

Compline – Friday, October 30, 2020

St. George's Anglican Church, Cadboro Bay / <https://www.stgeorgecadborobay.ca>

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

Opening

When I look at the heavens, the work of your hands, the moon and the stars that you have made; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, children of the earth that you create for them? Yet you have created us a little lower than the angels, and crowned us with glory and honour (Psalm 8:3-5)

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

Prayer

For the night skies opening outwards
star upon star

expanse after expanse
thanks be to you, O God.

For the mystery of your presence
in and beyond all that can be seen
thanks be to you.

Guide me further this night
into the inner universe of my soul
ever opening inwards
light upon light
new depth after new depth.

Guide me through strange and fearful spaces
towards the place of your eternal dwelling
and assure me again that in drawing closer to you
I draw closer to the heart of every living being
that in drawing closer to you
I approach the heart of life.

Offerings of Thanksgiving

Scripture and Meditation

I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart (Psalm 40:8)

Jesus said, 'It is the spirit that gives life' (John 6:63)

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

That life is conceived out of passion
and that your passion for life
has been sown within every human being
thanks be to you, O God.

For the desire to bring children into the world
and the life-long yearnings of parents for the well-being of their children,
thanks be to you.

For the hopes of friends for one another
and the cries of whole societies and nations
for justice and freedom for their people
thanks be to you.

Rekindle in me your passion for life, O God,
rekindle in me your passion for life.

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

Poem – “Your Night is of Lilac”

BY MAHMOUD DARWISH TRANSLATED BY FADY JOUDAH

The night sits wherever you are. Your night
is of lilac. Every now and then a gesture escapes
from the beam of your dimples, breaks the wineglass
and lights up the starlight. And your night is your shadow—
a fairy-tale piece of land to make our dreams
equal. I am not a traveler or a dweller
in your lilac night, I am he who was one day
me. Whenever night grew in you I guessed
the heart’s rank between two grades: neither
the self accepts, nor the soul accepts. But in our bodies
a heaven and an earth embrace. And all of you
is your night ... radiant night like planet ink. Night
is the covenant of night, crawling in my body
anesthetized like a fox’s sleepiness. Night diffusing a mystery
that illuminates my language, whenever it is clearer
I become more fearful of a tomorrow in the fist. Night
staring at itself safe and assured in its
endlessness, nothing celebrates it except its mirror
and the ancient shepherd songs in a summer of emperors
who get sick on love. Night that flourished in its Jahili poetry
on the whims of Imru’ el-Qyss and others,
and widened for the dreamers the milk path to a hungry
moon in the remoteness of speech ...

Closing Prayer

Renew me this night in the image of your love
renew me in the likeness of your mercy, O God.
May any refusal to forgive
that lingers with me from the day

any bitterness of soul
that hardens my heart
be softened by your graces of the night.
Renew me in the image of your love, O God,
renew me in the likeness of your mercy.

Sources:

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

Poem: Mahmoud Darwish, "Your Night is of Lilac" from *The Butterfly's Burden* (Copper Canyon Press, 2007).