

Morning Prayer – Friday, May 22, 2020

*Celtic Daily Prayer – The Northumbria Community *modifications made for inclusive language.*

Opening Words (*as candle is lit*)

O God, you are my God, eagerly I seek you.

As a new day begins

breathe your peace into my soul, and

call out in me again a willingness to love and serve.

Psalm 91 – St. Helena Psalter

Those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, *
abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

They shall say to God, “You are my refuge and my stronghold, *
my God in whom I put my trust.”

For God shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter *
and from the deadly pestilence.

God’s pinions shall cover you,
and under God’s wings you shall seek refuge; *
God’s faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.

You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, *
nor of the arrow that flies by day;

Of the plague that stalks in the darkness, *
nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.

A thousand shall fall at your side
and ten thousand at your right hand, *
but it shall not come near you.

Your eyes have only to behold *
to see the reward of the wicked.

Because you have made God your refuge *
and the Most High your habitation,

There shall no evil happen to you, *
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.

For God will give the angels charge over you, *
to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you in their hands, *
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

You shall tread upon the lion and adder; *
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.

Because you are bound to me in love,
therefore will I deliver you; *

I will protect you, because you know my Name.

You will call upon me, and I will answer you; *

I am with you in trouble; I will rescue you and bring you honor.

With long life will I satisfy you *
and show you my salvation.

(A moment of silence to reflect on the reading)

Canticle

In peace and in truth I put on Christ this day;
I will walk with Christ and Christ will walk with me.
Whatever joys or sorrows the day may bring
Christ will bear all things with me.
Whatever joys or sorrows the day may bring
Christ will guide me through

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 (CEV)

God doesn't intend to punish us, but wants us to be saved by our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ died for us, so that we could live with him, whether we are alive or dead when he comes. That's why you must encourage and help each other, just as you are already doing.

(A moment of silence to reflect on the reading)

Poem – “Let the Light Enter” by Francis Ellen Watkins Harper

The Dying Words of Goethe

“Light! more light! the shadows deepen,
And my life is ebbing low,
Throw the windows widely open:
Light! more light! before I go.

“Softly let the balmy sunshine
Play around my dying bed,
E'er the dimly lighted valley
I with lonely feet must tread.

“Light! more light! for Death is weaving
Shadows 'round my waning sight,
And I fain would gaze upon him
Through a stream of earthly light.”

Not for greater gifts of genius;
Not for thoughts more grandly bright,
All the dying poet whispers
Is a prayer for light, more light.

Heeds he not the gathered laurels,
Fading slowly from his sight;
All the poet's aspirations

Centre in that prayer for light.

Gracious Saviour, when life's day-dreams
Melt and vanish from the sight,
May our dim and longing vision
Then be blessed with light, more light.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS, THE WORLD, AND ONESELF

Closing Prayer

(after which candle is extinguished)

We stretch out our hand and throw,
and many, many seeds we sow.
In truth we do not know
where they will go,
which will take root
or when the unlikeliest ground
will return glimpses of gold.

Sowing at times in tears,
persisting through the years,
blessed again and again
by your harvest of love.
Let us embody your ready kindness
this day
for things will not be
as they were before.
But whatever may be
May we walk in your way of love.

Spiritual Exercises:

- 1) Make three lists: one of how others have encouraged you in your faith and then one of how you've encouraged others in faith and one of how you might be able to encourage others at this time.
- 2) Make art of something you love

Sources:

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

Poem: "Let the Light Enter" by Francis Ellen Watkins Harper. Public Domain