

Morning Prayer – Tuesday, June 9, 2020

Praying with the Earth: A Prayerbook for Peace by John Philip Newell

Opening Words (*as candle is lit*)

Blessed are the humble for they are close to the sacred earth (Matthew 5:5)

Prayer of Awareness

It is in the depths of life that we find you
at the heart of this moment
at the centre of our soul
deep in the earth and its eternal stirrings.
You are the Ground of all being
the Well-Spring of time
Womb of the earth
the Seed-Force of stars.
And so at the opening of day
we wait
not for blessings from afar
but for You
the very Soil of our soul
the early Freshness of morning
the first Breath of day.

(Be still and aware)

Scripture and Meditation

God lifts up those who are bowed down (Psalm 146:8)

(pause)

Whoever wishes to be great among you must be a servant among you (Matthew 20:26)

(pause)

Why do you not bow to the one whom My own hands have made? (Quran – Sad 38.75)

(Be still and aware)

Poem – “The Invisible Birds of Central America” by Craig Arnold

The bird who creaks like a rusty playground swing
the bird who sharpens the knife the bird who blows
on the mouths of milk bottles the bird who bawls like a cat
like a cartoon baby the bird who rubs the wineglass
the bird who curlicues the bird who quacks like a duck
but is not a duck the bird who pinks on a jeweller's hammer

They hide behind the sunlight scattered throughout the canopy
At the thud of your feet they fall thoughtful and quiet
coming to life again only when you have passed
Perhaps they are not multiple but one
a many-mooded trickster whose voice is rich
and infinitely various whose feathers
liquify the rainbow rippling scarlet
emerald indigo whose streaming tail
is rare as a comet's a single glimpse of which
is all that you could wish for the one thing
missing to make your eyes at last feel full
to meet this wild need of yours for wonder

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS, THE WORLD, AND ONESELF

Prayer for the Life of the World

For everything that emerges from the earth
Thanks be to you, O God,
Holy Root of being
Sacred Sap that rises
Full-bodied Fragrance of earth's unfolding form.
May we know that we are of You
May we know that we are in You
May we know that we are one with You
Together one.
Guide us as nations to what is deepest
Open us as peoples to what is first
Lead us as a world to what is dearest
That we may know the holiness of wholeness
That we may learn the strength of humility
That together we may live close to the earth
And grow grounded glory.

(silent prayers for justice and peace)

Prayer of Blessing

May the deep blessings of earth be with us.
May the fathomless soundings of seas surge in our soul.
May boundless stretches of the universe echo in our depths
to open us to wonder
to strengthen us for love
to humble us with gratitude
that we may find ourselves in one another
that we may lose ourselves in gladness
that we give ourselves to peace.

Spiritual Exercises:

- 1) Pay attention to the different birdsongs you can hear from your home. Do you know how to recognize the songs of different types of birds? What do their calls sound like to you?
- 2) The Scripture readings speak to how we connect with God deep in ourselves. Take some time to be present to God – even if it's only a few moments. Simply invite God to draw near to you.

Sources: Prayers: Praying with the Earth: A Prayerbook for Peace by John Philip Newell. Eerdmans, 2011.

Poem: Poem – “The Invisible Birds of Central America” by Craig Arnold: Source: *Poetry* (October 2008)