



Saint Patrick Hears the Call, presented by Jamie Foster, First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande, CA, March 17, 2012

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Mark 2:17

And hearing this, Jesus said to them, “It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Be Thou My Vision

Text: Ancient Irish; translated by Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

Music: Traditional Irish melody; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1963

Tune: SLANE, Meter: 10 10.9 10

Words are attributed to Dallan Forgaill from the 8th Century.

Melody is *Slane*, of Irish folk origin. It's named after Slane Hill where in 433 AD St. Patrick lit a fire in honor of Easter and in defiance of High King Logaire's decree that no one should light fires before his pagan holiday was celebrated. Logaire was so impressed by Patrick's devotion that, despite his defiance (or perhaps because of it), he let him continue his missionary work.



Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;

Rop tú mo baile, a Choimdiu cride:

Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;

ní ní nech aile acht Rí secht nime.

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,

Rop tú mo scrútain i l-ló 's i n-aidche;

Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

rop tú ad-chëar im chotlud caidche.

Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word;

Rop tú mo labra, rop tú mo thuicsiu;

I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;

rop tussu dam-sa, rob misse duit-siu.

Thou my great Father, and I thy true son,

Rop tussu m'athair, rob mé do mac-su;

Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

rop tussu lem-sa, rob misse lat-su.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;

Rop tú mo chathscíath, rop tú mo chlaideb;

Thou mine inheritance, now and always;

rop tussu m'ordan, rop tussu m'airer.

Thou and thou only, first in my heart,

Rop tú mo dítiu, rop tú mo daingen;

High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

rop tú nom-thocba i n-áentaid n-aingel.



Born 387AD (?), in Scotland, of Romano-British parents

At 16, captured and taken to Ireland as a slave. Probably spent these 6 years either at Slemish (top) or near Killala Bay (right)



Escaped slavery following a dream. Was told to go to the coast. Found a ship and was returned to his family.

Began studies for the priesthood and became ordained.

Became a Bishop around 433AD and was sent to Ireland to follow his calling: heard the “Voice of the Irish”

30-40 years in Ireland as a missionary. Converted thousands.

Died March 17, 461AD, at Saul, Ireland (date?)

Video...

Saul, County Down (from Irish: Sabhall Phádraig, meaning "Patrick's barn"). It is claimed that Patrick founded his first church in a barn at Saul, which was donated to him by a local chieftain called Dichu. It is also claimed that Patrick died at Saul or was brought there between his death and burial.



© S. Emerson



Hill of Slane, County Meath

Muirchu moccu Machtheni, in his highly mythologized 7th century Life of Patrick, says that Patrick lit a Paschal fire on this hilltop in 433 CE in defiance of High King Laoire. The story says that the fire could not be doused by anyone but Patrick, and it was here that he explained the holy trinity using the shamrock.



© www.mythicalireland.com

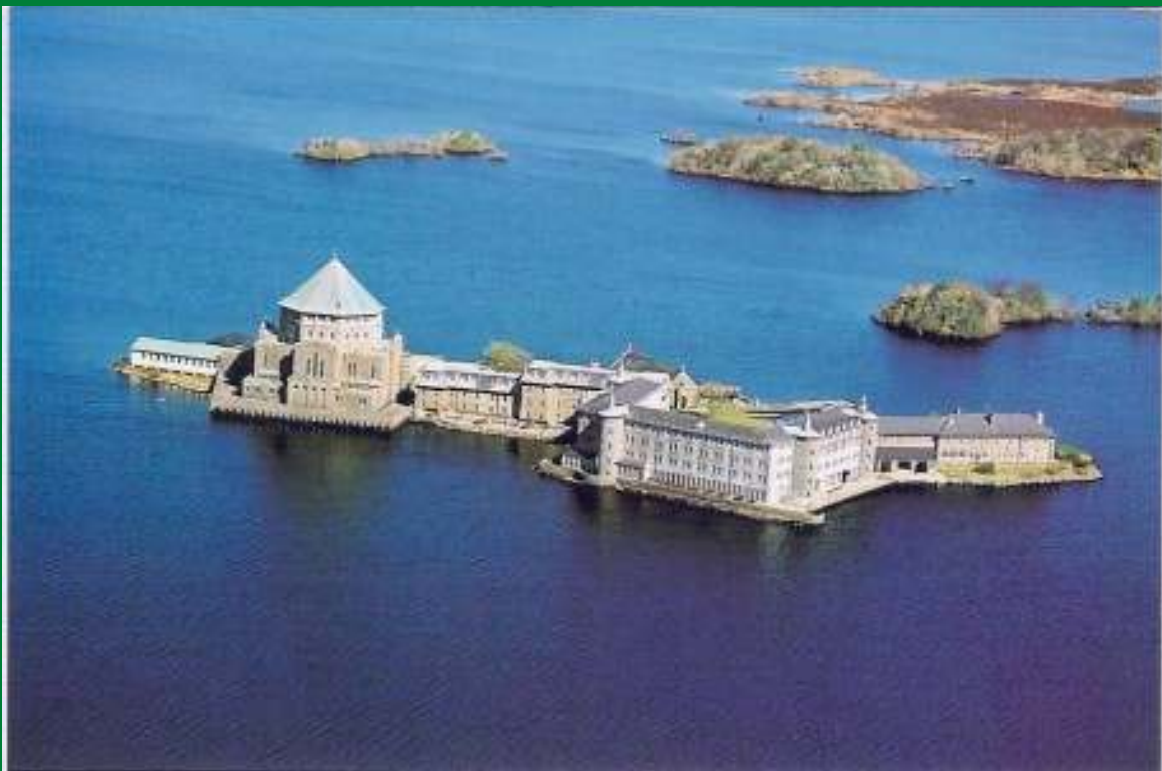


Croagh Patrick, County Mayo (from Irish: Cruach Phádraig, meaning "Patrick's stack"). It is claimed that Patrick climbed this mountain and fasted on its summit for the forty days of Lent. Croagh Patrick draws thousands of pilgrims who make the trek to the top on the last Sunday in July.



Saint Patrick Hears the Call, presented by Jamie Foster, First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande, CA, March 17, 2012

Lough Derg, County Donegal (from Irish: Loch Dearg, meaning "red lake"). It is claimed that Patrick killed a large serpent on this lake and that its blood turned the water red (hence the name). Each August, pilgrims spend 3 days fasting and praying there on Station Island.



Armagh, County Armagh

It is claimed that Patrick founded a church here and proclaimed it to be the most holy church in Ireland. Armagh is today the primary seat of both the Catholic (right) and Protestant /Anglican (left) Churches in Ireland and both cathedrals in the town are named after Patrick.



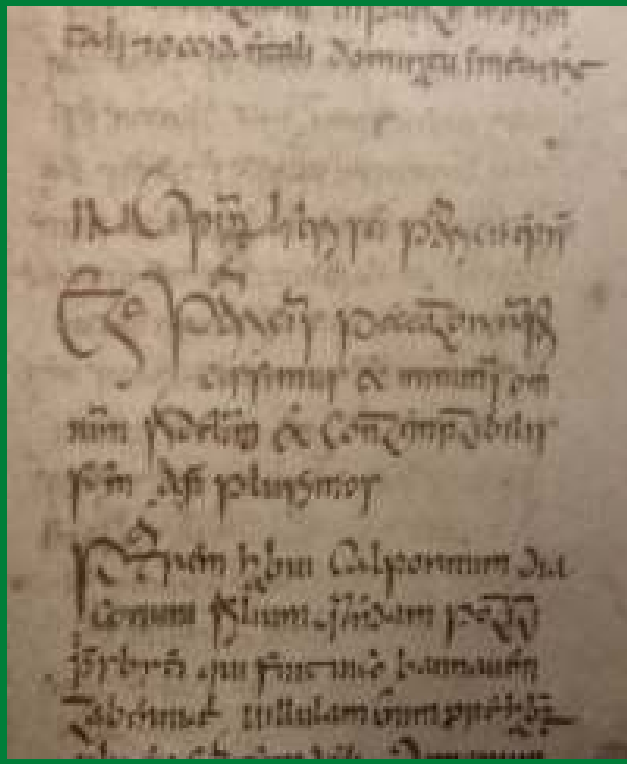
Saint Patrick Hears the Call, presented by Jamie Foster, First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande, CA, March 17, 2012

Downpatrick, County Down (from Irish: Dún Pádraig, meaning "Patrick's stronghold"). It is claimed that Patrick was brought here after his death and buried in the grounds of Down Cathedral.



Confessio (Confession/Declaration)

Epistola ad Coroticum (Letter to Coroticus)



Probably hyperbole

Shamrock

Legend (dating to 1726)
St. Patrick with
teaching the Irish about
the doctrine of the
Holy Trinity by showing
people the shamrock.



Probably hyperbole

Banishing snakes from the island after a 4-day fast

However... Post glacial Ireland probably never had any snakes.

Ireland does have a “slow worm” that looks like a snake, but, it remains today, and was deliberately introduced in the 1960s.

May have been a metaphoric reference to serpent symbolism of the pagans.



Probably hyperbole

St. Patrick's dead ash wood walking stick grows into a living tree

Patrick carried with him an ash wood walking stick or staff. He thrust this stick into the ground wherever he was evangelising and at the place now known as Aspatria (ash of Patrick) the message of the dogma took so long to get through to the people there that the stick had taken root by the time he was ready to move on.



Probably hyperbole

St. Patrick speaks with ancient Irish ancestors who were born long before his time

The 12th century work *Acallam na Senórach* tells of Patrick being met by two ancient warriors, *Cáilte mac Rónáin* and *Oisín*, during his evangelical travels. The two were once members of *Fionn mac Cumhail*'s warrior band the *Fianna*, and somehow survived to Patrick's time.



“Two Patricks” Theory

An amalgam of St. Patrick and Palladius

Palladius:

- Sent by the Pope to Ireland in 431AD
- Not the only other cleric in Ireland
- To protect/minster-to existing Irish Christians
- Mostly in southern Ireland

“Two Patricks” Theory

An amalgam of St. Patrick and Palladius

Patrick:

- Sent to Ireland in 433AD
- Missionary to pagan Irish
 - Built on local traditions and customs
 - Codified their laws
 - Only removed conflicting laws/practices
- Mostly in northern Ireland

Saint Patrick's Bell

National Museum of Ireland,
Dublin

One of three relics:

“The Bell of the Testament”

Patrick’s goblet

“The Angels Gospel” (a book
received from an Angel)



Celtic Cross

Ambiguous history

Circle about the cross: eternity, halo

Cross on top, maybe “overcoming a pagan/druid circle”.

St. Patrick (perhaps) drew a cross over a standing druid monument with a circle at the top – “incorporating” their heritage (sun) into this new Christian symbol.

Decorations (plain to ornate): human figures representing Biblical stories or the crucifixion, endless knotwork, spirals, meanders and "key patterns" and animal patterns.



Sinners get the call.

We are all sinners.

Patrick practically beats himself up over being a sinner in both the Confessio and the Epistola

Starts: “I, Patrick, a sinner, a most simple countryman, the least of all the faithful and most contemptible to many...”

“I was taken into captivity in Ireland with many thousands of people, according to our desserts, for quite drawn away from God, we did not keep his precepts, nor were we obedient to our priests who used to remind us of our salvation.”

“I would wake up before daylight to pray in the snow, in icy coldness, in rain, and I used to feel neither ill nor any slothfulness, because, as I now see, the Spirit was burning in me at that time.”

“the Lord opened my mind to an awareness of my unbelief”

“And he watched over me before I knew him”

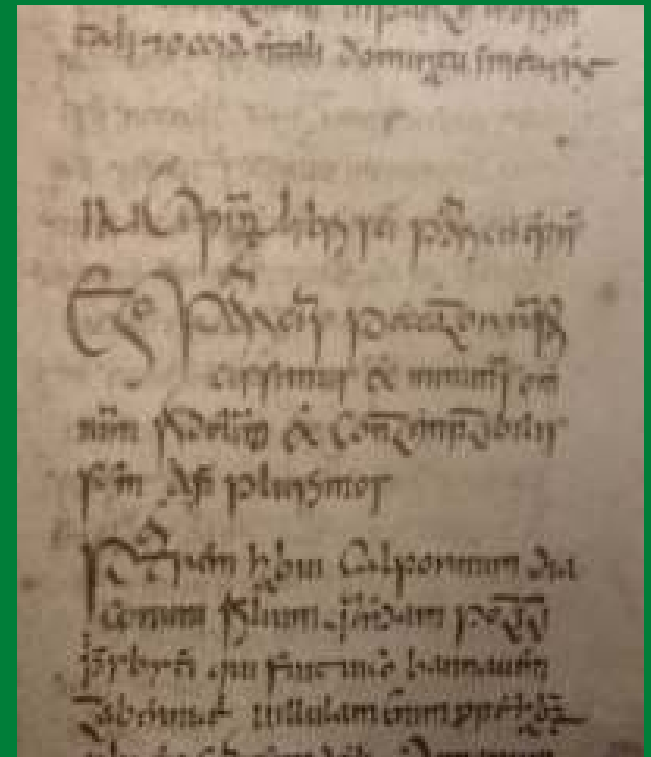
“our way to repay him is to exalt him and confess his wonders before every nation under heaven.”



“I feel ashamed and I am mightily afraid to expose my ignorance”

“I was like a stone lying in deep mire, and he that is mighty came and in his mercy raised me up and, indeed, lifted me high up and placed me on top of the wall. And from there I ought to shout out in gratitude to the Lord for his great favours in this world and for ever, that the mind of man cannot measure.”

“one should proceed without holding back from danger to make known the gift of God and everlasting consolation, to spread God's name everywhere with confidence and without fear, in order to leave behind, after my death, foundations for my brethren and sons whom I baptized in the Lord in so many thousands.”



Epistola ad Coroticus

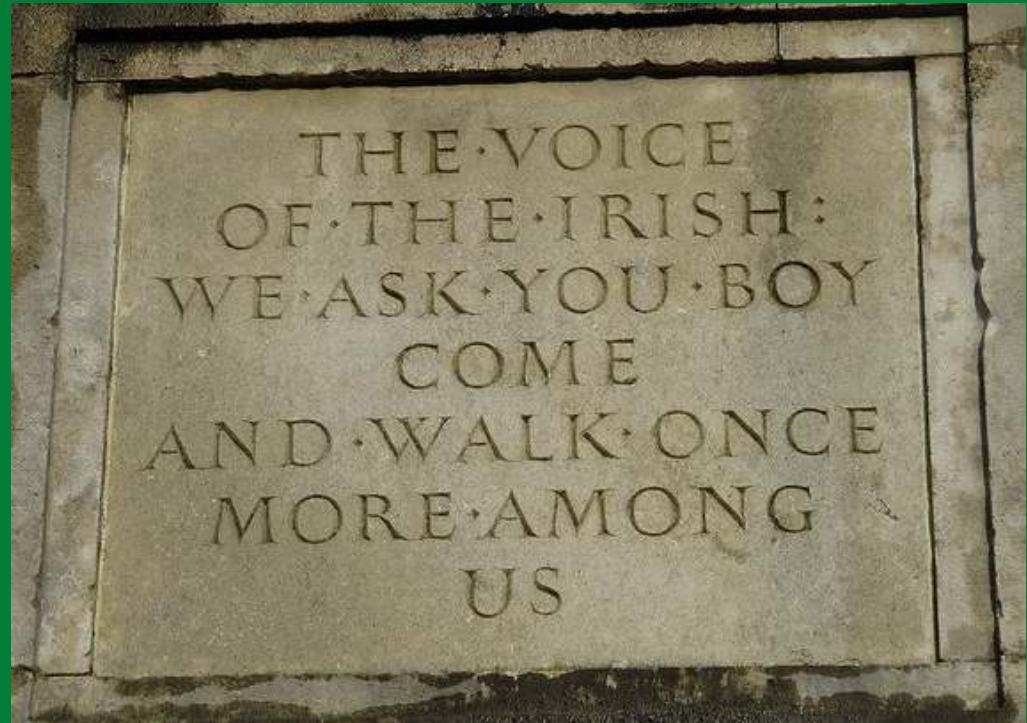
St. Patrick spells it out to Coroticus and his men to repent of their sins against the Christians.

“The Voice of the Irish”

The title of a letter
from Victorius
seen in a dream,

during which he heard the Irish calling him back to
Ireland, “come and walk among us”.

Who/What is calling you?



“He who touches you,
touches the apple of my eye”

Reference to Zechariah 2:8



The Apple of my Eye: something or someone cherished above others. Sight is so precious. The original Hebrew for this idiom can be literally translated as "Little Man of the Eye." This is a reference to the tiny reflection of yourself that you can see in other people's pupils.

How to step out... Patrick suggests:

“that I might IMITATE one of those whom, once, long ago, the Lord already pre-ordained to be heralds of his Gospel to witness to all peoples to the ends of the earth.”

“Fish well and diligently”



Saint Patrick Hears the Call, presented by Jamie Foster, First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande, CA, March 17, 2012

“for daily I expect to be murdered or betrayed or reduced to slavery if the occasion arises. But I fear nothing, because of the promises of Heaven; for I have cast myself into the hands of Almighty God, who reigns everywhere. As the prophet says: 'Cast your burden on the Lord and he will sustain you.'”

“I perform my mission in obscurity” (rarely does one making history know that)

I am a sinner.

I am called.

I fear not. God is my strength.

I pray. A lot.

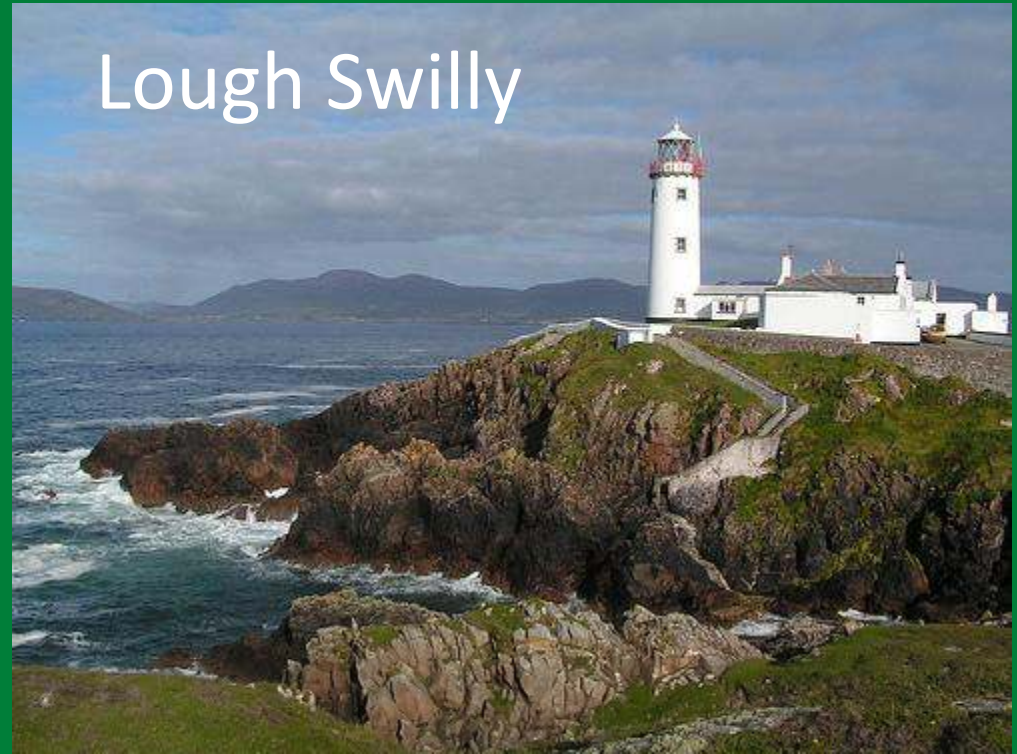
I imitate those who came before me.

I work diligently.

I know God will provide.

Amazing Grace

Swilly changed the life of a foul-mouthed slave trader, John Newton, who went on to pen "Amazing Grace".



Lough Swilly

A violent storm crippled Newton's ship. When all hope was lost, the Greyhound found refuge in Lough Swilly.

Years later, Newton wrote "Amazing Grace" to chart his personal spiritual journey which began with his miraculous escape from death.

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise,
Than when we first begun.

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind always be at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face,
and rains fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of His hand.