

The Soul's Slow Ripening: Songs for Celtic Seekers

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1. Brigid's Birds (St. Brigid of Kildare)

by Margaret McClarty © 2017 Square Inch Records

www.margaretmcclarty.com

Brigid's birds mark my way
darting arrows in the sky
and the North Wind,
she dances with them
giving wings to their cry.

And I could be a monk
alone on this white strand.
I see those who'll come after me
and I'm waiting for them to land.

And the stars shine bright
as the fire burns low.
How can we ever go back
to what we used to know?

The history of galaxies
unraveling in the night
will the land hold our memory
like the sky holds light and life.

If your blood is in the ocean
and my tears are in the sea
then our story's in the water
could it hold eternity?

And the stars shine bright
as the fire burns low.
How can we ever go back
to what we used to know?

Fire burns cold.
It's the fields that are full of gold.
They were a casket for
his body, for his soul

And you say,
"Don't be afraid."
And you say,

“Well, we’re all leaving anyway.”
And you say,
“New life comes at the end.”
Well, this is the end.

Brigid’s birds mark my way...

And the stars shine bright
as the fire burns low.
We’ll never come this way again
that much I know.

2. Circle Me, God (St. Ciaran of Clonmacnoise)
by Sherri Hansen (based on the writings of David Adams)
© 2017 Lighthouse Music
www.sherrihansencomposer.com

Circle me, God, keep fear without, keep fear without, keep fear without.
Circle me, God, keep fear without, keep fear without my heart.

Circle me, God, keep joy within, keep joy within, keep joy within,
Circle me, God, keep joy within, keep joy within my heart.

Circle me, God, keep doubt without, keep doubt without, keep doubt without,
Circle me, God, keep doubt without, keep doubt without my heart.

Circle me, God, keep hope within, keep hope within, keep hope within,
Circle me, God, keep hope within, keep hope within my heart.

Circle me, God, keep evil out, keep evil out, keep evil out,
Circle me, God, keep evil out, keep evil from my heart.

Circle me, God, keep peace within, keep peace within, keep peace within,
Circle me, God, keep peace within, keep peace within my heart.

Circle, me, God, keep darkness out, keep darkness out, keep darkness out,
Circle me, God, keep darkness out, keep darkness from my heart.

Circle me, God, keep light within, keep light within, keep light within,
Circle me, God, keep light within, keep light within my heart.

Circle me, God, keep hate without, keep hate without, keep hate without,
Circle me, God, keep hate without, keep hate without my heart.

Circle me, God, keep love within, keep love within, keep love within,
Circle me, God, keep love within, keep love within my heart.

3. Peregrine (St. Columcille of Iona)
by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan © 2015 Worldmaking.net
(Text inspired by the peregrination tradition of pilgrimage)
www.worldmaking.net

Setting out, no rudder, sail, nor oars,
Trusting the current, trusting the course.
Setting out, no rudder, sail, nor oars,
Trusting the current, trusting the course.

Peregrine, our hearts are ready, fully ripe.
Peregrine, our hearts are ready for new life.
Peregrine, our hearts are ready, fully ripe.
Peregrine, our hearts are ready for new life.

4. Oscail Mo Chroí (Open my Heart) (St. Gobnait of Ballyvourney)
by Deirdre Ní Chinnéide © 2016
www.celticpassage.com

*Oscail Mo Chroí, Oscail Mo Chroí.
Oscail Mo Chroí. Oscail Mo Chroí.*

5. Open Hand (St. Kevin of Glendalough)
by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan © 2016 Worldmaking.net
www.worldmaking.net

Open hand, open hand.
Ready for blessing beyond our choosing.
Open hand, open hand.
Prepare for goodness out of the blue.

Should a free blackbird choose to nest here,
laying her gifts in my life.
Or a breeze born seed come to rest here,
growing its gifts in my life.

6. Christ Within (St. Patrick of Armagh)
by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan © 2016 Worldmaking.net
(Text adapted from St. Patrick's Breastplate, aka the Lorica)
www.worldmaking.net

Christ within, before and behind.
Christ beneath, above, beside.
Christ every hour, every day, every night.

7. Holy Well (St. Sourney of Drumacoo)
by Margo Hennebach © 2017 Fireflies & Windows Music
www.margohennebach.com

Use me as an instrument for Thine own good.
Fill my lungs with air the way a bellows would.
I am just a pilgrim who is on her way
Thankful for the path that I can walk today.

Holy well, oh holy well!
Looking for a space where I can safely dwell.
Holy well, only time will tell
If I'll climb the hill and find the holy well.

The hill is filled with obstacles that hold me back.
Streams that seem too hard to cross remind me that
This is not a race to see who comes in first;
When I think like that, I'll never quench my thirst.

Holy well, oh holy well!
There's enough for all at the holy well.
Holy well, only time will tell
If I'll climb the hill and find the holy well.

Wells can spring up anywhere
Underground or in the air.
Listen to your feet
They will take you there.

I can feel the yielding earth with every step
Here in communion with the boggy depth.
And you, fellow pilgrims I meet on the way
Blessings on you as you find what holds you sway.

Holy well, oh holy well!
Walking slowly three times 'round the holy well.
Holy well has this to tell:
"Every hill you meet can surely serve you well."

Holy well, oh holy well!
Dancing seven times around the holy well
Holy well has this to tell:
"Whatever path you're on I surely wish you well."

8. In My Heart is the Road (St. Brendan the Navigator)

by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan © 2013Worldmaking.net

(Text adapted from Psalm 84:5)

www.worldmaking.net

In my heart is the road,
and I will not be hurried.
In my heart is the road,
bless my feet on the journey
to Jerusalem, to Jerusalem.

9. Be Still (St. Colman of Kilmacduagh)

by Simon de Voil © 2017

www.simondevoil.com

Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am.
Be still and know that I am.
Be still and know that I
Be still and know that I
Be still and know that
Be still and know that
Be still and know.
Be still and know.
Be still and
Be still and
Be still.
Be still.
Be.
Be.

Be still and know that I am love.
Be still and know that I am peace.

10. Deep Peace (St. Dearbhla of Belmulle)

by Sara Thomsen © 2003

(Text traditional Gaelic)

www.sarathomsen.com

Deep peace of the rolling waves to you.
Deep peace of the silent stars.
Deep peace of the blowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth.
Let peace, let peace, let peace fill your soul.
May peace, may peace, my peace keep you whole.

11. Surrender (St. Enda of Inismore)
by Deirdre Ní Chinnéide © 2017
(*a Stór* is an Irish term of endearment.)
www.celticpassage.com

*Fag Faoi mo churam é.
Gráim thú, a stór.*

Surrender to the holding
and the loving you, *a Stór*.

12. I Am Here (St. Ita of Killeedy)
by Deirdre Ní Chinnéide © 2017
www.celticpassage.com

I am here waiting for you.
I am here waiting for you.
I am here waiting for you.
I am here waiting for you.

I am here listening for you.
I am here listening for you.
I am here listening for you.
I am here listening for you.

I am here praying for you.
I am here praying for you.
I am here praying for you.
I am here praying for you.

I am here hoping for you.
I am here hoping for you.
I am here hoping for you.
I am here hoping for you.

I am here singing for you.
I am here singing for you.
I am here singing for you.
I am here singing for you.