

Morning Prayer – Tuesday, December 8, 2020  
St. George's Anglican Church, Cadboro Bay. [www.stgeorgecadborobay.ca](http://www.stgeorgecadborobay.ca)

### **Opening Words**

Lord, you are close to the broken-hearted.  
You see all things and know our every fear and sorrow

As I invite you, O Lord, into my spoken prayer  
I invite you into my heart.

Sometimes I feel weary  
and I long for the space to be at Peace.  
But Peace must be made before it can be enjoyed.  
So let me be a peace-maker, a bridge-builder,  
a messenger of Your Way,  
which is the way to lasting peace.

***Be still and aware of God's presence within and all around***

### **John 14:1-8 (CEV)**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Don't be worried! Have faith in God and have faith in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house. I wouldn't tell you this, unless it was true. I am going there to prepare a place for each of you. After I have done this, I will come back and take you with me. Then we will be together. You know the way to where I am going."

Thomas said, "Lord, we don't even know where you are going! How can we know the way?"

"I am the way, the truth, and the life!" Jesus answered. "Without me, no one can go to the Father. If you had known me, you would have known the Father. But from now on, you do know him, and you have seen him."

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father. That is all we need."

***A moment of silence to reflect on the reading***

### **Canticle**

O God, you surround our griefs, fears and failures  
with your healing mercy.  
In this Advent-time  
help us to know that You are with us in the waiting and preparing,  
in the darkness and in the light  
and help us to trust that You work all things together for good.

### **Poem - "St. Francis and the Sow" by Galway Kinnell**

The bud  
stands for all things,  
even for those things that don't flower,  
for everything flowers, from within, of self-blessing;  
though sometimes it is necessary  
to reteach a thing its loveliness,  
to put a hand on its brow  
of the flower  
and retell it in words and in touch  
it is lovely  
until it flowers again from within, of self-blessing;  
as Saint Francis  
put his hand on the creased forehead  
of the sow, and told her in words and in touch  
blessings of earth on the sow, and the sow  
began remembering all down her thick length,  
from the earthen snout all the way  
through the fodder and slops to the spiritual curl of the tail,  
from the hard spininess spiked out from the spine  
down through the great broken heart  
to the sheer blue milken dreaminess spurting and shuddering  
from the fourteen teats into the fourteen mouths sucking and blowing beneath them:  
the long, perfect loveliness of sow.

### ***PRAYERS FOR OTHERS, THE WORLD, AND ONESELF***

#### **Closing Prayer**

Lord Jesus,  
Master of both the light and the darkness,  
send Your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.  
We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.  
We who are anxious about many things look forward to your coming among us.  
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.  
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.  
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.  
To You we say, 'Come Lord Jesus!'

*Joel Mason*

#### Sources

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

Poem: Galway Kinnell, "Saint Francis and the Sow" from *Three Books*.  
*Three Books* (2002)