

Morning Prayer – Wednesday, April 1, 2020
Celtic Prayers from Iona – J. Philip Newell

Opening Words (*as candle is lit*)

It was you who formed
my inward parts,
You knit me together
in my mother's womb
I praise you,
for I am fearfully
and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:13-14)

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

Opening Prayer and Thanksgiving

O Sun behind all suns
I give you greeting this new day.
Let all Creation praise you
Let the daylight
 and the shadows praise you
Let the fertile earth
 and the swelling sea praise you
Let the winds and the rain,
 The lightning and the thunder
 praise you
Let all that breathes,
 praise you
And I shall praise you.
O God of life
I give you greeting this day.

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 – John 8:31-37 (Contemporary English Version)

Jesus told the people who had faith in him, “If you keep on obeying what I have said, you truly are my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

They answered, “We are Abraham’s children! We have never been anyone’s slaves. How can you say we will be set free?”

Jesus replied:

I tell you for certain that anyone who sins is a slave of sin! And slaves don’t stay in the family forever, though the Son will always remain in the family. If the Son gives you freedom, you are free! I know that you are from Abraham’s family. Yet you want to kill me, because my message isn’t really in your hearts.

SILENCE

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

Poem – “Who has seen the wind?” by Christina Rossetti

Who has seen the wind?
Neither I nor you:
But when the leaves hang trembling,
The wind is passing through.

Who has seen the wind?
Neither you nor I:
But when the trees bow down their heads,
The wind is passing by.

Intercessions

There is no plant in the ground
But tells of your beauty, O Christ.
There is no creature on the earth
There is no life in the sea
But proclaims your goodness.
There is no bird on the wing

There is no star in the sky
There is nothing beneath the sun
But is full of your blessing.
Lighten my understanding
of your presence all around, O Christ
Kindle my will
to be caring for Creation

(Pray for the coming day and for the care of the earth)

Closing Prayer

(after which candle is extinguished)

Bless to me O God
My soul that comes from on high.
Bless to me O God
My body that is of earth.
Bless to me O God
Each thing my eye sees.
Each sound my ear hears.
Bless to me O God
Each scent that goes to my nostrils
Each taste that goes to my lips
Each ray that guides my way.

Spiritual Exercises:

- 1) In the “Intercessions” prayer individual aspects of Creation are named as telling of the beauty of Christ. Find a particular and individual plant, land animal, sea creature, bird and star that presents Christ’s beauty to you. Write about them, photograph them, or paint them.
- 2) The Scripture reading speaks of “truth” and “freedom”. Reflect on these two words and how you are relating to them at this time. How is God bringing them to life in you in this time? Or, how do you long for them to unfold in your life at this time?
- 3) Give thanks for how you are “fearfully and wonderfully made”. Write a list, write a poem, draw/paint a picture, or share your thoughts with someone else.

Sources:

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

Poem: “Who has seen the wind” by Christina Rossetti from *The Golden Book of Poetry*, 1947.

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