

Morning Prayer – Saturday, May 2, 2020

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

From: *Celtic Treasure: Daily Scriptures and Prayer*, by John Philip Newell

Opening Words

*(as candle is lit)*

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)*

From Luke 11

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples asked him, "Lord, teach us to pray." Jesus offered, "When you pray, say:

Abba, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Give us each day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.  
And do not bring us to the time of trial."

Then Jesus told a parable, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

*(a time for reflection on the reading)*

**Poem – “Good Bones” by Maggie Smith**

Life is short, though I keep this from my children.  
Life is short, and I’ve shortened mine  
in a thousand delicious, ill-advised ways,  
a thousand deliciously ill-advised ways  
I’ll keep from my children. The world is at least  
fifty percent terrible, and that’s a conservative  
estimate, though I keep this from my children.  
For every bird there is a stone thrown at a bird.  
For every loved child, a child broken, bagged,  
sunk in a lake. Life is short and the world  
is at least half terrible, and for every kind  
stranger, there is one who would break you,  
though I keep this from my children. I am trying  
to sell them the world. Any decent realtor,  
walking you through a real shithole, chirps on  
about good bones: This place could be beautiful,  
right? You could make this place beautiful.

*(a time for reflection on the reading)*

**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 . . .

*(prayers are offered)*

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**

*(after which the candle is extinguished)*

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.

Spiritual Exercises for today:

- 1) What at this time do you need? What are you knocking on the door to ask for?
- 2) Pay attention to encountering beauty. Make a list of everything you find beautiful today.

Sources:

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

Maggie Smith, "Good Bones" from *Waxwing*. Copyright © 2016 by Maggie Smith