

Morning Prayer – Monday, December 21, 2020

St. George's Anglican Church, Cadboro Bay. www.stgeorgecadborobay.ca

Opening Words

“Your kindness and love will always be with me each day of my life, and I will live forever in your house, O LORD” (Psalm 23:6)

In the midst of sorrow and challenge, loneliness and longing, contentment and ease, may I invite gratitude for life into my heart. May I give thanks for all that I am and all the relationships that sustain me. And may the joy of Jesus be with me, increasing my love for the world and for all beings, so that my joy might be complete.

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

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (The Message)

Listen, Israel! The LORD our God is the only true God! So love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul, and strength. Memorize his laws and tell them to your children over and over again. Talk about them all the time, whether you're at home or walking along the road or going to bed at night, or getting up in the morning. Write down copies and tie them to your wrists and foreheads to help you obey them. Write these laws on the door frames of your homes and on your town gates.

A moment of silence to reflect on the reading

Canticle

The songs of prayer lodge in our mouths.
Let us sing through the snow.
At the dinner table.
On the rooftop where we dance.
May these sounds heal our hearts
and those distant hearts that hear.

Hawksley Workman

Poem “The Winter Bird” by Jones Very

Thou sing'st alone on the bare wintry bough,
As if Spring with its leaves were around thee now;
And its voice that was heard in the laughing rill,
And the breeze as it whispered o'er meadow and hill,
Still fell on thine ear, as it murmured along
To join the sweet tide of thine own gushing song.
Sing on—though its sweetness was lost on the blast,
And the storm has not heeded thy song as it passed,
Yet its music awoke in a heart that was near,
A thought whose remembrance will ever prove dear;

Though the brook may be frozen, though silent its voice,
And the gales through the meadows no longer rejoice,
Still I felt, as my ear caught thy glad note of glee,
That my heart in life's winter might carol like thee.

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: "The Winter Bird" by Jones Very, public domain.