

Compline – Wednesday, November 4, 2020

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

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 – John 4:7-15

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

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 – “Vow” by Diana Khoi Nguyen

It will be windy for a while until it isn't. The waves will shoal. A red-legged cormorant will trace her double along glassy water, forgetting they are hungry. The sea will play this motif over and over, but there will be no preparing for it otherwise. Water will quiver in driftwood. Sound preceding absence, a white dog trailing a smaller one: ghost and noon shadow, two motes disappearing into surf. And when the low tide comes lapping and clear, the curled fronds of seaweed will furl and splay, their algal sisters brushing strands against sands where littleneck clams feed underwater. Light rain will fall and one cannot help but lean into the uncertainty of the sea. Bow: a knot of two loops, two loose ends, our bodies on either side of this shore where we will dip our hands to feel what can't be seen. Horseshoe crabs whose blue blood rich in copper will reach for cover, hinged between clouds and sea. It will never be enough, the bull kelp like a whip coiling in tender hands, hands who know to take or be taken, but take nothing with them: I will marry you. I will marry you. So we can owe what we own to every beautiful thing.

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.
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