

Morning Prayer – Wednesday, 29 April 2020

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

From: *Celtic Treasure: Daily Scriptures and Prayer*, by John Philip Newell

Opening Words

(as candle is lit)

We light a candle
in the name of the God who creates life
in the name of the Saviour who loves life,
in the name of the Spirit who is the fire of life.

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

From Amos 5

After David there were many kings and queens of Israel.
There were some who were strong and lived long.
And there were others who were false and deserted the people.
There was Uzziah who became king when he was sixteen.
Although he was young he learned to lead the nation
but in later years he became proud and neglected the needy.
So the prophet Amos, who was a shepherd, spoke against the king,
'The One who creates the stars and the planets
who turns the darkness of night into the light of day
and the light of day into the darkness of night
calls you to change.
Seek good and turn from evil that you may live.'
And Amos spoke out also against the friends and advisers of the king
Who despised the poor and pushed them aside on the city streets,
'The One who creates the mountains and the earth
who turns the calm sea into storm and stormy seas into still waters
calls you to change.
Hate what is wrong and love what is good that you and the nation may live.'
And to the religious who practised prayer more than compassion
and loved festivities more than fairness, Amos said,
'I hate your festivals and despise your songs.
Instead, let justice roll down like waters
and righteousness like an everflowing stream.'

(a time for reflection on the reading)

Poem – “Waiting for Rain” by Ellen Bass

Finally, morning. This loneliness
feels more ordinary in the light, more like my face
in the mirror. My daughter in the ER again.
Something she ate? Some freshener

someone spritzed in the air?
They're trying to kill me, she says,
as though it's a joke. Lucretius
got me through the night. He told me the world goes on

making and unmaking. Maybe it's wrong
to think of better and worse.
There's no one who can carry my fear
for a child who walks out the door

not knowing what will stop her breath.
The rain they say is coming
sails now over the Pacific in purplish nimbus clouds.
But it isn't enough. Last year I watched

elephants encircle their young, shuffling
their massive legs without hurry, flaring
their great dusty ears. Once they drank
from the snowmelt of Kilimanjaro.

Now the mountain is bald. Lucretius knows
we're just atoms combining and recombining:
star dust, flesh, grass. All night
I plastered my body to Janet,

breathing when she breathed. But her skin,
warm as it is, does, after all, keep me out.
How tenuous it all is.
My daughter's coming home next week.

She'll bring the pink plaid suitcase we bought at Ross.
When she points it out to the escort
pushing her wheelchair, it will be easy
to spot on the carousel. I just want to touch her.

(a time for reflection on the reading)

Prayer

In the silence of our hearts or in spoken words

let us give thanks for the gift of this day
and pray for the life of the world . . .

(prayers are offered)

You have taught us, O Christ, to love the world.
You have shown us the light that is within us and
 within all things.
May we learn to love you more
and in loving you more
learn to love the earth and all its people more,
for you are the light of all life.

Closing Words

(after which the candle is extinguished)

The blessings of heaven,
the blessings of earth,
the blessings of sea and sky.
On those we love this day
and on every human family
the gifts of heaven
the gifts of earth,
the gifts of sea and sky.

Spiritual Exercises for today:

- 1) Make a collage or piece of art that reflects something that strikes you from one of the prayers or readings from today.
- 2) Seasonally we're in a time of much observable change. Take some time to notice the changes occurring in nature.

Sources:

Scripture reading and Prayers are from *Celtic Treasures: Daily Scriptures and Prayer* by J. Philip Newell, 2005, Canterbury Press.

"Waiting for Rain" Copyright © 2013 by Ellen Bass. This poem appeared in Poem-A-Day on September 30, 2013.