

Compline – Thursday, November 12, 2020

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

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

Opening

Blessed are the forgiving, for they are free (Matthew 5.7)

Prayer of Awareness

Not because we have made peace this day.

Not because we have treated the other as our self.

Not because we have walked the earth with reverence today,

but because there is mercy, because there is grace

because your Spirit has not been taken from us

we come

still thirsting for peace

still longing for love

still hungering for wholeness

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

Scripture and Meditation

As far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our sin from us (Psalm 103.12)

Do not judge and you will not be judged (Matthew 7.1)

Do not walk proudly on the earth. You cannot rival the mountains in stature

(Quran – The Night Journey 17.37)

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The ageless mountains are full of your glory

the vast seas swell with your might

the shining skies expand beyond our imagining

so we pause to praise

we wait in wonder

we listen to learn

of the mountain glory within us

of the sea force in our veins

of love's shining infinity.

Grant us the grace, O God,

to serve this inner universe of soul among us.

Pray for peace

Poem – “Words Written Near a Candle” by Tess Gallagher

If I could begin anything
I'd say stop asking forgiveness, especially
theirs which was always
the fault mentioned in your condition.

Nettles could be feathers
the moment they brush your
ankle. At the same time: floods, earthquakes,
the various slaveries
hunchbacked near the fence
to catch your glance.

What is it to say that among the hired boats
we carried our bodies well, cracked
jokes, left the gaps
in our lives and not
the page? This far to learn
the boat does not touch the water!

And if this is goodbye,
it is a light nowhere near believing
and I am happy
and it is all right to make a distance
of a nearness, to say, 'Boat, I have left you
behind. Boat,
I am with you.'

Closing Prayer

In the coming hours of darkness
may there be light in our dreams.
In the stillness of sleep
may there be strength for our souls.
In the wakeful watches of the night
may there be peace in our minds.
light for a new vision
strength to make sacrifice
peace for our world.
On the pathways of earth's journey this night
let there be peace.

Sources:

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

Tess Gallagher, "Willingly" from *Amplitude: New and Selected Poems*. Copyright © 1987 by Tess Gallagher. Original Source: *Under Stars* (Graywolf Press, 1978).