

Compline – Friday, October 16, 2020

### **Opening Words**

Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. *Philippians 4:6*

Eternal Spirit, flow through our being and open our lips,  
*that our mouths may proclaim your praise.*

Let us worship the God of love.  
*Alleluia, alleluia.*

### **Psalm 67 - St. Helena Psalter**

Be merciful to us, O God, and bless us, \*  
show us the light of your countenance and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth, \*  
your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, \*  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide all the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has brought forth its increase; \*  
may you, our own God, give us your blessing.

May you give us your blessing, \*  
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of you.

### **Scripture**

It is the God who said, Let light shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body. *2 Corinthians 4:6-10*

### **Poem – “Portrait of My Gender as [inaudible]” by Meg Day**

I knew I was a god  
when you could not

agree on my name  
& still, none you spoke  
could force me to listen  
closer. Is this the nothing  
the antelope felt when  
Adam, lit on his own  
entitling, dubbed family,  
genus, species? So many  
descendants became  
doctors, delivered  
babies, bestowed bodies  
names as if to say it is to make it  
so. Can it be a comfort between  
us, the fact of my creation?  
I was made in the image  
of a thing without  
an image & silence, too,  
is your invention. Who prays  
for a god except to appear  
with answers, but never  
a body? A voice? If I told you  
you wouldn't believe me  
because I was the one  
to say it. On the first day  
there was no sound  
worth mentioning. If I, too,  
am a conductor of air, the only  
praise I know is in stereo  
(one pair—an open hand & closed  
fist—will have to do). I made  
a photograph of my name:  
there was a shadow in a field  
& I put my shadow in it. You  
can't hear me, but I'm there.

### **Prayers**

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,  
*for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.*

Let us bless the Earth-maker, the Pain-bearer, the Life-giver,  
*let us praise and exalt God above all for ever.*

May God's name be praised beyond the furthest star,  
*glorified and exalted above all for ever.*

### ***Personal Thanksgivings and Intercessions***

#### **Closing Prayers**

Lord,  
it is night.  
The night is for stillness.  
Let us be still in the presence of God.  
It is night after a long day.  
What has been done has been done;  
what has not been done has not been done;  
let it be.  
The night is dark.  
Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives  
rest in you.  
The night is quiet.  
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,  
all dear to us,  
and all who have no peace.  
The night heralds the dawn.  
Let us look expectantly to a new day,  
new joys,  
new possibilities.  
In your name we pray.

God bless us and keep us,  
God's face shine on us and be gracious to us,  
and give us light and peace.  
Amen.

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Poem – “Portrait of My Gender as [inaudible]” by Meg Day, *Poetry* (June 2020). Available at [www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org).