

Morning Prayer – Saturday, May 23 2020

*Celtic Daily Prayer – The Northumbria Community *modifications made for inclusive language.*

Opening Words (*as candle is lit*)

O God, you are my God, eagerly I seek you.

As a new day begins

breathe your peace into my soul, and
call out in me again a willingness to love and serve.

Psalm 139:1-11 – St. Helena Psalter

O God, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O God, know it altogether.

You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

Where can I go then from your Spirit; *
where can I flee from your presence?

If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,"

Darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.

(A moment of silence to reflect on the reading)

Canticle

In peace and in truth I put on Christ this day;
I will walk with Christ and Christ will walk with me.

Whatever joys or sorrows the day may bring
Christ will bear all things with me.

Whatever joys or sorrows the day may bring
Christ will guide me through

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 (CEV)

God chose you, and we keep praying that God will make you worthy of being his people. We pray for God's power to help you do all the good things that you hope to do and that your faith makes you want to do. Then, because God and our Lord Jesus Christ are so kind, you will bring honor to the name of our Lord Jesus, and he will bring honor to you.

(A moment of silence to reflect on the reading)

Poem – "Invocation" by Jeanne Lohmann

Let us try what it is to be true to gravity,
to grace, to the given, faithful to our own voices,

to lines making the map of our furrowed tongue.
Turned toward the root of a single word, refusing

solemnity and slogans, let us honor what hides
and does not come easy to speech. The pebbles

we hold in our mouths help us to practice song,
and we sing to the sea. May the things of this world

be preserved to us, their beautiful secret
vocabularies. We are dreaming it over and new,

the language of our tribe, music we hear
we can only acknowledge. May the naming powers

be granted. Our words are feathers that fly
on our breath. Let them go in a holy direction.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS, THE WORLD, AND ONESELF

Closing Prayer

(after which candle is extinguished)

We stretch out our hand and throw,
and many, many seeds we sow.
In truth we do not know
where they will go,
which will take root

or when the unlikeliest ground
will return glimpses of gold.

Sowing at times in tears,
persisting through the years,
blessed again and again
by your harvest of love.
Let us embody your ready kindness
this day
for things will not be
as they were before.
But whatever may be
May we walk in your way of love.

Spiritual Exercises:

- 1) What does it mean to you to be faithful to your own voice?
- 2) Make collage that represents all the different aspects of yourself.

Sources:

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

Poem: "Invocation" by Jeanne Lohmann Published in *SHAKING THE TREE*, Fithian Press 2010.