

Morning Prayer – Saturday, April 4, 2020
Celtic Prayers from Iona – J. Philip Newell

Opening Words (*as candle is lit*)

How weighty to me
are your thoughts O God
how vast is the sum of them
If I should count them
they are more than the sand
When I awake
I am still with you (Psalm 139:17-18)

(Be still and aware of the presence of the Divine within and all around)

Opening Prayer and Thanksgiving

O God who brought me
from the rest of last night
to the new light of this day
Bring me in the new light
 of this day
to the guiding light of the eternal.
Lead me O God
 on the journey of justice
Guide me O God on the
 on the pathways of peace
Renew me O God
 By the wellsprings of grace
Today, tonight and forever

FREE PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done
 on earth as in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power

and the glory are yours
Now and for ever
Amen.

Scripture – John 10:45-57 (Contemporary English Version)

Many of the people who had come to visit Mary saw the things that Jesus did, and they put their faith in him. Others went to the Pharisees and told what Jesus had done. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called the council together and said, “What should we do? This man is working a lot of miracles. If we don’t stop him now, everyone will put their faith in him. Then the Romans will come and destroy our temple and our nation.”

One of the council members was Caiaphas, who was also high priest that year. He spoke up and said, “You people don’t have any sense at all! Don’t you know it is better for one person to die for the people than for the whole nation to be destroyed?” Caiaphas did not say this on his own. As high priest that year, he was prophesying that Jesus would die for the nation. Yet Jesus would not die just for the Jewish nation. He would die to bring together all of God’s scattered people. From that day on, the council started making plans to put Jesus to death.

Because of this plot against him, Jesus stopped going around in public. He went to the town of Ephraim, which was near the desert, and he stayed there with his disciples.

It was almost time for Passover. Many of the Jewish people who lived out in the country had come to Jerusalem to get themselves ready for the festival. They looked around for Jesus. Then when they were in the temple, they asked each other, “You don’t think he will come here for Passover, do you?”

The chief priests and the Pharisees told the people to let them know if any of them saw Jesus. That is how they hoped to arrest him.

SILENCE

(Reflect on the gospel and remember Jesus identifying himself with the homeless and rejected)

Poem – “Gaps” by Kay Ryan

Gaps don’t
just happen.
There is a
Generative element
inside them,
a welling motion
as when cold
waters shoulder
up through

warmer oceans.
And where gaps
choose to widen,
coordinates warp,
even in places
constant since
the oldest maps.

Intercessions

May those without shelter
 be under your guarding
 this day O Christ
May the wandering
 find places of welcome.
O son of the tears, of the wounds,
 of the piercings,
May your cross this day
 Be shielding them.

(Pray for the coming day and for refugees and those without a place of welcome)

Closing Prayer

(after which candle is extinguished)

On my heart and on my house
The blessing of God.
In my coming and in my going
The peace of God.
In my life and in my seeking
The love of God.
At my end and new beginning
The arms of God to welcome me
 and bring me home.

Spiritual Exercises:

- 1) Reflect on how Jesus makes others feel welcome; why do others find this frightening and dangerous?
- 2) How might this time be generative for you? What is God asking of you during this time? Write or do art to respond to this question.
- 3) How might you show love to someone who is made to feel unwelcome at this time? Perhaps by giving financially to an organization that supports people who are homeless,

sending a note of thanks to our St. George's Refugee Committee members who've been hard at work, or placing hearts in your window to show love to the world.

Sources:

Prayers are from: *Celtic Prayers from Iona* – J. Philip Newell, New York: Paulist Press, 1997

Poem: "Gaps" by Kay Ryan. *Say Uncle*, New York: Grove Press, 1991.