

**PRAYER TO CELEBRATE**

**THE FEAST OF ST PATRICK**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Today we honour the feast of a well-loved saint, Patrick. He was a man who

trusted that God was always with him, protecting him, encircling him, filling

him with love. With him, God assures us, “do not be afraid” in carrying out

our mission.

**READING:** Jeremiah 1: 4 – 9

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The Lord said to me:

I chose you before I gave you life, and before you were born I selected you

to be a prophet to the nations

I answered,

Sovereign Lord, I don’t know how to speak; I am too young.

But the Lord said to me,

Do not say you are too young, but go to the people I send you to, and tell

them everything I command you to say. Do not be afraid of them for I will

be with you. I, the Lord, have spoken.

Then the Lord reached out, touched my lips and said to me,

Listen, I am giving you the words you must speak.

**REFLECTION:**

Spend a moment reflecting on your own call…

to speak out fearlessly…

to be a messenger of peace…

like St Patrick.

**PRAYER OF ST PATRICK:**

As we recommit ourselves to labour for the ‘harvest’, let us pray the prayer attributed to St Patrick -

Christ be with me,

Christ within me,

Christ behind me,

Christ to win me,

Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me,

Christ above me,

Christ in quiet,

Christ in danger,

Christ in hearts of all that love me,

Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the Name,

The strong Name of the Trinity;

By invocation of the same –

The Three in One and One in Three,

Of whom al nature hath creation,

Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:

Praise to the Lord of my salvation,

Salvation is of Christ the Lord.

**CONCLUSION:**

Let us raise our voices as we go forth

under the protection of Christ,

to a labour of love where the harvest is ripe.

May our lives tell the Good News to all those we meet.

All: Amen

**HYMN:** We Are Called (David Haas – AOV/2)

Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the Kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God!

**We are called to act with justice.
We are called to love tenderly.
We are called to serve one another,
To walk humbly with God.**

Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless,
So all hatred and blindness will be no more! (Chorus)

Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign and we'll walk with each other
As sisters and brothers united in love! (Chorus)