

Compline – Wednesday, July 8th, 2020

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

*As we turn on lamps at dusk, we greet the evening by welcoming God to abide with us anew.*

### **Opening**

As a loving mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.

O God, at the setting of the sun, we place our trust in you. As the night draws near, we give thanks for your presence with us. Help us entrust our lives to you with the delight and confidence of one who loves and is beloved. Through Jesus, our faithful Savior. Amen.

*(Be still and aware)*

Psalm 71 - *selected verses* – St. Helena Psalter

In you, O God, have I taken refuge; \*

let me never be ashamed.

In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; \*

incline your ear to me and save me.

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; \*

you are my crag and my stronghold.

Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, \*

from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.

For you are my hope, O God, \*

my confidence since I was young.

I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;

from my mother's womb you have been my strength; \*

my praise shall be always of you.

I have become a portent to many, \*

but you are my refuge and my strength.

Let my mouth be full of your praise \*

and your glory all the day long.

Do not cast me off in my old age; \*

forsake me not when my strength fails.

They say that God has forsaken me,

that they may pursue and seize me \*

because there is none who will save.

O God, be not far from me; \*

come quickly to help me, O my God.

O God, you have taught me since I was young, \*

and to this day I tell of your wonderful works.

And now that I am old and gray-headed, O God, do not forsake me, \*  
till I make known your strength to this generation  
and your power to all who are to come.

Your righteousness, O God, reaches to the heavens; \*  
you have done great things;  
who is like you, O God?

You have shown me great troubles and adversities, \*  
but you will restore my life  
and bring me up again from the deep places of the earth.

You strengthen me more and more; \*  
you enfold and comfort me,

Therefore I will praise you upon the lyre for your faithfulness, O my God; \*  
I will sing to you with the harp, O Holy One of Israel.

*(Be still and aware)*

Poem – “Digital Archive” by Jennifer Kwon Dobbs

How should I index myself so that you can retrieve & cut me  
from the 1970 catalogs

of infant headshots & paste me beside you?  
This I wanted to know

while the grandfather held up his 1940 photo  
of three men laughing beside a new Buick. He said,

"If you could identify them, then my life would be changed forever."  
If anyone knows the names

for paper as vulnerable as skin, then please tell me  
if I find my birth documents

burned, ripped, or yellowed with information missing,  
or if I don't find them at all? I listened

as the panelists advised the grandfather to search the database,  
my body like too much information

unsorted: all errors, useless without a way to see it  
linked to get somewhere. My arms disappearing

while the grandfather passed his laminated photo around the room.

## *PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING*

The cares of our hearts  
We entrust to you, O God.

The needs of your Church  
We entrust to you, O God.

The wounds of the world  
We entrust to you, O God.

The hopes we carry  
We entrust to you, O God.

The deep desire for peace  
We entrust to you, O God.

With all our lives and all our holy longings  
We praise you and trust your love for us,  
O Lover of our souls. Amen.

As a loving mother comforts her child,  
so I will comfort you.

Sources:

Prayers are from: *Daily Prayer for All Seasons* © 2014 by the Office of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church, Church Publishing Inc.

Poem: Jennifer Kwon Dobbs, "Digital Archive" from *Paper Pavilion* (White Pine Press, 2007)