

Compline – Friday, August 28, 2020

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

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

Opening

When I look at the heavens, the work of your hands, the moon and the stars that you have made; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, children of the earth that you create for them? Yet you have created us a little lower than the angels, and crowned us with glory and honour (Psalm 8:3-5)

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

Prayer

For the night skies opening outwards
star upon star

expanse after expanse
thanks be to you, O God.

For the mystery of your presence
in and beyond all that can be seen
thanks be to you.

Guide me further this night
into the inner universe of my soul
ever opening inwards
light upon light
new depth after new depth.

Guide me through strange and fearful spaces
towards the place of your eternal dwelling
and assure me again that in drawing closer to you
I draw closer to the heart of every living being
that in drawing closer to you
I approach the heart of life.

Scripture and Meditation

I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart (Psalm 40:8)

Jesus said, 'It is the spirit that gives life' (John 6:63)

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

That life is conceived out of passion
and that your passion for life
has been sown within every human being
thanks be to you, O God.

For the desire to bring children into the world

and the life-long yearnings of parents for the well-being of their children,
thanks be to you.

For the hopes of friends for one another
and the cries of whole societies and nations
for justice and freedom for their people
thanks be to you.

Rekindle in me your passion for life, O God,
rekindle in me your passion for life.

Recall the events of the day and pray for the life of the world

**Poem – “Sonnet 60: Like as the waves make towards the pebb'l'd shore”
by William Shakespeare**

Like as the waves make towards the pebb'l'd shore,
So do our minutes hasten to their end;
Each changing place with that which goes before,
In sequent toil all forwards do contend.
Nativity, once in the main of light,
Crawls to maturity, wherewith being crown'd,
Crooked eclipses 'gainst his glory fight,
And Time that gave doth now his gift confound.
Time doth transfix the flourish set on youth
And delves the parallels in beauty's brow,
Feeds on the rarities of nature's truth,
And nothing stands but for his scythe to mow:
And yet to times in hope my verse shall stand,
Praising thy worth, despite his cruel hand.

Closing Prayer

Renew me this night in the image of your love
renew me in the likeness of your mercy, O God.
May any refusal to forgive
that lingers with me from the day
any bitterness of soul
that hardens my heart
be softened by your graces of the night.
Renew me in the image of your love, O God,
renew me in the likeness of your mercy.

Sources:

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