

Morning Prayer – Saturday, June 13, 2020

Praying with the Earth: A Prayerbook for Peace by John Philip Newell

Opening Words (*as candle is lit*)

Blessed are the peacemakers for they are born of God (Matthew 5:9)

Prayer of Awareness

The peace of morning's stillness
the peace of new beginnings
the peace of heaven's kiss
to welcome us this day
to root us in this day
to free us for this day
that we may grow with the greening earth
that we may grow from the ground of glory
that we may grow in grateful wonder
of You
Gracious Giver of this day
Great Giver of this new day.

(Be still and aware)

Scripture and Meditation

Love and faithfulness will meet. Righteousness and peace will kiss (Psalm 85:10)

(pause)

Love your neighbour as yourself (Matthew 22.39)

(pause)

God invites you to the Home of Peace
(Quran – Jonah 10.25)

(Be still and aware)

Poem – “Perhaps the World Ends Here” by Joy Harjo

The world begins at a kitchen table. No matter what, we must eat to live.

The gifts of earth are brought and prepared, set on the table. So it has been since creation, and it will go on.

We chase chickens or dogs away from it. Babies teethe at the corners. They scrape their knees under it.

It is here that children are given instructions on what it means to be human. We make men at it, we make women.

At this table we gossip, recall enemies and the ghosts of lovers.

Our dreams drink coffee with us as they put their arms around our children. They laugh with us at our poor falling-down selves and as we put ourselves back together once again at the table.

This table has been a house in the rain, an umbrella in the sun.

Wars have begun and ended at this table. It is a place to hide in the shadow of terror. A place to celebrate the terrible victory.

We have given birth on this table, and have prepared our parents for burial here.

At this table we sing with joy, with sorrow. We pray of suffering and remorse. We give thanks.

Perhaps the world will end at the kitchen table, while we are laughing and crying, eating of the last sweet bite.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS, THE WORLD, AND ONESELF

Prayer for the Life of the World

To the home of peace
to the field of love
to the land where forgiveness and right relationship meet
we look, O God,
with longing for earth's children
with compassion for the creatures
with hearts breaking for the nations and people we love.
Open us to visions we have never known
strengthen us for self-givings we have never made
delight us with a oneness we could never have imagined
that we may truly be born of You
makers of peace

(silent prayers for justice and peace)

Prayer of Blessing

May the love of life
fill our hearts.
May the love of earth
bring joy to heaven.
May the love of self

deepen our souls.
May the love of neighbour
heal our world.
As nations, as peoples, as families this day
may the love of life heal our world.

Spiritual Exercises:

- 1) Reflect on meals, connections, etc that have happened around your kitchen table. What might this show about how God is present to us in food and family and joy?

- 2) Create an image using any art medium of what "home" is to you.

Sources: Prayers: Praying with the Earth: A Prayerbook for Peace by John Philip Newell. Eerdmans, 2011.

Poem: "Perhaps the World Ends Here" from *The Woman Who Fell From the Sky* by Joy Harjo. Copyright © 1994 by Joy Harjo. W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.