

Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church (USA)



Changing Lives and
Growing In God's Love

www.Holy411.org

Rev. Dr. Daris S. Bultena, Pastor
Minister of Word and Sacrament

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Celtic Christianity

Dear Readers,

A profound and deeply rich part of our tradition as Presbyterians is gleaned from what might be labeled "Celtic Christianity." For a large part of Christian history Celtic Christianity was not in vogue for the established church. In fact, there were many who deemed Celtic traditions and beliefs as "heretical," and the result was that many Christians dismissed this part of the heritage. Christians today are re-discovering the Celtic path and finding as they journey along its way a rich spiritual experience.

A brief glimpse into Celtic Christianity begins with the most recognizable symbol that dots the countryside in Scotland and Ireland—namely, the ancient high stone crosses. Those crosses, as well as the one that hangs in center of Good Shepherd's chancel, unite the two touchstones of Celtic theology, creation and salvation. The circle represents God the creator. Pre-Christian Celts worshiped the sun, which they believed to be the source of life. Early Celtic missionaries used these circles as a symbol for the Christian God, the "Creator of heaven and earth." The cross, of course, is Christ's cross, the symbol of salvation. Many of the ancient crosses bear chiseled Biblical scenes of God's redemptive acts throughout history.

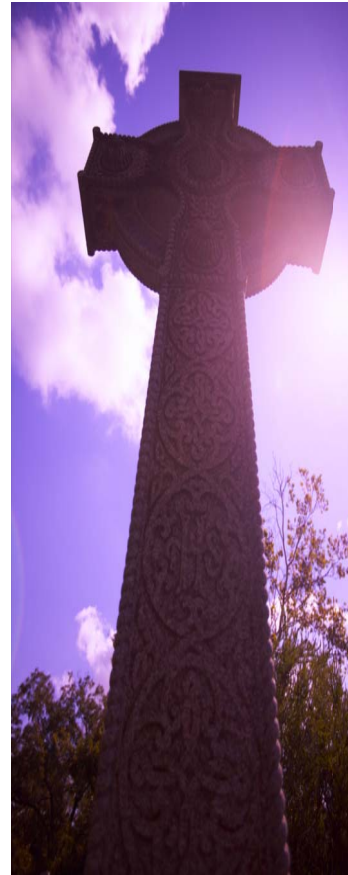
In the season of Lent the following hallmarks of Celtic theology are worth our remembering:

ALL CREATION IS ALIVE WITH THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

THE GOOD CREATION HAS BEEN CORRUPTED BY EVIL.

SALVATION IS THE RESTORATION OF GOODNESS.

ALL LIFE IS INTERTWINED.





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GOD IS ENCOUNTERED IN THE ORDINARY.

HOSPITALITY IS ESSENTIAL.

THE CELTS WERE EVANGELISTS.

Blessings,
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