

Morning Prayer – Thursday, April 9, 2020- Maundy Thursday
St. George's Anglican Church, Cadboro Bay / <https://www.stgeorgecadborobay.ca>

Celtic Daily Prayer – The Northumbria Community

*modifications made for inclusive language; readings this week are taken from Frederick Buechner's books, *A Biblical Who's Who*; *Wishful Thinking: A Seeker's ABC*; *Whistling in the Dark: A Doubter's Dictionary*

Opening Words (*as candle is lit*)

**In the name of the Holy and undivided Trinity,
One God, now and forever. Amen.**

**One thing I have asked of the Lord,
this is what I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life;
to behold the beauty of the Lord
and to live in the Temple of the Lord**

Who is it that you seek?
We seek the Lord our God.

Do you seek God with all your hearts?
Amen, Lord, have mercy.

Do you seek God with all your soul?
Amen, Lord have mercy.

Do you seek God with all your mind?
Amen, Lord have mercy.

Do you seek God with all your strength?
Amen, Christ have mercy.

Declaration of faith

**To whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life,
and we have believed and have come to know
that You are the Holy One of God.**

**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ,
King of endless glory.**

Psalm 23 – St. Helena Psalter

The Holy One is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.

You make me lie down in green pastures *
and lead me beside still waters.

You revive my soul *
and guide me along right pathways for the sake of your Name.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of God for ever.

Isaiah 43:1-3a (Contemporary English Version)

I, the Lord, created you
and formed your nation.
Israel, don't be afraid.
I have rescued you.
I have called you by name;
now you belong to me.
When you cross deep rivers,
I will be with you,
and you won't drown.
When you walk through fire,
you won't be burned
or scorched by the flames.
I am the Lord, your God,
the Holy One of Israel,
the God who saves you.

(A moment of silence to reflect on the gospel)

Daily Meditation – Frederick Buechner

G – Grace

“The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn't have been complete without you. Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. It's for you I created the universe. I love you. There's only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you'll reach out and take it. Maybe being able to reach out is a gift too.”

Poem – “Democracy” by Dorianne Laux

When you're cold—November, the streets icy and everyone you pass
homeless, Goodwill coats and Hefty bags torn up to make ponchos—
someone is always at the pay phone, hunched over the receiver

spewing winter's germs, swollen lipped, face chapped, making the last
tired connection of the day. You keep walking to keep the cold
at bay, too cold to wait for the bus, too depressing the thought

of entering that blue light, the chilled eyes watching you decide
which seat to take: the man with one leg, his crutches bumping
the smudged window glass, the woman with her purse clutched

to her breasts like a dead child, the boy, pimpled, morose, his head
shorn, a swastika carved into the stubble, staring you down.
So you walk into the cold you know: the wind, indifferent blade,

familiar, the gold leaves heaped along the gutters. You have
a home, a house with gas heat, a toilet that flushes. You have
a credit card, cash. You could take a taxi if one would show up.

You can feel it now: why people become Republicans: *Get that dog
off the street. Remove that spit and graffiti. Arrest those people huddled
on the steps of the church.* If it weren't for them you could believe in god,

in freedom, the bus would appear and open its doors, the driver dressed
in his tan uniform, pants legs creased, dapper hat: *Hello Miss, watch
your step now.* But you're not a Republican. You're only tired, hungry,

you want out of the cold. So you give up, walk back, step into line behind
the grubby vet who hides a bag of wine under his pea coat, holds out
his grimy 85 cents, takes each step slow as he pleases, releases his coins

into the box and waits as they chink down the chute, stakes out a seat
in the back and eases his body into the stained vinyl to dream
as the chips of shrapnel in his knee warm up and his good leg

flops into the aisle. And you'll doze off, too, in a while, next to the girl
who can't sit still, who listens to her Walkman and taps her boots
to a rhythm you can't hear, but you can see it—when she bops

her head and her hands do a jive in the air—you can feel it
as the bus rolls on, stopping at each red light in a long wheeze,
jerking and idling, rumbling up and lurching off again.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS, THE WORLD, AND ONESELF

Canticle

Christ, as a light
illumine and guide me.
Christ, as a shield
overshadow me.
Christ under me;
Christ over me;
Christ beside me
on my left and my right.
This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;
in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.
This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Christ as a light;
Christ as a shield;
Christ beside me
on my left and my right.

Closing Prayer

(after which candle is extinguished)

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,
wherever Christ may send you.
May Christ guide you through the wilderness,
protect you through the storm.
May Christ bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders you've been shown.
May Christ bring you home rejoicing
once again into our doors.

Spiritual Exercises:

You are invited to make use of the other Maundy Thursday resources on our website.

Sources:

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

Psalm from: *St. Helena Psalter: A New Version of the Psalms in Expansive Language*, created by The Order of St. Helena, a monastic community of the Episcopal Church, USA, published by Morehouse Publishing, 2000.

Poem: "Democracy" from *Facts About The Moon*. Copyright © 2007 by Dorianne Laux, W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.