

Morning Prayer – Wednesday, November 11, 2020

St. George's Anglican Church, Cadboro Bay / 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

All things come from you, O God,
and to you we return.

All things emerge in your great river of life
and into you we vanish again.

At the beginning of this day
we wake

not as separate streams
but as countless currents in a single flow
the flow of this day's dawning
the flow of this day's delight
the flow of this day's sorrows
your flow, O God,
in the twistings and turnings of this new day.

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

Scripture and Meditation

Sing to God a new song. Sing to God, all the earth (Psalm 96:1)

In everything do to others as you would have them do to you (Matthew 7:12)

Whoever saves a human life shall be regarded as though they had saved all of humankind
(Quran – The Table 5.32)

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

All things are born of you, O God.

We carry within us your light and your life.

In the mystery of matter
and deep in the cells of our souls
are your longings of oneness.

The oneness of the universe
vast and vibrating with the sound of its beginning.

The oneness of the earth
greening and teeming as a single body.

The oneness of the human soul
a sacred countenance in infinite form.

Grant us your longings for oneness, O God,
amidst life's glorious multiplicities.

Thanksgiving and Intercessions / Pray for peace

Poem – “High Flight” by Officer John G. Magee, Jr.

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air...
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew -
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.

- Officer John G. Magee, Jr. - November, 1941

Closing Prayer

Blessings on the day, born of night.
Blessings on the earth, wedded to heaven.
Blessings on the creatures, adored by angels.
Blessings on our bodies, alive with Spirit.
Blessings on our minds, filled with dreams.
Blessings on our hearts, opened by love.
Blessings, blessings, blessings.

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

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A Short Biography of John Gillespie Magee, Jr.

John Gillespie Magee, Jr. was born in 1922 in Shanghai, China. In October 1940, at age 18, John Magee Jr. went to Canada and enrolled in the Royal Canadian Air Force. After his flight training, he went to England as a commissioned pilot officer. In the course of his training in the Spitfire aircraft, he was assigned to make a high altitude flight "into the stratosphere." On landing, he went to his quarters and there wrote his now famous *High Flight* sonnet on the back of a letter to his mother.