

Compline – Tuesday, July 28, 2020

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

### **Opening**

In the fullness of our humanity, heal us, gracious Savior.

### **Prayer**

Troubled God, in every generation you call your people to contend against the brutality of sin and betrayal: Keep us steadfast in love despite our fear and uncertainty, so that we may follow where Jesus has led the way. Amen.

*(Be still and aware)*

Psalm 107:1-10 - St. Helena Psalter

We give you thanks, O God, for you are good; \*  
your mercy endures for ever.

Let all those whom you have redeemed proclaim \*  
that you redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

You gathered them out of the lands; \*  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.

Some wandered in desert wastes; \*  
they found no way to a city where they might dwell.

They were hungry and thirsty; \*  
their spirits languished within them.

Then they cried to you in their trouble, \*  
and you delivered them from their distress.

You put their feet on a straight path \*  
to go to a city where they might dwell.

Let them give thanks to you for your mercy \*  
and the wonders you do for your children.

For you satisfy the thirsty \*  
and fill the hungry with good things.

*(Be still and aware)*

Poem – “Mother Talks Back to the Monster” by Carrie Shipers

Tonight, I dressed my son in astronaut pajamas,  
kissed his forehead and tucked him in.  
I turned on his night-light and looked for you  
in the closet and under the bed. I told him  
you were nowhere to be found, but I could smell

your breath, your musty fur. I remember  
all your tricks: the jagged shadows on the wall,  
click of your claws, the hand that hovered  
just above my ankles if I left them exposed.  
Since I became a parent I see danger everywhere—  
unleashed dogs, sudden fevers, cereal  
two days out of date. And even worse  
than feeling so much fear is keeping it inside,  
trying not to let my love become so tangled  
with anxiety my son thinks they're the same.  
When he says he's seen your tail or heard  
your heavy step, I insist that you aren't real.  
Soon he'll feel too old to tell me his bad dreams.  
If you get lonely after he's asleep, you can  
always come downstairs. I'll be sitting  
at the kitchen table with the dishes  
I should wash, crumbs I should wipe up.  
We can drink hot tea and talk about  
the future, how hard it is to be outgrown.

#### Prayers

God of extravagant love,  
Transform us with the freedom of forgiveness.

God of unbounded, sacrificial love,  
Teach us to give ourselves in joyful service.

God whose love persists even in the darkest hour,  
Deepen our faith, renew our spirits and strengthen our confidence in you, that we may truly  
learn to walk in self-giving love.

#### *PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING*

In the fullness of our humanity, heal us, gracious Savior.

All shall be Amen and Alleluia. We shall rest and we shall see.  
We shall see and we shall know. We shall know and we shall love.  
We shall love and we shall praise. Behold our end, which is no end. Amen. (Saint Augustine)

#### Sources:

Prayers are from: *Daily Prayer for All Seasons* © 2014 by the Office of the General Convention  
of The Episcopal Church, Church Publishing Inc.

Poem – copyright ©2015 by Carrie Shippers, “Mother Talks Back to the Monster” (*North  
American Review*, Vol. 300, no. 4, 2015).

