

Compline – Friday, May 29 2020

Celtic Daily Prayer – The Northumbria Community

*modifications made for inclusive language

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

INVOCATION

The Sacred Three

to save

to shield

to surround

this hearth

this home

this night

every night.

O God of life, this night,
close not Thy gladness to my sight.

Keep me and all who are dear to me
In the arms of Your embrace.
Shelter us under Your wings.

Be our hope in distress.
Be our calm in anxiety.
Be our strength in weakness.
Be our comfort in pain.
Be our song in the night.

SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 20:1-16

As Jesus was telling what the kingdom of heaven would be like, he said: Early one morning a man went out to hire some workers for his vineyard. After he had agreed to pay them the usual amount for a day's work, he sent them off to his vineyard. About nine that morning, the man saw some other people standing in the market with nothing to do. He said he would pay them what was fair, if they would work in his vineyard. So they went. At noon and again about three in the afternoon he returned to the market. And each time he made the same agreement with others who were loafing around with nothing to do. Finally, about five in the afternoon the man went back and found some others standing there. He asked them, "Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?"

"Because no one has hired us," they answered. Then he told them to go work in his vineyard. That evening the owner of the vineyard told the man in charge of the workers to call them in and give them their money. He also told the man to begin with the ones who were hired last. When the workers arrived, the ones who had been hired at five in the afternoon were

given a full day's pay. The workers who had been hired first thought they would be given more than the others. But when they were given the same, they began complaining to the owner of the vineyard. They said, "The ones who were hired last worked for only one hour. But you paid them the same that you did us. And we worked in the hot sun all day long!" The owner answered one of them, "Friend, I didn't cheat you. I paid you exactly what we agreed on. Take your money now and go! What business is it of yours if I want to pay them the same that I paid you? Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Why should you be jealous, if I want to be generous?"

Jesus then said, "So it is. Everyone who is now first will be last, and everyone who is last will be first."

(a moment of silence for reflection)

Poem – Excerpt from "Loitering is Delightful" by Ross Gay

"It occurs to me that laughter and loitering are kissing cousins, as both bespeak an interruption of production and consumption. And it's probably for this reason that I have been among groups of nonwhite people laughing hard who have been shushed—in a Qdoba in Bloomington, in a bar in Fishtown, in the Harvard Club at Harvard. The shushing, perhaps, reminds how threatening to the order our bodies are in nonproductive, nonconsumptive delight. . .

There is a Carrie Mae Weems photograph of a woman in what looks to be some kind of textile factory, with an angel embroidered to the left breast of her shirt, where her heart resides. The woman, like the angel, has her arms splayed wide almost in ecstasy, as though to embrace everything, so in the midst of her glee is she. Every time I see that photo, after I smile and have a genuine bodily opening on account of witnessing this delight, which is a moment of black delight, I look behind her for the boss. *Uh-oh*, I think. *You're in a moment of nonproductive delight. Heads up!*

Which points to another of the synonyms for *loitering*, which I almost wrote as *delight: taking one's time*. For while the previous list of synonyms allude to time, *taking one's time* makes it kind of plain, for the crime of loitering, the idea of it, is about ownership of one's own time, which must be, sometimes, wrested from the assumed owners of it, who are not you, back to the rightful, who is. And while having interpolated the policing of delight such that I am on the lookout for the overseer even in photos I have studied hundreds of times, on the lookout always for the policer of delight, my work is studying this kind of glee, being on the lookout for it, and aspiring to it, floating away from the factory, as she seems to be."

(a moment of silence for reflection)

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

O God, at this time, we lift up to you our concerns, hopes and thanksgivings for ourselves and others, naming them out loud or holding them in our hearts....

CLOSING PRAYERS

God, your unfailing love sustains the life of the world: watch over those who work and those who rest, those who sorrow and those who rejoice, those who long for your peace and those who long to be enlivened by your Spirit. Bless us this night and enfold us in your mystery that we might deepen our trust in your grace and peace. **Amen.**

Calm me, O Christ, as You stilled the storm.
Still me O Christ, keep me from harm.
Let all the tumult within me cease.
Enfold me, Lord, in Your peace.
O God, bless the work that is done,
and the work that is to be.

O God, bless the servant that I am,
and the servant that I will be.

Sleep, O sleep in the calm of all calm.
Sleep, O sleep in the guidance of all guidance.
Sleep O sleep in the love of all loves.
Sleep, O beloved, in the God of life. Amen.

Sources:

Prayers are from: *Celtic Daily Prayer: Book Two, Farther Up and Farther In* Northumbria Community, London: William Collins Books, 2015.

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