

Compline – Friday, November 6, 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 – Luke 12:23-31

Jesus said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you

are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

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 – “No Worry” by Cole Swensen

No, worry about nothing
but the chiseling
of hills into distance
in the slight haze

and sleep lost over color
no two ever the same

the wringing hands
float ashore amazed.
Worry about beauty.
It can sell you anything.
Lakes collect in the
chambers of the heart
where the sailboats are made
of flying fish about
the size of match heads.

Sleep can be lost as
easily as a house key,
the shock can consume
at any moment

if the hills are not rising
weather is wearing them down
and you are driving
north in the late afternoon
or holding your eyes
in your hands like addresses.

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: Cole Swensen, "No Worry" from *New Math* (William Morrow and Company, Inc., 1988)