

Morning Prayer – Thursday, August 27, 2020

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

From: Celtic Benediction: Morning and Night Prayer by John Philip Newell

Opening

You show me the path of life, O God. In your presence there is fullness of joy. (Psalm 16:11)

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

Prayer

As the light of dawn awakens earth's creatures
and stirs into song the birds of the morning
so may I be brought to life this day.
Rising to see the light
to hear the wind
to smell the fragrance of what grows from the ground
to taste its fruit
and touch its textures
so may my inner senses be awakened to you
so may my senses be awakened to you, O God.

Scripture and Meditation

'You satisfy the thirsty, and fill the hungry with good things' (Psalm 107:9)

Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life.' (John 6:35)

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

That you formed my body in the darkness of the womb
and fashioned every creature from the soil of the earth
thanks be to you, O God.
That you knitted into my senses
a thirst for water and a hunger for food
and wove into every living being
desires for life
and pleasure in their satisfaction
thanks be to you.
Let me be alert
to the yearnings that you have placed within me
and let me know what will truly satisfy the desires of my heart.
Let me be attentive
to the yearnings that you have planted in every human being
and let me be sure of what will fulfil them.
Let me be guided by your wisdom, O Christ,
let me be guided by your wisdom.

Pray for the coming day and for the life of the world

Poem – “Under the Lemon Tree” by Marcia de la O

Not rain, but fine mist
falls from my lemon tree,
a balm of droplets in green shadow.

Six years now my mother gone to earth.
This dew, light as footsteps of the dead.
She often walked out here, craned her neck,
considered the fruit, hundreds of globes
in their leathery hides, figuring on
custard and pudding, meringue and
hollandaise.

But her plans didn't work out.

The tree goes on unceasingly—lemons fall
and fold into earth and begin again—
me, I come here as a salve against heat,
come to languish, to let the soft bursts—
essence of citrus, summer's distillate—
drift into my face and settle. Water and gold
brew in the quiet deeps at the far end
of the season. Leaves swallow the body
of light and the breath of water brims over.

My hands cup each other the way hers did.

Closing Prayer

The vitality of God be mine this day
the vitality of the God of life.
The passion of Christ be mine this day
the passion of the Christ of love.
The wakefulness of the Spirit be mine this day
the wakefulness of the Spirit of justice.
The vitality and passion and wakefulness of God be mine
that I may be fully alive this day
the vitality and passion and wakefulness of God
that I may be fully alive.

Sources:

Celtic Benediction: Morning and Night Prayer by J Philip Newell © 2000 by the Canterbury Press.

Poem – “Under the Lemon Tree” by Marcia de la O from *Antidote for Night* (BOA Editions Ltd., 2015)