

Morning Prayer – Wednesday, July 29, 2020 - St. George's Anglican Church, Cadboro Bay

<https://www.stgeorgecadborobay.ca>

From *Daily Prayer for All Seasons*, Episcopal Church USA

### Opening

You lavish love upon us. Make us people of extravagant love.

### Prayer

Holy God, lover of our souls, we come before you as people created by and for love: Gather us in this time to hear again your word of love, to renew our trust in its breadth and depth. In the sacrifice of your love for us, may we find renewal and be your love in the world. Amen.

### Meditation

Look

what happens to the scale

when love holds it.

It stops working.

-Kafir (c.1440-1518)

*Where might we love abundantly this week?*

### Scripture – Isaiah 63:7-9 (Contemporary English Version – CEV)

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,

the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,

because of all that the LORD has done for us,

and the great favor to the house of Israel

that he has shown them according to his mercy,

according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

For he said, "Surely they are my people,

children who will not deal falsely";

and he became their savior

in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel

but his presence that saved them;

in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;

he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

*(Be still and aware)*

### Poem – "My Grandmother Plays Emily in *Our Town*" by Rachel Richardson

I

I am asking something gone

return: at least one night, her face

a girl's, just twenty, and

to be married in a month,

holding the dress's hem to her lips  
as places are called. And I,

come along too late to know her  
trembling, parting the curtain—

let me hear her now  
perched on the ladder, recite

“But Mama, . . .  
am I pretty enough . . . ?”

## II

When Emily marries, ladies in hats  
drown out the proper vows

—it's what the play requires;  
the everyday over the sacred. Even the set

is made of items found in the actors' garages  
so we always see back to the bones.

Here my grandmother stands at the altar  
with her fictional George

and gossip swells in the pews  
which are rows of folding chairs.

## III

Among the murmuring departed,  
in the cemetery,

my grandmother takes  
her place at the empty plot.

She's the newcomer  
who can't believe she's dead

if the living roam  
just on the crest of this hill.

My grandmother in white  
poplin dress and hair ribbon

lifts her arms in despair—  
Emily, untouched by the rain.

#### IV

Tomorrow her face will glow  
on the cover of *The Shreveport Times*—

a gorgeous girl demanding her life.  
“But oh!” she cries in Emily’s voice,

“I can go back there  
and live all those days over again . . .”

#### V

So Emily steps back  
into childhood

though the wiser dead  
have told her don’t—

into her mother’s kitchen,  
her twelfth birthday, a moment

she thought she was happy.  
She watches now

that life: mother speaking  
gruffly, father late to work.

Dead Emily kisses the cheek  
of the classmate playing her mother—

understanding, in that kitchen,  
they’d all been blind:

they never knew those people  
they said they loved.

#### VI

My grandmother maintains  
her grace to the end.

She is the queen of the theater;  
all of Shreveport melts for her smile.

She holds her palms out  
to feel the heavy drops as the curtains close,

though she knows this rain  
is only the sound of rain.

### Prayers

Jesus, Holy One of God,  
You embodied love for us.

Jesus, Holy One of God,  
You accepted love from all who offered.

Jesus, Holy One of God,  
We acknowledge our need for your love.

Teach us, we pray: The courage to both give and receive love, the humility to admit when we have not loved well, and the faith to trust that your love is enough

### ***PRAYERS FOR OTHERS, THE WORLD, AND ONESELF***

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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.

Holy Spirit, fill us with godly love.  
Free us from all that resists loving and being loved.  
Empower us to love as Jesus did.  
In his gracious name we pray. Amen.

You lavish love upon us. Make us people of extravagant love.

### 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: Rachel Richardson, "My Grandmother Plays Emily in *Our Town*" from *Copperhead* (Carnegie Mellon University Press, 2011).