

Compline – Tuesday, August 25, 2020

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

From: *Celtic Benediction: Morning and Night Prayer* by John Philip Newell

### **Opening**

For you alone, O God, my soul waits in silence, from you comes my salvation. (Psalm 62:1)

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

### **Prayer**

O God of the high mountains

O Christ of the fertile valleys

O Spirit of the earth

from whose dark soils burst forth fresh life

and from which my own body and soul are born

be to me this night

the bestower of grace.

Be to my body and soul this night

the generous giver of love.

### **Scripture and Meditation**

The earth is full of your goodness, O God. (Psalm 33:5)

Jesus said, 'Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.' (John 12:24)

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

For the earth's cycles and seasons

for the rising of spring and the growing summer

for autumn's fullness and the hidden depths of winter

thanks be to you, O Christ.

For the life force in seeds buried in the ground

that shoot green and bear fruit and fall to the earth

thanks be to you.

Let me learn from earth's cycles of birthing

the times and seasons of dying.

Let me learn of you in the soil of my soul, O Christ,

and your journey through death to birth.

Let me learn of you in my soul this night

and the journey of letting go.

***Recall the events of the day and pray for the life of the world***

**Poem – "Things to do (Heart)" by Jordie Albiston**

*a.* Find heart, and place hand upon it. *b.* Time to metronome beat. *c.* Empty above of all things earthly. *d.* Fill with compassion. *e.* Sleep. *f.* Remove heart while comatose, and *g.* wrap in secondary skin. *h.* Attend to uncontrolled

weeping. *i.* Inject with childhood whims. *j.* Apply usual pressures. *k.* Induce another few beats. *l.* Install restraints against sudden death flights of fancy and similar feats. *m.* Dream the dream of green things rising through cracks

in the heart's veneer. *n.* Stir slightly. *o.* Open one valve. *p.* Put back to sleep again. *q.* Attach block and tackle for (possible) messy escape. *r.* Invite intelligence in. *s.* Stitch up anything that gapes. *t.* Arrange wordly affairs in good

order, alphabetically and from one to ten. *u.* Inform media of intentions. *v.* Alert next-of-kin. *w.* Insert telegraph pole for long-distance out - of-town friends. *x.* Put heart back in. *y.* Press All Systems Go. *z.* Let your black ravens sing.

### **Closing Prayer**

Glory be to you O Holy Seed of all that has been born  
for earth, sea and sky in vibrancy of colour.  
Glory be you O light of Life  
for your liberation of earth's bound treasures.  
Glory be to you O River of delight  
surging through the heart of creation.  
Renew me this night in the depths of sleep,  
set free my dreams of the unknown.  
Safeguard this time of resting, O God,  
enfold me in the darkness of the night.

Sources:

*Celtic Benediction: Morning and Night Prayer* by J Philip Newell © 2000 by the Canterbury Press.

Poem – “Things to do (Heart)” by Jordie Albiston (Copyright © Red Room Poetry 2020).