

Compline – Wednesday, October 28, 2020

St. George's Anglican Church, Cadboro Bay / www.stgeorgecadborobay.ca

From: Celtic Benediction: Morning and Night Prayer by John Philip Newell

Opening

Yours is the day, yours also the night; you made the luminaries of the sky, the sun, moon and stars. (Psalm 74:16)

Be still and aware of God's presence within and all around

Prayer

Glory be to you, O God of the night,
for the brightness of the moon
and the infinite stretches of dark space.
Let me be learning to love the night
As I know and love the day
Let me be learning to trust its darkness
and to seek its subtle blessings.
Let me be learning the night's way of seeing
that in all things I may trace the mystery
of your presence.

Offerings of Gratitude

Scripture and Meditation

Lead me in your truth and teach me for you are the God of my salvation (Psalm 25:5)

Jesus said, 'You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.' (John 8:32)

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

That you have placed a harmony of lights in the heavens
that night is followed by day
and the glowing of the moon by the glistening of the sun
thanks be to you, O God.
That you have placed a harmony of lights in my soul
that there is gentleness and firmness of strength
intuitive knowing and enlightened reasoning
thanks be to you.
Let me be sure of your law of harmony in all things
that I seek it in my own depths
and in knowing it in my inner life
yearn for it in the torn relationships of our world.

Recall the events of the day and pray for the life of the world

Poem – “Snowy Owl Near Ocean Shores” by Duane Niatum

A castaway blown south from the arctic tundra
sits on a stump in an abandoned farmer’s field.
Beyond the dunes cattails toss and bend as snappy
as the surf, rushing and crashing down the jetty.

His head a swivel of round glances,
his eyes a deeper yellow than the winter sun,
he wonders if the spot two hundred feet away
is a mouse on the crawl from mud hole
to deer-grass patch.

An hour of wind and sleet whips the air,
nothing darts or passes but the river underground.
A North Pole creature shows us how to last.
The wind ruffles his feathers from crown to claw

while he gazes into zeroes the salt-slick rain.
As a double-rainbow before us arcs
sky and owl, we leave him surrendering
to the echo of his white refrain.

Closing Prayer

In the beginning, O God,
You placed seeds in the womb of the earth.
On the surface of the earth and in its seas and skies
you made all species.
And above the earth
you called the two great lights into relationship.
Renew me this night
in the fruitful intermingling that you have woven into creation
that I may wake to the morning
enlivened by love
that I may wake to the morning
enlivened by love.

Sources:

Celtic Benediction: Morning and Night Prayer by J Philip Newell © 2000 by the Canterbury Press.

Poem – Duane Niatum, “Snowy Owl Near Ocean Shores” *Drawings of the Song Animals* (1996).
www.poetryfoudation.org.

