

THE  
Celtic Way  
DIGITAL PILGRIMAGE JOURNAL

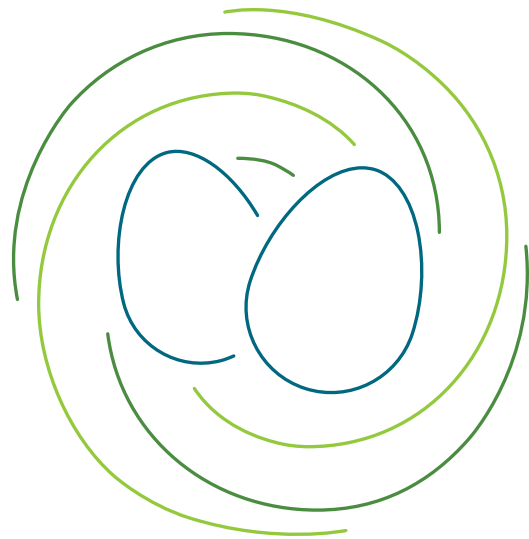


Part 4



# Community

BRANCH 3



## Visio Divina



### Kevin

#### HIS CARE FOR THE BLACKBIRDS

Kevin lived in tension with his desire for solitude and his leadership responsibilities in the vibrant community he founded. Legend says that while he was deep in prayer, a blackbird roosted in his outstretched palm. His life of worship and solidarity compelled him to endure the discomfort and inconvenience of that posture until new life emerged.

Glendalough



## VISIO DIVINA REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Take a few deep breaths. Let your eyes move through the painting. What catches your eye? Focus on that portion of the work and sit with it for a minute.

Breathe in and out and let your body and mind slow down. Invite the Lord to speak to you about what you see.

What feelings does this painting evoke?

How do you see the interplay between solitude and community working together here?

What do you notice about the ways the Spirit is at work in this scene?

How is your time in solitude with God critical to the call to steward your life in love toward others?

Pause now and ask, "God, what do you want to give me today that can bless others?"



## Field Notes

---

We invite you to experience the Celtic Way with your whole self. When we tune into our breath and all of our senses, we can become more present to our bodies, our surroundings, and to God. Use the space below to write or draw anything that you would like to remember about your walk. For example, what did you see, hear, smell, touch, taste?





## M Matthew 13:31-32

<sup>31</sup> He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. <sup>32</sup> Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

## L Luke 1:46-55

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me—

holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy extends to those who fear him,

from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;

he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from their thrones

but has lifted up the humble.

<sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things

but has sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,

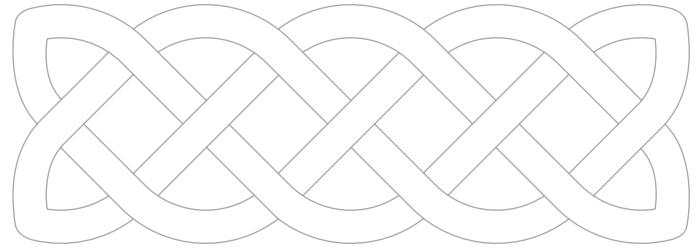
remembering to be merciful

<sup>55</sup> to Abraham and his descendants forever,

just as he promised our ancestors.”



## salm 84



- <sup>1</sup> How lovely is your dwelling place,  
Lord Almighty!
- <sup>2</sup> My soul yearns, even faints,  
for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh cry out  
for the living God.
- <sup>3</sup> Even the sparrow has found a home,  
and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may have her young—  
a place near your altar,  
Lord Almighty, my King and my God.
- <sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who dwell in your house;  
they are ever praising you.
- <sup>5</sup> Blessed are those whose strength is in you,  
whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.
- <sup>6</sup> As they pass through the Valley of Baka,  
they make it a place of springs;  
the autumn rains also cover it with pools.
- <sup>7</sup> They go from strength to strength,  
till each appears before God in Zion.
- <sup>8</sup> Hear my prayer, Lord God Almighty;  
listen to me, God of Jacob.
- <sup>9</sup> Look on our shield, O God;  
look with favor on your anointed one.
- <sup>10</sup> Better is one day in your courts  
than a thousand elsewhere;  
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- <sup>11</sup> For the Lord God is a sun and shield;  
the Lord bestows favor and honor;  
no good thing does he withhold  
from those whose walk is blameless.
- <sup>12</sup> Lord Almighty,  
blessed is the one who trusts in you.

My  
heart  
& flesh  
cry out  
for the  
living  
God.





## Illuminate a Psalm

Underline, circle, or note anything that stood out to you in this psalm. Are there any images that are particularly resonant?

Choose a word, phrase, or verse from the psalm to creatively copy below; you might handletter it, add color or other artistic elements, or even draw images instead of using words.



● ● ●  
● ● ●  
● ● ●

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How have you been like the birds in Jesus' parable, finding a restful branch of welcome in the Kingdom community?

How do you need to be filled and refreshed by God?

What would help prepare you to care for your community?

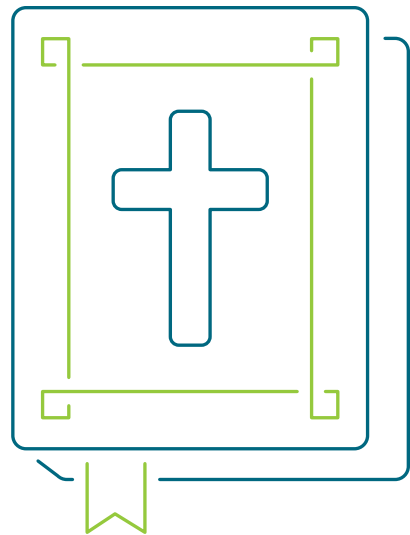
How is God inviting you to say "yes" to an "egg" God has placed in your hand?

If there is a situation where the needs of community feel overwhelming, how can you take a step toward the particular thing—big or small—where God is inviting you to care or act?

Are there things that you are taking on that God may want you to release? Or, are there ways that God may want to invite others to share in the burden of care you said "yes" to?

# Story

BRANCH 4



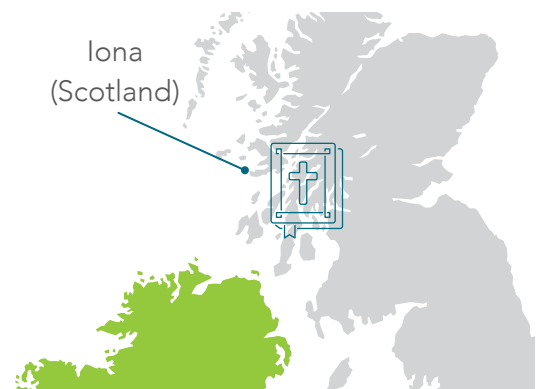
## Visio Divina



### Columba

#### HIS EXILE & LEGACY

Columba founded a monastic seminary in Scotland where monks later created the illuminated manuscript, the Book of Kells. His work as a pastor, scholar, scribe, poet, and hymn writer influenced church plants and missionary training schools.



## VISIO DIVINA REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Take a few deep breaths. Let your eyes move through the painting. What catches your eye? Focus on that portion of the work and sit with it for a minute.

Breathe in and out and let your body and mind slow down. Invite the Lord to speak to you about what you see.

What feelings does this painting evoke?

What do you notice about how the Spirit is at work in this scene?

What kind of prayer rises from within you as you ponder this piece?

How has God been at work in and through your life story?

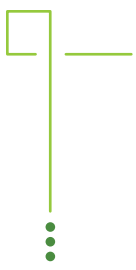
As you've been walking along the Celtic Way, how do you sense God shaping your story and inviting you to share it with others?



## Field Notes

---

We invite you to experience the Celtic Way with your whole self. When we tune into our breath and all of our senses, we can become more present to our bodies, our surroundings, and to God. Use the space below to write or draw anything that you would like to remember about your walk. For example, what did you see, hear, smell, touch, taste?



## John 8:2-11

<sup>2</sup> At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. <sup>3</sup> The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group <sup>4</sup> and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.

<sup>5</sup> In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?”

<sup>6</sup> They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. <sup>7</sup> When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” <sup>8</sup> Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

<sup>9</sup> At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. <sup>10</sup> Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

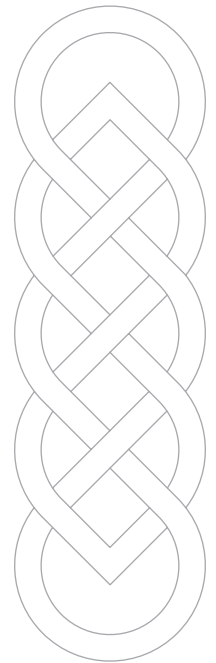
<sup>11</sup> “No one, sir,” she said.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

# P

psalm 51

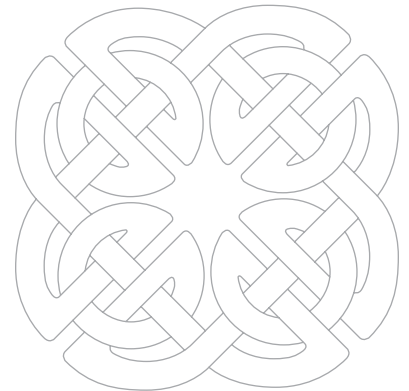
- <sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.
- <sup>2</sup> Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.
- <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.
- <sup>4</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are right in your verdict  
and justified when you judge.
- <sup>5</sup> Surely I was sinful at birth,  
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
- <sup>6</sup> Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;  
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.
- <sup>7</sup> Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- <sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
- <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquity.
- <sup>10</sup> Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
- <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.



Your  
unfailing  
love



- <sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
so that sinners will turn back to you.
- <sup>14</sup> Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,  
you who are God my Savior,  
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
- <sup>15</sup> Open my lips, Lord,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- <sup>16</sup> You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;  
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
- <sup>17</sup> My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart  
you, God, will not despise.
- <sup>18</sup> May it please you to prosper Zion,  
to build up the walls of Jerusalem.
- <sup>19</sup> Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous,  
in burnt offerings offered whole;  
then bulls will be offered on your altar.



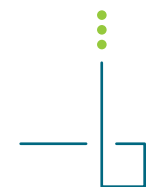
My mouth  
will  
declare  
your  
praise.



## Illuminate a Psalm

Underline, circle, or note anything that stood out to you in this psalm. Are there any images that are particularly resonant?

Choose a word, phrase, or verse from the psalm to creatively copy below; you might handletter it, add color or other artistic elements, or even draw images instead of using words.



## Columcille Fecit

### ATTRIBUTED TO COLUMBA

That I might search the books all,  
That would be good for my soul  
At times kneeling to beloved Heaven;  
At times psalm singing;  
At times contemplating the King of Heaven  
Holy the chief;  
At times at work without compulsion  
This would be delightful.  
At times plucking duilisc from the rocks;  
At times at fishing;  
At times giving food to the poor;  
At times in a Carcair  
The best advice in the presence of God  
To me has been vouchsafed.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Are there ways you notice yourself clinging to false narratives that are causing you to wither? Do you recognize ways that shame is making you believe you can never change?

What work may God, the Master arborist, the loving tree doctor, want to do in your life?

God invites us to lay down our attempts to shape, control, and make our stories perfect. Are there places where Jesus is inviting you to surrender parts of your story so that he can transform it with his love and mercy?

How do you see God's story playing out in certain areas of your life?

Who might be blessed to hear how God has been at work in your story? Are there particular people, places, or communities that come to mind?

As you think about taking a posture of discovering God at work in other peoples' stories, who are some people whom you would like to ask about their story?