

Compline – Wednesday, September 9, 2020

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

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

### **Opening**

Blessed are those who hunger for earth's oneness, for they will be satisfied (Matthew 5.6)

### **Prayer of Awareness**

At the close of day  
as busyness fades  
as light dims  
and footsteps soften  
we open again the inner door of our being  
to enter stillness  
to feel our way through the dark  
To You  
the Silence from whom we are born  
the Name before names were spoken  
the love of life's beginnings.  
At the close of day  
we come.

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

### **Scripture and Meditation**

May God grant you your heart's desire (Psalm 20.4)

Many will come from east and west and eat together in the garden of God (Matthew 8.11)

Whichever way you turn, there is the face of God

(Quran – The Cow 2.115)

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

Whichever way we turn, O God, there is your face  
in the light of the moon and patterns of stars  
in scarred mountain rifts and ancient groves  
in mighty seas and creatures of the deep.  
Whichever way we turn, O God, there is your face  
in the light of eyes we love  
in the salt of tears we have tasted  
in weathered countenances east and west  
in the soft skin glow of the child everywhere.  
Whichever way we turn, O God, there is your face  
there is your face among us.

## ***Pray for peace***

### **Poem – “Prayer” by Martin Scorescu, trans. by Gabriela Dragnea**

Oh you saints,  
Let me enter your society,  
If only as a statistician.

You're old,  
Perhaps the years are  
Getting you down by now,  
Laying themselves over you  
In layers of color.

Just let me take care  
Of your dirty work in  
All the nooks and crannies.

For example I could  
Swallow light  
At the Last Supper  
And exhale your halos  
After the devotionals.

From time to time,  
At a distance of half a wall,  
I could  
Form my hands into a horn  
And shout,  
Now for the believers,  
Now for the unbelievers  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

### **Closing Prayer**

May heaven's guardians of night welcome us.  
May heaven's messengers of grace bless our dreams.  
May heaven's angels of compassion protect our sleep.  
That we may wake refreshed.  
That we may awake with eyes of wonder.  
That we may wake to the world's oneness.  
That we may wake to serve earth's heaven-blessed oneness.

Sources:

*Praying with the Earth: A Prayerbook for Peace* by John Philip Newell (Eerdmans, 2011).

Marin Sorescu, "Prayer" from *Hands Behind My Back*, translated by Gabriela Dragnea, Stuart Frieberg, and Adriana Varga (Oberlin College Press, 1991).