

Morning Prayer – Tuesday, May 12, 2020  
*Celtic Prayers from Iona* – J. Philip Newell

Opening Words (*as candle is lit*)

If I ascend to heaven  
you are there O God  
And if I make my bed in hell  
still you are with me (Psalm 139:8)

*(Be still and aware of the presence of the Divine within and all around)*

Opening Prayer and Thanksgiving

In the beginning O God  
You shaped my soul and set its weave  
You formed my body  
    and gave its breath.  
Renew me this day  
    in the image of your love.  
O Great God, grant me your light  
O Great God, grant me your grace  
O Great God, grant me  
    your joy this day  
And let me be made whole  
    in the well of your health.

*FREE PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING*

The 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  
Lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil  
For the kingdom, the power  
    and the glory are yours  
Now and for ever  
Amen.

## Scripture – John 16:5-11 (Contemporary English Version - CEV)

But now I am going back to the Father who sent me, and none of you asks me where I am going. You are very sad from hearing all of this. But I tell you that I am going to do what is best for you. That is why I am going away. The Holy Spirit cannot come to help you until I leave. But after I am gone, I will send the Spirit to you.

The Spirit will come and show the people of this world the truth about sin and God's justice and the judgment. The Spirit will show them that they are wrong about sin, because they didn't have faith in me. They are wrong about God's justice, because I am going to the Father, and you won't see me again. And they are wrong about the judgment, because God has already judged the ruler of this world.

## *SILENCE*

*(Reflect on the gospel and remember that God is with those who are poor and betrayed)*

## Poem – "I look at the world" by Langston Hughes

I look at the world  
From awakening eyes in a black face—  
And this is what I see:  
This fenced-off narrow space  
Assigned to me.

I look then at the silly walls  
Through dark eyes in a dark face—  
And this is what I know:  
That all these walls oppression builds  
Will have to go!

I look at my own body  
With eyes no longer blind—  
And I see that my own hands can make  
The world that's in my mind.  
Then let us hurry, comrades,  
The road to find.

## Intercessions

O Christ of the road  
of the wounded  
O Christ of the tears  
of the broken  
In me and with me

the needs of the world  
Grant me my prayers  
of loving and hoping  
Grant me my prayers  
of yearning and healing.

*(Pray for the coming day and for justice and peace)*

Closing Prayer  
*(after which candle is extinguished)*

God before me, God behind me,  
God above me, God beneath me.  
I on your path O God  
You, O God, on my way.  
In the twistings of the road  
In the currents of the river  
Be with me by day  
Be with me by night  
Be with me by day and by night.

Spiritual Exercises:

- 1) Write or make art about what you see out your window.
- 2) Reflect on a time you've learned from being 'wrong' about something or through changing your mind about something.

Sources:

Prayers are from: *Celtic Prayers from Iona* – J. Philip Newell, New York: Paulist Press, 1997

Poem: Langston Hughes, "I look at the world" from (New Haven: Beinecke Library, Yale University)

Scripture: *Contemporary English Version*, American Bible Society, 1995.