

Morning Prayer – Saturday, September 5, 2020

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

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

Opening

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they are born of God (Matthew 5.9)

Prayer of Awareness

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

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

Scripture and Meditation

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

Love your neighbour as you love yourself (Matthew 22.39)

God invites you to the Home of Peace

(Quran – Jonah 10.25)

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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 have never imagined
that we may truly be born of You
makers of peace

Pray for peace

Poem – “To the Light of September” by W.S. Merwin

When you are already here
you appear to be only
a name that tells of you
whether you are present or not

and for now it seems as though
you are still summer
still the high familiar
endless summer
yet with a glint
of bronze in the chill mornings
and the late yellow petals
of the mullein fluttering
on the stalks that lean
over their broken
shadows across the cracked ground

but they all know
that you have come
the seed heads of the sage
the whispering birds
with nowhere to hide you
to keep you for later

you
who fly with them

you who are neither
before nor after
you who arrive
with blue plums
that have fallen through the night
perfect in the dew

Closing Prayer

My the love of life fill out 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.

Sources: *Praying with the Earth: A Prayerbook for Peace* by John Philip Newell (Eerdmans, 2011).
W.S. Merwin’s poem “To the Light of September” originally appeared in the **September 2003** issue of *Poetry* and was later included in his book *Present Company* (Copper Canyon Press, 2005.)