

Morning Prayer – Thursday, June 11, 2020

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

Opening Words (*as candle is lit*)

Blessed are the forgiving for they are free (Matthew 5:7)

Prayer of Awareness

We wake
to the forgiveness of a new day.
We wake
to the freedom to begin again.
We wake
to the mercy of the sun's redeeming light.
Always new
always gift
always blessing
We wake
to the forgiveness of this new day.

(Be still and aware)

Scripture and Meditation

God is merciful and gracious slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love (Psalm 103.8)

(pause)

Forgive not seven times but seventy times seven times (Matthew 18.22)

(pause)

Return evil with good and your enemy will become your friend
(Quran – Revelations Well Expounded 41.34)

(Be still and aware)

Poem – “More Than Enough” by Marge Piercy

The first lily of June opens its red mouth.
All over the sand road where we walk
multiflora rose climbs trees cascading
white or pink blossoms, simple, intense
the scene drifting like colored mist.

The arrowhead is spreading its creamy
clumps of flower and the blackberries
are blooming in the thickets. Season of

joy for the bee. The green will never
again be so green, so purely and lushly

new, grass lifting its wheaty seedheads
into the wind. Rich fresh wine
of June, we stagger into you smeared
with pollen, overcome as the turtle
laying her eggs in roadside sand.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS, THE WORLD, AND ONESELF

Prayer for the Life of the World

May our enemy become our friend, O God
that we may share earth's goodness.
May our enemy become our friend, O God,
that our children may meet and marry.
May our enemy become our friend, O God,
that we may remember our shared birth in you.
May we grow in grace
may we grow in gratitude
may we grow in wisdom
that our enemy may become our friend

(silent prayers for justice and peace)

Prayer of Blessing

The blessings of sun
the blessings of moon
the blessings of east and of west
to guide us on the way
to lighten our eyes
to strengthen our will and our loving.
The blessings of earth
the blessings of air
the blessings of fire and of water
to fill us with heaven
to free us with mercy
to stir us with flames of compassion.

Spiritual Exercises:

- 1) Reflect on any circumstances in your life in which there is a need to forgive or be forgiven. What is the barrier to forgiveness? If you don't have any such situation reflect on a time you've offered or asked for forgiveness – what impact did it have?

- 2) Make and decorate a small box while thinking about the forgiveness you long to receive or to offer. Write the name of the person you wish to forgive (it could be yourself) or the person you to receive forgiveness from – place the paper with the name in the box. It can stay there for a long time or a short time – helping to prepare the ground for forgiveness.

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

Poem: "More Than Enough" copyright © 2003 by Marge Piercy from *Colors Passing Through Us* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2003).