

Compline – Thursday, July 16, 2020

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

We sum up this day with a bedtime prayer to examine our conscience and offer our actions to God.

Opening

Alleluia! May God, who raised Jesus from the dead, grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end.
Alleluia!

Prayer

God, you sent your Son into the world that we might live through him: May we abide in his risen life so that we may love one another as he first loved us, and know the fullness of joy.
Amen

(Be still and aware)

Psalm 84 - St. Helena Psalter

How dear to me is your dwelling, O God of hosts! *

My soul has a desire and longing for your courts;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young, *
by the side of your altars, O God of hosts,
my Ruler and my God.

Happy are they who dwell in your house; *
they will always be praising you.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you; *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

They will climb from height to height; *
the God of gods will be revealed in Zion.

O God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.

Behold our defender, O God, *
and look upon the face of your Anointed,

For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked;

For God is both sun and shield *
and will give grace and glory.
No good thing will God withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.
O God of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!

(Be still and aware)

Poem – “Elegy” by Aracelis Girmay

What to do with this knowledge that our living is not guaranteed?

Perhaps one day you touch the young branch
of something beautiful. & it grows & grows
despite your birthdays & the death certificate,
& it one day shades the heads of something beautiful
or makes itself useful to the nest. Walk out
of your house, then, believing in this.
Nothing else matters.

All above us is the touching
of strangers & parrots,
some of them human,
some of them not human.

Listen to me. I am telling you
a true thing. This is the only kingdom.
The kingdom of touching;
the touches of the disappearing, things.

Prayers

O God of peace, in our disappointments and in our triumphs,
Let us rest secure in your loving arms.

In our certainty and in our confusion,
Let all people rest secure in your loving arms.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

As we await a new day,

Let all creation rest secure in your loving arms.

All shall be Amen and Alleluia. We shall rest and we shall see.

We shall see and we shall know. We shall know and we shall love.

We shall love and we shall praise. Behold our end, which is no end. Amen. (Saint Augustine)

Sources:

Prayers are from: *Daily Prayer for All Seasons* © 2014 by the Office of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church, Church Publishing Inc.

Poem: Aracelis Girmay, "Elegy" from *Kingdom Animalia* (BOA Editions, Ltd., 2011)