

Compline – Monday, May 11, 2020
Celtic Prayers from Iona – J. Philip Newell

Opening Words (*as candle is lit*)

You discern my thoughts
from far away O God
You search out my path
and my lying down
And are acquainted
with all my ways (Psalm 139:2-3)

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

Opening Prayer and Thanksgiving

O Christ of the least
and the homeless
O Christ of the lost
and betrayed
Come close to me this night
That I may come close to you.
As you watched me with care
at my soul's shaping
Look on me now with grace.
As you blessed me with light
at the sun's rising
Shine on me now with love.

FREE PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

The 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
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours
Now and for ever. Amen.

Scripture – Psalm 62 – St. Helena Psalter

For God alone my soul in silence waits; *
from God comes my salvation.

God alone is my rock and my salvation, *
my stronghold, so that I shall not be greatly shaken.

How long will you assail me to crush me, all of you together, *
as if you were a leaning fence, a toppling wall?

They seek only to bring me down from my place of honor; *
lies are their chief delight.

They bless with their lips, *
but in their hearts they curse.

For God alone my soul in silence waits; *
truly, there is my hope.

God alone is my rock and my salvation, *
my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.

In God is my safety and my honor; *
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

Put your trust in God always, O people, *
pour out your hearts before the One who is our refuge.

Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath, *
even those of low estate cannot be trusted.

On the scales they are lighter than a breath; *
all of them together.

Put no trust in extortion;
in robbery take no empty pride; *
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, *
that power belongs to God.

Steadfast love is yours, O God, *
for you repay everyone according to their deeds.

SILENCE

Intercessions

(Reflect on the reading and remember that God is with those who are poor and betrayed)

Poem – “Toad Dreams” by Marge Piercy

That afternoon the dream of the toads rang through the elms by Little River and affected the thoughts of men, though they were not conscious that they heard it.--*Henry Thoreau*

The dream of toads: we rarely
credit what we consider lesser
life with emotions big as ours,
but we are easily distracted,
abstracted. People sit nibbling
before television's flicker watching
ghosts chase balls and each other
while the skunk is out risking grisly
death to cross the highway to mate;
while the fox scales the wire fence
where it knows the shotgun lurks
to taste the sweet blood of a hen.
Birds are greedy little bombs
bursting to give voice to appetite.
I had a cat who died of love.
Dogs trail their masters across con-
tinents. We are far too busy
to be starkly simple in passion.
We will never dream the intense
wet spring lust of the toads.

Closing Prayer

(after which candle is extinguished)

I end this day
As the Son of Mary would end it.
The grace of God be on this lalel
And on all whom
 God has given me.
Who keeps watch
 Over us this night?
Who but the Christ of love.

Sources:

Prayers are from: *Celtic Prayers from Iona* – J. Philip Newell, New York: Paulist Press, 1997

Poem: Marge Piercy, "Toad dreams" from *Stone, Paper, Knife* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1983). First appeared in *Mid-South Writer* 2 (1981). Copyright © 1981, 1983 by Marge Piercy and Middlemarsh, Inc., Wallace Literary Agency, Inc. Source: *Stone Paper Knife* (Alfred A. Knopf, 1983)

Scripture: *Contemporary English Version*, American Bible Society, 1995.