

Compline – Saturday, May 30 2020

Celtic Daily Prayer – The Northumbria Community

*modifications made for inclusive language

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

INVOCATION

The Sacred Three

to save

to shield

to surround

this hearth

this home

this night

every night.

O God of life, this night,
close not Thy gladness to my sight.

Keep me and all who are dear to me
In the arms of Your embrace.
Shelter us under Your wings.

Be our hope in distress.
Be our calm in anxiety.
Be our strength in weakness.
Be our comfort in pain.
Be our song in the night.

SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 20:29-34

As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. There were two blind men sitting by the roadside. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" The crowd sternly ordered them to be quiet; but they shouted even more loudly, "Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!" Jesus stood still and called them, saying, "What do you want me to do for you?" They said to him, "Lord, let our eyes be opened." Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they regained their sight and followed him.

(a moment of silence for reflection)

Poem – "Minor Miracle" by Marilyn Nelson
Which reminds me of another knock-on-wood
memory. I was cycling with a male friend,
through a small midwestern town. We came to a 4-way
stop and stopped, chatting. As we started again,
a rusty old pick-up truck, ignoring the stop sign,

hurricaned past scant inches from our front wheels.
My partner called, "Hey, that was a 4-way stop!"
The truck driver, stringy blond hair a long fringe
under his brand-name beer cap, looked back and yelled,
"You fucking niggers!"

And sped off.

My friend and I looked at each other and shook our heads.
We remounted our bikes and headed out of town.

We were pedaling through a clear blue afternoon
between two fields of almost-ripened wheat
bordered by cornflowers and Queen Anne's lace
when we heard an unmuffled motor, a honk-honking.

We stopped, closed ranks, made fists.

It was the same truck. It pulled over.

A tall, very much in shape young white guy slid out:
greasy jeans, homemade finger tattoos, probably
a Marine Corps boot-camp footlockerful
of martial arts techniques.

"What did you say back there!" he shouted.

My friend said, "I said it was a 4-way stop.

You went through it."

"And what did I say?" the white guy asked.

"You said: 'You fucking niggers.'"

The afternoon froze.

"Well," said the white guy,
shoving his hands into his pockets
and pushing dirt around with the pointed toe of his boot,
"I just want to say I'm sorry."
He climbed back into his truck
and drove away.

(a moment of silence for reflection)

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

O God, at this time, we lift up to you our concerns, hopes and thanksgivings for ourselves and others, naming them out loud or holding them in our hearts....

CLOSING PRAYERS

God, your unfailing love sustains the life of the world: watch over those who work and those who rest, those who sorrow and those who rejoice, those who long for your peace and those who long to be enlivened by your Spirit. Bless us this night and enfold us in your mystery that we might deepen our trust in your grace and peace. **Amen.**

Calm me, O Christ, as You stilled the storm.
Still me O Christ, keep me from harm.
Let all the tumult within me cease.
Enfold me, Lord, in Your peace.
O God, bless the work that is done,
and the work that is to be.

O God, bless the servant that I am,
and the servant that I will be.

Sleep, O sleep in the calm of all calm.
Sleep, O sleep in the guidance of all guidance.
Sleep O sleep in the love of all loves.
Sleep, O beloved, in the God of life. Amen.

Sources:

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

Poem: Marilyn Nelson, "Minor Miracle" from *The Fields of Praise: New and Selected Poems*. Copyright 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997 by Marilyn Nelson. Louisiana State University Press.