*

Lyrics and Music by Dennis Hendricksen

Be the centre of our circle,
Be the centre of our circle
Be the peace that centres us.
We call to you, the Holy mystery,
The Three-in-One, and One-in-Three.
Be the centre of our circle,
Be the peace that centres us.
Be our peace, be our peace.

Psalm 139:1-10 (CEB)

LORD, you have examined me.

You know me.

You know when I sit down and when I stand up.

Even from far away, you comprehend my plans.

You study my traveling and resting.

You are thoroughly familiar with all my ways.

There isn't a word on my tongue, LORD,

that you don't already know completely.

You surround me – front and back.

You put your hand on me.

That kind of knowledge is too much for me;

it's so high above me that I can't reach it.

Where could I go to get away from your spirit?

Where could I go to escape your presence?

If I went up to heaven, you would be there.

If I went down to the grave, you would be there too!

If I could fly on the wings of dawn,

stopping to rest only on the far side of the ocean –

even there your hand would guide me;

even there your strong hand would hold me tight!

The Celtic Caim (Circling Prayer)

Circling prayers, also known as *Caim* prayers (from the Irish gaelic meaning 'protection'), are used to create a ring of safety around one's self and their beloveds. The "caim" involves simply drawing a circle around yourself or another person physically or in your imagination.

This encircling prayer is grounded in our awareness of the constant companionship and protection of the divine. It reminds us that God is in this place. Often, as they embarked on journeys or felt at risk, Celtic Christians would inscribe a circle around themselves as a reminder of God's ever-present companionship and protection.

When we're in situations where we feel our anxiety rising a circling prayer can remind us that we are within God's circle of loving protection as we visualize God's circle of love surrounding us, a reminder that God is with us, right where we are.

Saying a "circling prayer" can be done while revolving slowly in a clock-wise direction, drawing a circle around oneself with the index finger, or doing so in your imagination for someone else. Here are a few examples of *Caim* prayers for others:

Circle of love, encompass _____.

May your love well up within her/him/them.

May your passion enlighten her/him/them.

Circle of healing, encompass _____.

May your healing touch rest upon her/him/them.

Circle of protection, encompass _____.

Surround _____ with your eternal safety
Protect her/him/them from all temptations and ills,
give her/him/them courage and strength
to live always from Your safe and powerful center.

A Contemporary Circling Prayer

(by Christine Aroney-Sine)

Circle us, Lord,
Keep love within, keep hatred out.
Keep joy within, keep fear without.
Keep peace within, keep worry out.
Keep light within, keep darkness out.
Stand in the circle with us today. Amen.

Closing Song - *Circle Me*

Lyrics and Music by Jeff Johnson

1. Circle me, O God, let Your arms enfold me,
Circle me, O God, let Your love surround.
Circle me, O God, let Your light shine brightly,
Circle me, circle me, O God.
2. Circle me, O God, when I'm weak and weary,
Circle me, O God, when despair is near.
Circle me, O God, let Your peace surround me,
Circle me, circle me, O God.
3. Circle me, O God, when I'm tired and restless,
Circle me, O God, be my hope, my strength.
Circle me, O God, let Your presence guide me,
Circle me, circle me, O God.

A Celtic Blessing

May God the Father bless us;
May Christ take care of us;
May the Holy Spirit enlighten us
all the days of our life.
The Lord be our Defender
and Keeper of body and soul
both now and for ever,
to the ages of ages.