

Order of Service for Wednesday, September 9, 2020

Acknowledgement:

Before our prayer begins, we acknowledge that we are living in the traditional territories of the Lekwungen peoples.

+ In the name of the Source of All Love, and of the Beloved who reveals the face of love, and of the Holy Spirit who binds us in love. Amen

Opening Prayer:

My soul waits for the Lord
more than those
who watch for the morning,
more than those
who watch for the morning.

Call: Out of the depths I have cried to You.

Response: O Lord, hear my voice.

Call: With my whole heart I want to praise You.

Response: O Lord, hear my voice.

Call: If you, Lord, should mark iniquities:

Response: Who could stand? who could stand?

I will wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in His word do I hope.

Expression of faith:

Lord, You have always given
bread for the coming day;
and though I am poor,
today I believe.

Lord, You have always given
strength for the coming day;
and though I am weak,
today I believe.

Lord, You have always given
peace for the coming day;
and though of anxious heart,
today I believe.

Lord, You have always kept
me safe in trials;

and now, tried as I am,
today I believe.

Lord, You have always marked
the road for the coming day;
and though it may be hidden,
today I believe.

Lord, You have always lightened
this darkness of mine;
and though the night is here,
today I believe.

Lord, You have always spoken
when time was ripe;
and though you be silent now,
today I believe.

Psalm 95

¹ Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

² Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.

³ For the LORD is the great God,
the great King above all gods.

⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.

⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.

⁶ Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

⁷ for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.

Meditation:

IN PRAISE OF AIR (redacted)

Let us bless the air,
Benefactor of breath,
Keeper of the fragile bridge
We breathe across.

Air, waiting outside
The womb, to funnel

A first breath
That lets us begin
To be here,
Each moment
Drawn from
Its invisible stock.

Air; vast neighborhood
Of the invisible, where thought lives

Air, home of memory where
Our vanished days secretly gather

Air, reservoir of the future
Out of which our days flow,

Air, along whose unseen path
Presence builds its quiet procession

Air, source of the breath
That enables flowers to flourish,
And calls to the dark, rooted trees
To ascend into blossom.

Air, perfect emptiness
For the mind of birds
To map with vanishings

Air, kingdom of spirit
Where our departed dwell,
Nearer to us than ever,
Where the gods preside.

Let us bless the invigoration
Of clean, fresh air.

That gentleness of air
That holds and slows the rain,
Lets it fall down.

The shyness of air
That never shows its face.

The force of air
In wall after wall
Of straining wind.

In the name of the air,
The breeze,
And the wind,
May our souls
Stay in rhythm

With eternal
Breath.

~John O'Donohue

Mark 4:35-41

Jesus Stills a Storm

³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." ³⁶ And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷ A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹ He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" ⁴¹ And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Prayers for others

We continue our silent reflection, drawing the needs of the world into our circle of love through the Holy Spirit

Gracious God,
Accept these prayers
In the name of our brother Jesus.
Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom,
The power and the glory,
For ever and ever, Amen

Closing Prayer

In the infinity of night skies

In the free flashing of lightning

In whirling elemental winds

You are God.

In the impenetrable mists of dark clouds

In the wild gusts of lashing rain

In the ageless rocks of the sea

You are God and I bless you.

You are in all things and contained by no thing.

You are the Life of all life

And beyond every name.

You are God and in the eternal mystery I praise you.

J Philip Newell: Celtic Benediction