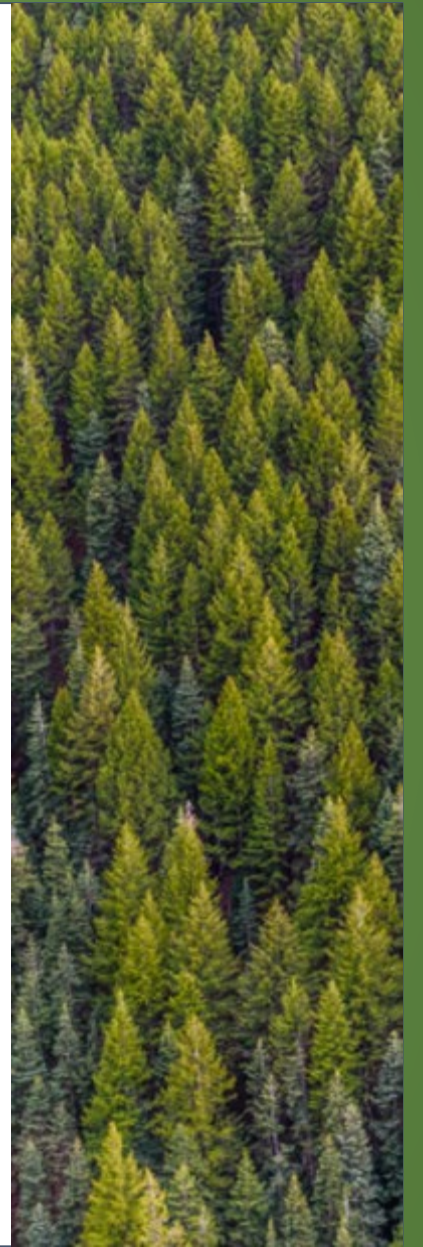
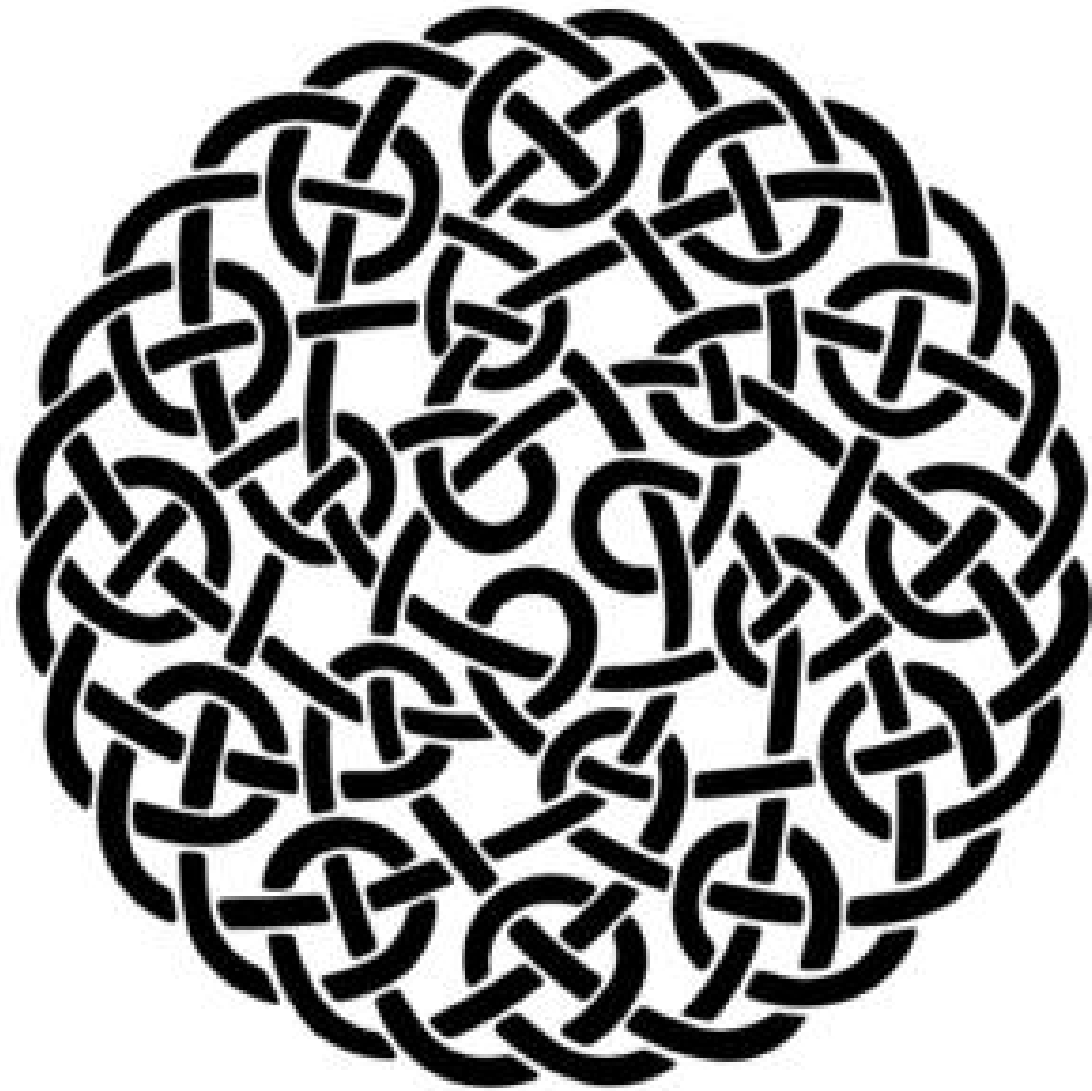
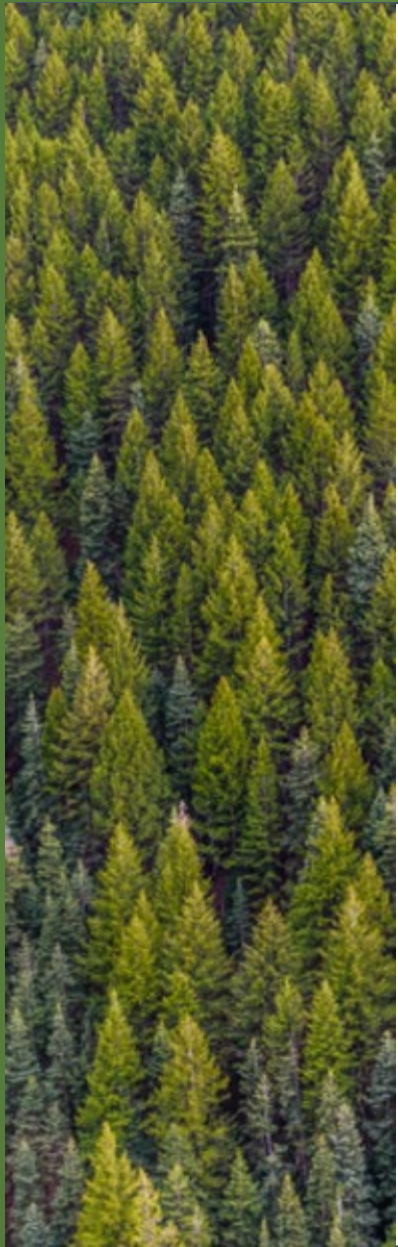


Joy and Grief are Woven Fine:

Perspectives on Love and Loss
in our Latter Years





Blessed be the longing that brought you here

And quickens your soul with wonder.

May you have the courage to listen to the voice of desire

that disturbs you when you have settled for something safe.

May you have the wisdom to enter generously into your own
unease,

To discover the new direction your longing wants you to take.

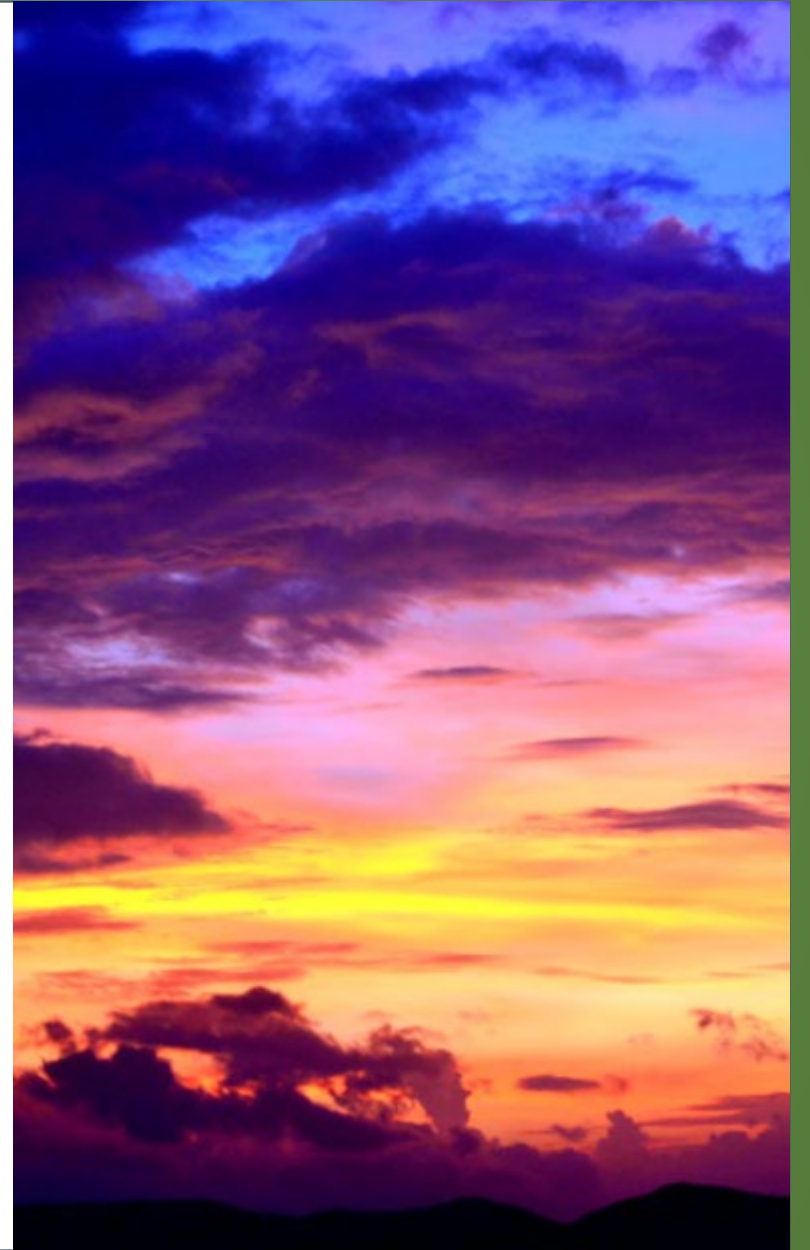
May you come to accept your longing as divine urgency.

May you know the urgency with which God longs for you.

(from *To Bless the Space Between Us* by John O'Donohue)

Be each saint in heaven,
Each sainted woman in heaven,
Stretching their arms for you,
Smoothing the way for you,
When you go thither
Over the river hard to see;
O when you go thither home,
Over the river hard to see.

(from *The Carmina Gadelica*, III, 203)





**“You are
the place I stand
when my feet are sore.”**

~ Padraig O’Tuama~

**“We keep house
among a great cloud
of witnesses.”**

~ Waldo Williams ~
Welsh Poet





A Blessing for Old Age

by John O'Donohue

May the light of your soul mind you.

May all your worry and anxiousness about your age
be transfigured.

May you be given the wisdom for the eyes of your soul
to see this as a time of gracious harvesting.

May you have the passion to heal what has hurt you,
and allow it to come closer and become one with you.

May you have great dignity
and a sense of how free you are.

Above all, may you be given the wonderful gift
of meeting the eternal light that is within you.

**May you be blessed,
and may you find a wonderful love
in your self for your self**

