

Morning Prayer – Thursday, November 19, 2020

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

Opening Words

We light a candle
in the name of the God who creates life
in the name of the Saviour who loves life,
in the name of the Spirit who is the fire of life.

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

Scripture – Hosea 11:1-12

When Israel was a child,
I loved him,
and I called
 my son out of Egypt.
But as the saying goes,
“The more they were called,
 the more they rebelled.”
They never stopped offering
incense and sacrifices
 to the idols of Baal.
I took Israel by the arm
 and taught them to walk.
But they would not admit
that I was the one
 who had healed them.
I led them with kindness
and with love,
 not with ropes.
I held them close to me;
 I bent down to feed them.
But they trusted Egypt
instead of returning to me;
 now Assyria will rule them.
War will visit their cities,
 and their plans will fail.
My people are determined
 to reject me for a god
they think is stronger,
 but he can't help.
Israel, I can't let you go.
 I can't give you up.
How could I possibly destroy you

as I did the towns of Admah
and Zeboiim?
I just can't do it.
My feelings for you
are much too strong.
Israel, I won't lose my temper
and destroy you again.
I am the Holy God—
not merely some human,
and I won't stay angry.
I, the LORD, will roar like a lion,
and my children will return,
trembling
from the west.
They will come back,
fluttering like birds from Egypt
or like doves from Assyria.
Then I will bring them
back to their homes.
I, the LORD, have spoken!

a time for reflection on the reading

Poem – “The Geese” by Jane Mead
slicing this frozen sky know
where they are going—
and want to get there.

Their call, both strange
and familiar, calls
to the strange and familiar

heart, and the landscape
becomes the landscape
of being, which becomes

the bright silos and snowy
fields over which the nuanced
and muscular geese

are calling—while time
and the heart take measure.

a time for reflection

Prayer

In the silence of our hearts or in spoken words
let us give thanks for the gift of this day
and pray for the life of the world . . .

You have taught us, O Christ, to love the world.
You have shown us the light that is within us and
within all things.
May we learn to love you more
and in loving you more
learn to love the earth and all its people more,
for you are the light of all life.

Closing Words

The blessings of heaven,
the blessings of earth,
the blessings of sea and sky.
On those we love this day
and on every human family
the gifts of heaven
the gifts of earth,
the gifts of sea and sky.

Sources:

Scripture reading and Prayers are from *Celtic Treasures: Daily Scriptures and Prayer* by J. Philip Newell, 2005, Canterbury Press.

“The Geese” by Jane Mead, *Poetry* (October 2010).