

Practice Series



Living Connection

Praying with the Celts





Celtic Spirituality & History



**Spirituality: how we live out what we most
profoundly believe.**



Who were the Celts?

- *keltoi* = strangers or hidden ones
- *ceilt* = an act of concealing
- a rural, tribal, always-on-the-move people
- relational > rational
- inspirational > institutional
- missional:
 - 432 - Patrick to Ireland
 - 560 - Columba from Ireland to Iona
 - 591 - Columbanus to France & Italy
 - 635 - Aidan to Lindisfarne

Characteristics of Celtic Spirituality

An abstract graphic on the right side of the page. It features several overlapping, rounded, colorful shapes in shades of yellow, light green, light blue, and light purple. Overlaid on these shapes are several thin, white, wavy lines that resemble Celtic knotwork or calligraphic flourishes. The background is a solid, light beige color.

1. Monasticism

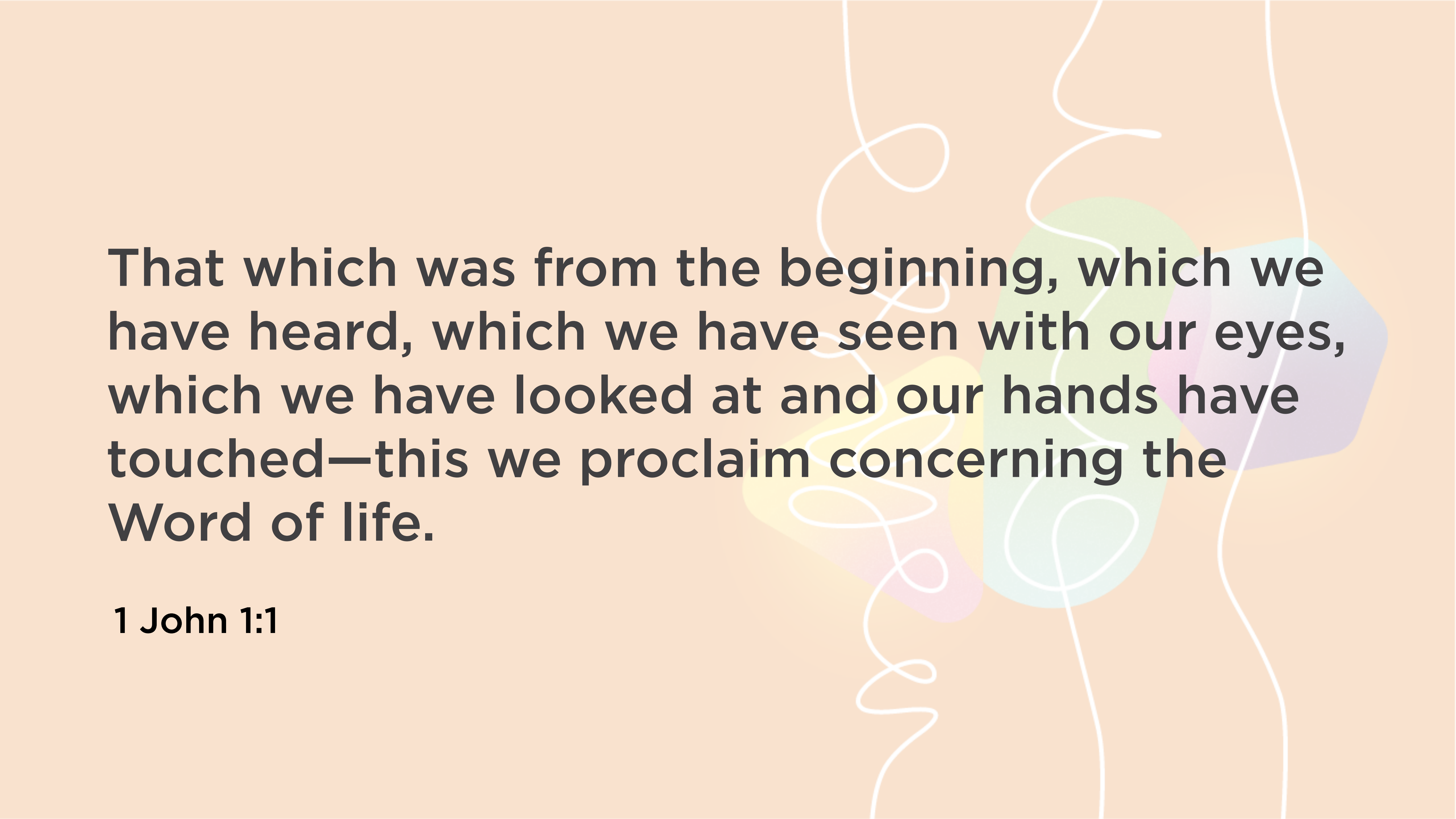


***Ascesis* (“to live”) in Celtic understanding:**

- the ‘come and see’ of Jesus in John 1:43.
- living from our hearts’ deepest desire, to be ‘at home with Jesus,’ and at peace with our truest self.
- asking the questions: ‘Who is it that you seek?’ and ‘How then shall we live?’

2. Sacramental Outlook



The background features a light beige color with several overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in shades of yellow, green, pink, and light blue. White, wavy, line-art style lines are scattered across the page, some forming loops and others being straight lines.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

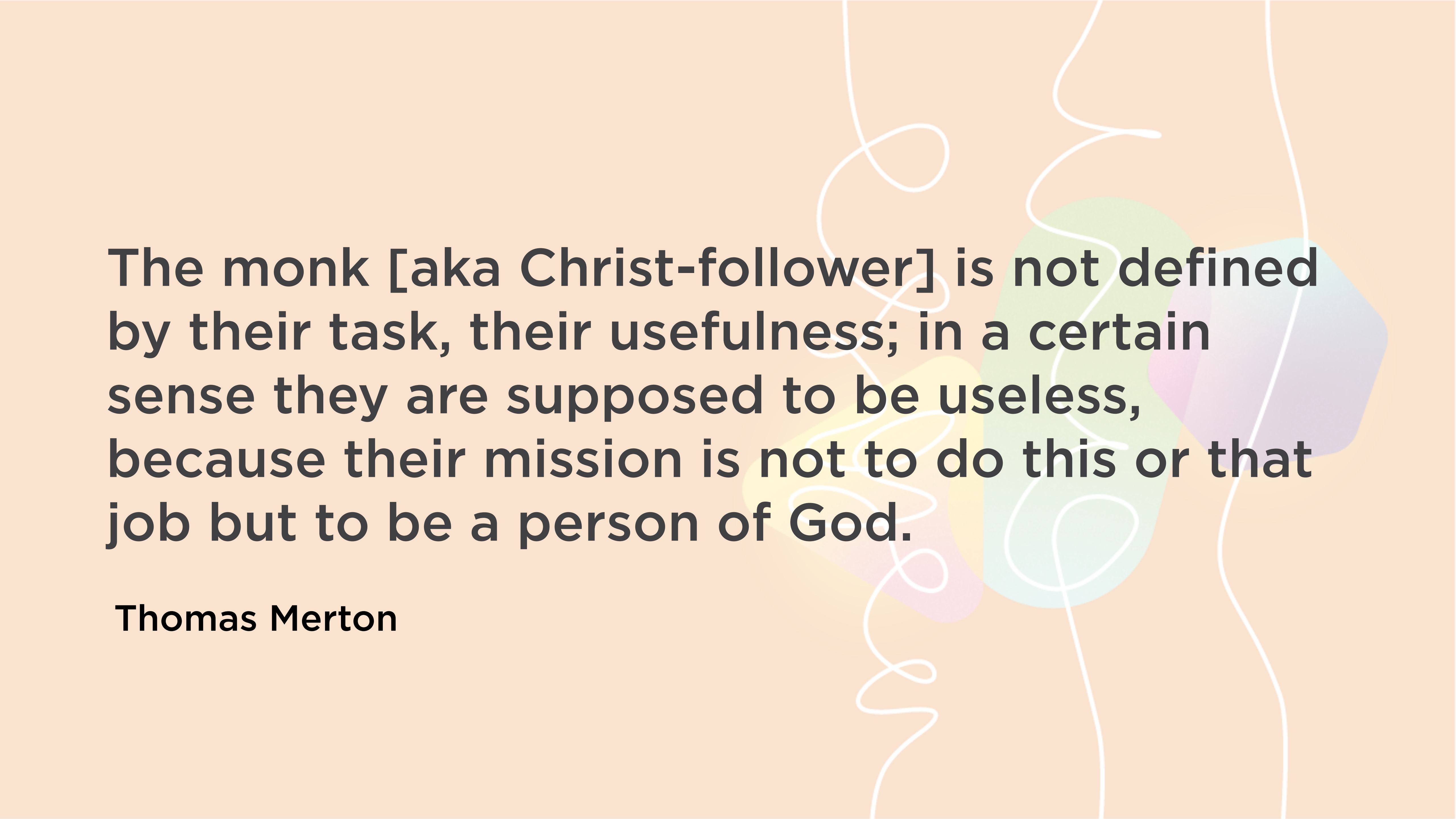
1 John 1:1

3. Contemplation and Mission



Mission as “being sent; being faithful to the task” – flowed out of the context of the monastery.

The background features a light beige gradient. On the right side, there are several overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in pastel colors: a yellow one at the bottom left, a light green one in the center, a light blue one to the right, and a light purple one at the top right. White, thin, wavy lines are scattered across the background, some looping around the colored shapes.

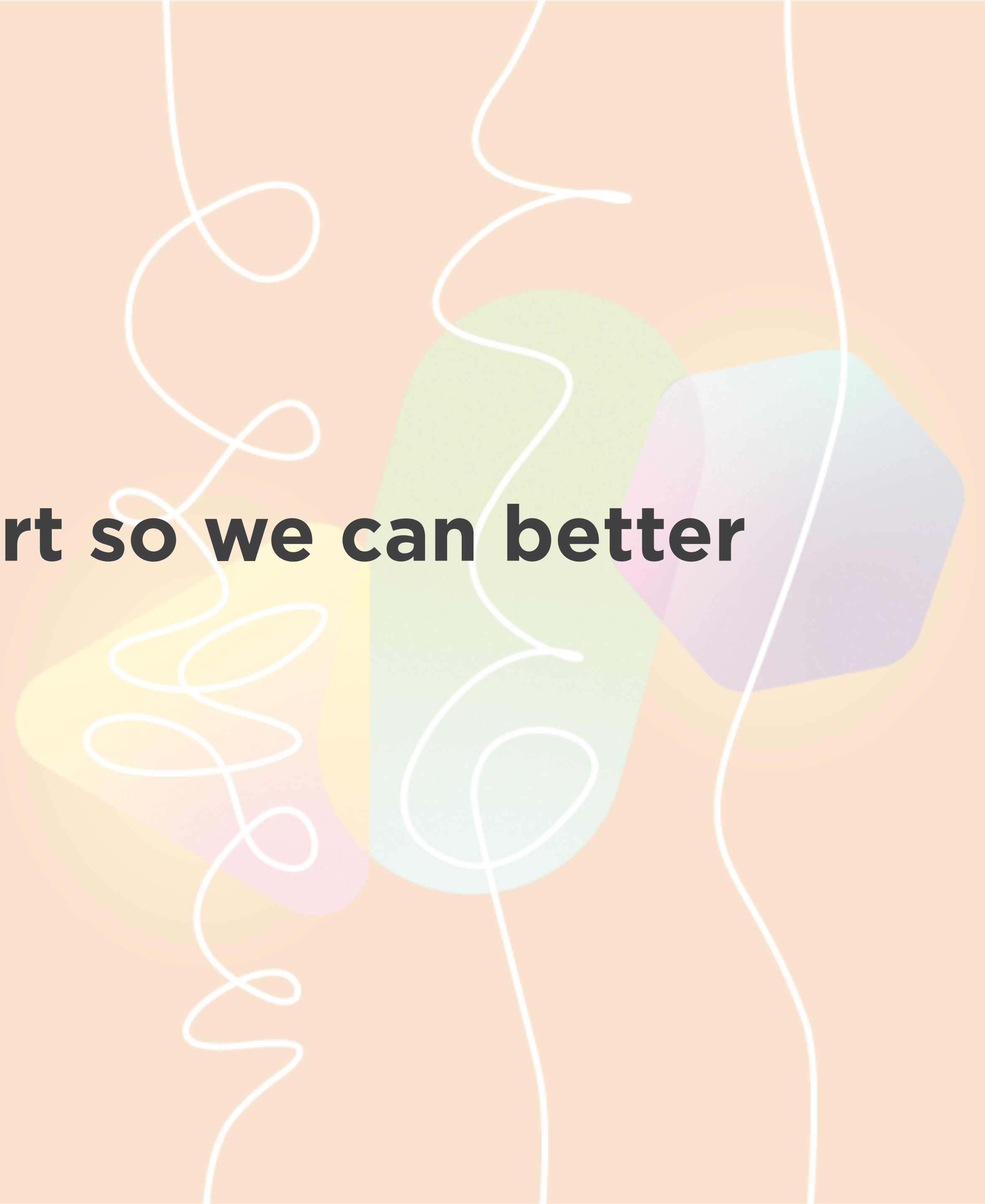
The background features a light beige color with several overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in shades of green, yellow, pink, and light blue. White, thin, wavy lines are scattered across the page, some forming loops and others as simple curves.

The monk [aka Christ-follower] is not defined by their task, their usefulness; in a certain sense they are supposed to be useless, because their mission is not to do this or that job but to be a person of God.

Thomas Merton



**Seeking God in the heart so we can better
serve God in the world.**



4. Hospitality





5. Creation Affirming



The background features a light beige gradient. On the right side, there are several overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in pastel colors: a yellow one at the bottom left, a light green one in the center, and a light purple one on the right. White, thin, wavy lines are scattered across the scene, some forming loops and others being straight, creating a sense of movement and depth.

**If you wish to understand the Creator, first
understand his creation.**

Columbanus (6th c.)

6. Spiritual Warfare



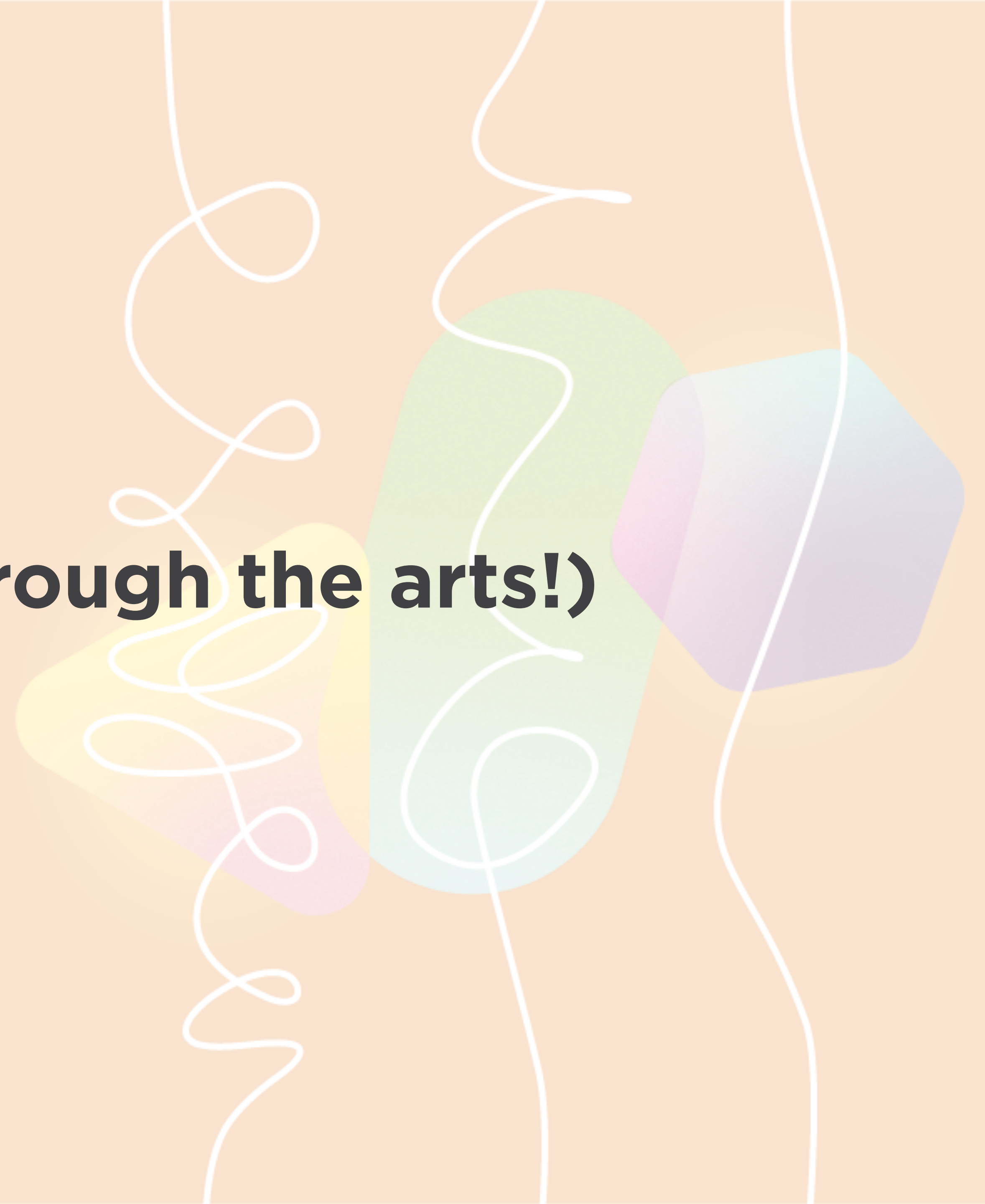
7. Trinitarian Belief



The background features a light beige gradient. On the right side, there are several overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in pastel colors: a yellow one at the bottom left, a pink one below it, a light green one in the center, and a light blue one on the right. White, thin, wavy lines are scattered across the scene, some forming loops and others being straight, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Inhale: I bind unto myself this day
Exhale: the strong Name of the Trinity

8. Love of Learning (through the arts!)



...us tuum es accipie
...nem. **B**enedixitque
...re quod discipulis suis
...piter edice. ex hoc comit
...m corpus meum quod
...uri pro vobis ut carna
...cipens calicem gratias
...git. **A**d dedit illis dicens
...hoc omnes hinc est. **E**um
...m dicitur pro vobis. **C**um
...electum pro vobis. **C**um pro
...misi opem peccatorum
...vobis quia non bi
...hoc semper vobis
...quo illud
...fno



9. Understanding of Time



**For the Celts, past, present, and future are all
linked to God's *now*.**



Practice: Guided Virtual Pilgrimage

An abstract graphic on the right side of the page. It features several overlapping, rounded, colorful shapes in shades of yellow, green, teal, and purple. Overlaid on these shapes are several thin, white, wavy lines that resemble calligraphic flourishes or paths. The background is a solid, light beige color.



The Nunnery



The War Memorial



The Crossroads



The Marble Quarry



Columba's Bay



Hermit's Cell



St. Oran's Chapel



St. Oran's Chapel