

Morning Prayer – Friday, June 5, 2020

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

Opening Words (*as candle is lit*)

Blessed are the clear in heart for they see the Living Presence (Matthew 5:8)

Prayer of Awareness

At the beginning of the day
we seek your countenance among us, O God,
in the countless forms of creation all around us
in the sun's rising glory
in the face of friend and stranger.
Your presence within every presence
your Light within all light
your Heart at the heart of this moment.
May the fresh light of morning wash our sight
that we may see your Life
in every life this day.

(Be still and aware)

Scripture and Meditation

'Come', my heart says, 'seek God's face.' (Psalm 27.8)

(pause)

Let your light shine before others (Matthew 5:16)

(pause)

You have but to remember and you will see the light (Quran – The Heights 7.201)

(Be still and aware)

Poem – "Enemies" by Wendell Berry

If you are not to become a monster,
you must care what they think.
If you care what they think,

how will you not hate them,
and so become a monster
of the opposite kind? From where then

is love to come—love for your enemy

that is the way of liberty?
From forgiveness. Forgiven, they go

free of you, and you of them;
they are to you as sunlight
on a green branch. You must not

think of them again, except
as monsters like yourself,
pitiable because unforgiving.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS, THE WORLD, AND ONESELF

Prayer for the Life of the World

It is when we are still
that we know.
It is when we listen
that we hear.
It is when we remember
that we see your light, O God.
From your Stillness
we come.
With your Sound
all life quivers with being.
From You
the light of this moment shines.
Grant us to remember you at the heart of each moment
Grant us to remember.

(silent prayers for justice and peace)

Prayer of Blessing

Peace where there is war
healing where there is hurt
memory where we have forgotten the other.
Vision where there is violence
light where there is madness
sight where we have blinded each other
Comfort where there is sorrow
tears where there is hardness
laughter where we have missed life's joy
laughter when we remember joy.

Spiritual Exercises:

- 1) Cover your eyes and paint or draw your emotions.
- 2) Reflect on the word "mercy" what does it mean to you? What does it mean for all of us that we understand our God to be merciful?

Sources

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

Poem: Wendell Berry, "Enemies" from *Entries: Poems*. Copyright © 1994 by Wendell Berry. Random House, Inc..

Source: *Indivisible: Poems for Social Justice* (Norwood House Press, 2013)