

Compline – Monday, September 28, 2020
Celtic Daily Prayer Book One: The Journey Begins

Opening Prayer

Hear I am, my Jesus, teach me.

Lord, be the gatherer of our dreams.
You set the countless stars in place,
And found room for each of them to shine.
You listen for us in Your heaven-bright hall.
Open our mouths to tell our tales of wonder.

Hear I am, my Jesus, teach me.

FREE PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

I trust in Thee, O Lord.
I say, 'Thou art my God.
My times are in Thy hand,
my times are in Thy hand.'

Scripture – Mark 9:35-37 (Contemporary English Version - CEV)

After Jesus sat down and told the twelve disciples to gather around him, he said, "If you want the place of honor, you must become a slave and serve others!"

Then Jesus had a child stand near him. He put his arm around the child and said, "When you welcome even a child because of me, you welcome me. And when you welcome me, you welcome the one who sent me."

Poem – "The Paper Boy" by Thomas R. Smith

My route lassos the outskirts,
the reclusive, the elderly, the rural—
the poor who clan in their tarpaper
islands, the old ginseng hunter

Albert Harm, who strings the "crow's
foot" to dry over his wood stove.
Shy eyes of fenced-in horses
follow me down the rutted dirt road.

At dusk, I pedal past white birches,
breathe the smoke of spring chimneys,

my heart working uphill toward someone
hungry for word from the world.

I am Mercury, bearing news, my wings
a single-speed maroon Schwinn bike.
I sear my bright path through the twilight
to the sick, the housebound, the lonely.

Messages delivered, wire basket empty,
I part the blue darkness toward supper,
confident I've earned this day's appetite,
stronger knowing I'll be needed tomorrow.

Intercessory Prayer

If I open my eyes to the world around me,
If I open my heart to all people
That surround me,
Then I feel pain and brokenness,
I see suffering and injustice.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me:
I will hold Your people in my heart.

Personal Intercessions

Closing Prayer

I pray the protection of Christ to clothe me,
Christ to enfold me,
to surround me and guard me
this night and every night.
Be the keeper of my dreams
And my rest
that tomorrow I may wake refreshed,
ready to follow you wherever you lead.

Prayers – *Celtic Daily Prayer Book One: The Journey Begins* © The Northumbria Community Trust (William Collins of Harper Collins Publishing, 2015).

Poem – Thomas R. Smith, “The Paper Boy,” from *The Glory*, (Red Dragonfly Press, 2015).