

Compline – Wednesday, September 16, 2020

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

From: *Celtic Prayers from Iona* – J. Philip Newell

Opening Words

My frame was not hidden from you when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth Your eyes beheld my unformed substance (Psalm 139:15)

Be still and aware of the presence of the Divine within and all around

Opening Prayer and Thanksgiving

You are the love of each living creature, O God

You are the warmth of the rising sun

You are the brightness of the moon at night

You are the life of the growing earth

You are the strength of the sea.

Speak to me this night, O God

Speak to me of your truth.

Dwell with me this night, O God

Dwell with me in love.

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 – Acts 16:16-24 (Contemporary English Version)

One day on our way to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl. She had a spirit in her that gave her the power to tell the future. By doing this she made a lot of money for her owners. The girl followed Paul and the rest of us and kept yelling, "These men are servants of the Most High God! They are telling you how to be saved."

This went on for several days. Finally, Paul got so upset that he turned and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ, I order you to leave this girl alone!" At once the evil spirit left her.

When the girl's owners realized that they had lost all chances for making more money, they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them into court. They told the officials, "These Jews are upsetting our city! They are telling us to do things we Romans are not allowed to do."

The crowd joined in the attack on Paul and Silas. Then the officials tore the clothes off the two men and ordered them to be beaten with a whip. After they had been badly beaten, they were put in jail, and the jailer was told to guard them carefully. The jailer did as he was told. He put them deep inside the jail and chained their feet to heavy blocks of wood.

SILENCE

Poem – "Such, Such is Death" by Charles Hamilton Sorley

Such, such is Death: no triumph: no defeat:
Only an empty pail, a slate rubbed clean,
A merciful putting away of what has been.

And this we know: Death is not Life, effete,
Life crushed, the broken pail. We who have seen
So marvellous things know well the end not yet.

Victor and vanquished are a-one in death:
Coward and brave: friend, foe. Ghosts do not say,
"Come, what was your record when you drew breath?"
But a big blot has hid each yesterday
So poor, so manifestly incomplete.
And your bright Promise, withered long and sped,
Is touched, stirs, rises, opens and grows sweet
And blossoms and is you, when you are dead.

Intercessions

You are above me O God, you are beneath
You are in air, you are in earth
You are beside me, You are within.
O God of heaven, you have made your home on earth
In the broken body of Creation.
Kindle within me a love for you in all things.

Closing Prayer

May the grace of the love of the stars be mine

May the grace of the love of the winds be mine
May the grace of the love of the waters be mine
In the name of the Word of all life.

Sources:

Prayers – *Celtic Prayers from Iona* by J. Philip Newell (Paulist Press, 1997).

Poem - "Such, Such is Death" by Charles Hamilton Sorley. Public domain.