

Compline – Thursday, May 14, 2020

Celtic Prayers from Iona – J. Philip Newell

Opening Words (*as candle is lit*)

If I say
“surely the darkness
shall cover me
and the light around me
become night.”
even the darkness
is not dark to you
The night is as bright
as the day, for darkness is
as light to you. (Psalm 139:11-12)

(Be still and aware of the presence of the Divine within and all around)

Opening Prayer and Thanksgiving

I am bending my knee
in the eye of the God
who created me
In the eye of the Son
who died for me
In the eye of the Spirit
who moves me
in love and in desire.
For the many gifts
you have bestowed on me
Each day and night
each sea and land
Each weather fair
each calm each wild
Thanks be to you O God.

FREE PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father in heaven
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done
 on earth as in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins

As we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours
Now and for ever. Amen.

Scripture – Psalm 42 – St. Helena Psalter

As the deer longs for the water-brooks, *
so longs my soul for you, O God.

My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; *
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

My tears have been my food day and night, *
while all day long they say to me,
“Where now is your God?”

I pour out my soul when I think on these things: *
how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God,
With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, *
among those who keep holy-day.

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, *
and why are you so disquieted within me?

Put your trust in God, *
for I will yet give thanks to the Holy One,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

My soul is heavy within me; *
therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan,
and from the peak of Mizar among the heights of Hermon.

One deep calls to another in the noise of your cataracts; *
all your rapids and floods have gone over me.

You grant me your loving-kindness in the daytime; *
in the night season your song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.

I will say to the God of my strength,
“Why have you forgotten me, *
and why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me?”

While my bones are being broken, *
my enemies mock me to my face;

All day long they mock me *
and say to me, “Where now is your God?”

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, *
and why are you so disquieted within me?

Put your trust in God, *
for I will yet give thanks to the Holy One,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

SILENCE

(Reflect on the reading and God as the wellspring of all life)

Poem – “Stars” by Marjorie Pickthall

Now in the West the slender moon lies low,
And now Orion glimmers through the trees,
Clearing the earth with even pace and slow,
And now the stately-moving Pleiades,
In that soft infinite darkness overhead
Hang jewel-wise upon a silver thread.

And all the lonelier stars that have their place,
Calm lamps within the distant southern sky,
And planet-dust upon the edge of space,
Look down upon the fretful world, and I
Look up to outer vastness unafraid
And see the stars which sang when earth was made.

Intercessions

O God I place myself
with those who struggle
this night.
I am here in need
I am here in pain
I am here alone
O God help me.

(Recall the events of the day and pray for those who suffer)

Closing Prayer

(after which candle is extinguished)

O Christ you are a bright flame
before me
You are a guiding star above me
You are the light and love
I see in others' eyes.
Keep me O Christ
in a love that is tender
Keep me O Christ
in a love that is true
Keep me O Christ

in a love that is strong
Tonight, tomorrow and always.

Sources:

Prayers are from: *Celtic Prayers from Iona* – J. Philip Newell, New York: Paulist Press, 1997

Poem: “Stars” by Marjorie Pickthall. Public Domain.

Scripture: *Contemporary English Version*, American Bible Society, 1995.