

Morning Prayer – Monday, September 14, 2020
Celtic Prayers from Iona – J. Philip Newell

Opening Words

You have searched me and known me O God. You know when I sit down and when I rise up
(Psalm 139:1-2)

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

Opening Prayer and Thanksgiving

Thanks be to you O God
that I have risen this day
To the rising of this life itself.
May it be a day of blessing,
O God of every gift,
A day of new beginnings given.
Help me to avoid every sin
And the source of every sin to forsake
And as the mist scatters
from the crest of the hills
May each ill haze clear
from my soul O God.

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 – Job:38:1, 18-41 (Contemporary English Version - CEV)

From out of a storm,
the LORD said to Job:

Why do you talk so much
when you know so little?

Where is the home of light,
and where does darkness live?
Can you lead them home?
I'm certain you must be able to,
since you were already born
when I created everything.

Have you been to the places
where I keep snow and hail,
until I use them to punish
and conquer nations?
From where does lightning leap,
or the east wind blow?
Who carves out a path
for thunderstorms?
Who sends torrents of rain
on empty deserts
where no one lives?
Rain that changes barren land
to meadows green with grass.
Who is the father of the dew
and of the rain?
Who gives birth to the sleet
and the frost
that fall in winter,
when streams and lakes
freeze solid as a rock?

Can you arrange stars in groups
such as Orion
and the Pleiades?
Do you control the stars
or set in place the Big Dipper
and the Little Dipper?
Do you know the laws
that govern the heavens,
and can you make them rule
the earth?
Can you order the clouds
to send a downpour,
or will lightning flash
at your command?

Did you teach birds to know
that rain or floods
are on their way?
Can you count the clouds
or pour out their water
on the dry, lumpy soil?
When lions are hungry,
do you help them hunt?
Do you send an animal
into their den?
And when starving young ravens
cry out to me for food,
do you satisfy their hunger?

Intercessions

Poem – “I was in a hurry” by Dunya Mikhail, trans. by Elizabeth Winslow

Yesterday I lost a country.
I was in a hurry,
and didn't notice when it fell from me
like a broken branch from a forgetful tree.
Please, if anyone passes by
and stumbles across it,
perhaps in a suitcase
open to the sky,
or engraved on a rock
like a gaping wound,
or wrapped
in the blankets of emigrants,
or canceled
like a losing lottery ticket,
or helplessly forgotten
in Purgatory,
or rushing forward without a goal
like the questions of children,
or rising with the smoke of war,
or rolling in a helmet on the sand,
or stolen in Ali Baba's jar,
or disguised in the uniform of a policeman
who stirred up the prisoners
and fled,
or squatting in the mind of a woman
who tries to smile,

or scattered
like the dreams
of new immigrants in America.
If anyone stumbles across it,
return it to me, please.
Please return it, sir.
Please return it, madam.
It is my country. . .
I was in a hurry
when I lost it yesterday.

Closing Prayer

This day and this night,
may I know God
The deep peace
of the running wave
The deep peace
of the flowing air
The deep peace
of the quiet earth
The deep peace
of the shining stars
The deep peace
of the Son of Peace.

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

Poem - Dunya Mikhail, "I Was In A Hurry" from *The War Works Hard* (New Directions Publishing Corporation, 2005).