

Living the Incarnation

A prayer service to be used at the conclusion of Chapter 1 of Encountering Jesus in the New Testament.

Leader: Today's time of prayer, will focus on the incarnational presence of Jesus, which is both a great mystery and a great gift to you. When Jesus became a man, he lived an integrated life in which God had a welcome home in his body, mind, and heart.

Through Jesus' incarnation you are capable of having a lived and intimate relationship with God.

Reader 1: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (Jn 3:16-17),

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: We will now reflect and invite Jesus into the many parts of our days so that we can be living icons of the Person of Christ (based on the *Breastplate of St. Patrick*).

Reader 2: Christ be with me in my rising, my sitting, and my standing.

Reader 3: Christ be before me, behind me, and in every word I speak.

Reader 4: Christ be beside me when I am at home, at school, and at work.

Reader 5: Christ be in the heart of everyone who thinks of me, speaks to me, sees me, and hears me.

Reader 6: Through the incarnation of Jesus Christ, let me be a living icon of the God who dwells in me.

Leader: Lord, it is beyond my power of imagination to realize fully what you have done for me by taking on human flesh. All I know is that you can feel what I feel, not only my joys and simple pleasures, but especially my sufferings in both body and spirit. I turn these over to you as a gift and as an offering. May my good feelings be a sign of my gratitude for all you have given to me. May my sufferings be an offering of atonement for the times I have failed to be your friend. Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.