

Compline – Tuesday, July 14, 2020

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

*We sum up this day with a bedtime prayer to examine our conscience and offer our actions to God.*

### **Opening**

Alleluia! May God, who raised Jesus from the dead, grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end.  
Alleluia!

### **Prayer**

God, you sent your Son into the world that we might live through him: May we abide in his risen life so that we may love one another as he first loved us, and know the fullness of joy.  
Amen

*(Be still and aware)*

Psalm 81:1-11 - *selected verses* - St. Helena Psalter

Sing with joy to God our strength, \*  
and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.

Raise a song and sound the timbrel, \*  
the merry harp, and the lyre.

Blow the ram's-horn at the new moon \*  
and at the full moon, the day of our feast.

For this is a statute for Israel, \*  
a law of the God of Jacob.

God laid it as a solemn charge upon Joseph, \*  
when he came out of the land of Egypt.

I heard an unfamiliar voice saying: \*  
"I eased Israel's shoulder from the burden;  
their hands were set free from bearing the load."

You called on me in trouble, and I saved you; \*  
I answered you from the secret place of thunder  
and tested you at the waters of Meribah.

Hear, O my people, and I will admonish you: \*  
O Israel, if you would but listen to me!

There shall be no strange god among you; \*  
you shall not worship a foreign god.

I am your God,  
who brought you out of the land of Egypt and said, \*  
"Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it."

*(Be still and aware)*

Poem – “Epiphany” by Joanie Mackowski

A momentary rupture to the vision:  
the wavering limbs of a birch fashion

the fluttering hem of the deity’s garment,  
the cooling cup of coffee the ocean the deity

waltzes across. This is enough—but sometimes  
the deity’s heady ta-da coaxes the cherries

in our mental slot machine to line up, and  
our brains summon flickering silver like

salmon spawning a river; the jury decides  
in our favor, and we’re free to see, for now.

A flaw swells from the facets of a day, increasing  
the day’s value; a freakish postage stamp mails

our envelope outside time; hairy, claw-like  
magnolia buds bloom from bare branches;

and the deity pops up again like a girl from  
a giant cake. O deity: you transfixing transgressor,

translating back and forth on the border  
without a passport. Fleeing revolutions

of same-old simultaneous boredom and  
boredom, we hoard epiphanies under the bed,

stuff them in jars and bury them in the backyard;  
we cram our closet with sunrise; prop up our feet

and drink gallons of wow!; we visit the doctor  
because all this is raising the blood’s levels of

$C_6H_3(OH)_2CHOHCH_2NHCH_3$ , the heart caught  
in the deity’s hem and haw, the *oh* unfurling

from our chest like a bee from our cup of coffee,  
an autochthonous greeting: there. Who saw it?

Prayers

O God of peace, in our disappointments and in our triumphs,  
Let us rest secure in your loving arms.

In our certainty and in our confusion,  
Let all people rest secure in your loving arms.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING*

As we await a new day,  
Let all creation rest secure in your loving arms.

All shall be Amen and Alleluia. We shall rest and we shall see.  
We shall see and we shall know. We shall know and we shall love.  
We shall love and we shall praise. Behold our end, which is no end. Amen. (Saint Augustine)

Sources:

Prayers are from: *Daily Prayer for All Seasons* © 2014 by the Office of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church, Church Publishing Inc.

Poem: "Epiphany" by Joanie Mackowski, *Poetry* (November 2011)