

Ordination to the Minor Order of Doorkeeper

A Celtic-Inclusive Liturgy of Commissioning

Gathering of the People

Bishop (B):

In the name of the Three:

All:

The One who is Beyond,
The One who is Among,
The One who is Within. Amen.

Bishop:

Come, beloved of the Sacred Heart,
gathered by wind and word, stone and song.
We are here to recognize the calling placed upon [Name],
who offers their heart and hands in the service of threshold and welcome,
as a Doorkeeper in the house of God.

Invocation of the Elements

Bishop:

Let us invoke the Presence,
known in the dance of the elements.

East (Air):

Come, Spirit of the East, Breath of Inspiration,
Grant [Name] clarity and wisdom at every threshold.

South (Fire):

Come, Flame of the South, Fire of Courage,
Ignite holy zeal to guard sacred space with boldness and love.

West (Water):

Come, Waters of the West, Flow of Compassion,
May mercy be their guide as they greet the weary.

North (Earth):

Come, Strength of the North, Root of Endurance,
Anchor them in stillness and steady presence.

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All:

Circle us, O God of the Elements,
That we may bless and be blessed.

Readings

A Psalm or Poem may be read, such as:

*"I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked."*

—Psalm 84:10

Or a Celtic blessing poem, such as from the Carmina Gadelica.

Optional Reading from Wisdom Literature or Nature:

A passage from St. Brigid, Pelagius, Julian of Norwich, or Black Elk.

Statement of Calling

Bishop (to Candidate):

[Name], you have heard the quiet whisper at the edge of the sacred grove,
the still small voice calling you to keep the door:
to welcome the pilgrim,
to protect the sacred,
to guard the threshold between the seen and unseen.

Do you present yourself freely and with whole heart?

Candidate:

I do, with the help of the Divine.

Bishop:

Will you keep the door with kindness,
knowing every threshold is holy
and every stranger may be an angel unawares?

Candidate:

I will, with the help of the Spirit.

Prayer of Ordination

Laying on of hands (by the Bishop and optionally by others):

Bishop:

Eternal Spirit,
Wild Christ of the hills and hearth,
Companion of the wandering and the wise—
Bless now your servant [Name],
called to be Doorkeeper in your sacred household.
Anoint their hands to open and close in love.
Sanctify their presence at every threshold.
Grant them the eyes to see holiness in each face,
and the courage to speak truth and offer peace.

All:

May you be the first to greet and the last to guard.
May the door you keep be open to grace,
closed to harm,
and always swinging on the hinges of compassion.

Blessing of the Tools (Optional)

The candidate may be presented with a key, staff, lantern, or bell.

Bishop (placing item in their hands):

Take this [object] as a sign of your ministry.
May your light shine at the threshold.
May your watch be gentle and strong.

Final Blessing

All (with arms raised or hands extended):

Go now in the strength of oak,
in the song of stream and star,
in the peace of the Christ who is Door and Shepherd.
Be blessed in your rising and your resting,
in your keeping and your releasing.

And may the circles you open
ever lead to life.

Bishop:

The service is ended. The keeping begins.
Go in peace, beloved Doorkeeper.

All:

Thanks be to God.

