

Compline – Tuesday, November 10, 2020

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

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

Opening

Blessed are the humble, for they are close to the sacred earth (Matthew 5.5)

Prayer of Awareness

At the ending of the day
in the quiet of the hours
at the interplay of light and dark
we wait with the earth as it rests
that we may give thanks for darkness
that we may be open to night's senses
that we may remember the ground for which we come
and know You
as Presence in the mystery
as Evening Breeze in our soul
as Everlasting Strength in the earth's body.
At the ending of the day we wait
that we may know You
as Lover of the night
as Lover in the night.

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

Scripture and Meditation

God leads the humble in what is right (Psalm 25.9)

The Son of Humankind came not to be served but to serve (Matthew 20.28)

God has brought you forth from the earth like a plant and to the earth God will restore you
(Quran – Noah 71.17-18)

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

For the sacred earth
its scents and sounds and sights
we give you thanks, O God.
For the holy heavens
their heights and depths and breadth
we give you thanks.
May we love the earth
and cherish her fecundity.
May we love the rivers

and obey their ancient purity.
May we love the skies
and honour their infinity
all for one another.

Thanksgivings and Intercessions

Poem – “Sleeping with the Chihuahua” by Tami Haaland

In the evening she comes to me
like a child ready for bed.
She slips under covers, curls
into my curves or stretches against
my spine. Some have said they fear
I might crush her, but we're a tender
pair, each aware of the warmth
and the other.

I knew a woman once who kept
an orphaned antelope, let it
roam her kitchen, sleep in her bed,
musky scent and hooves.

This dog looks like a small deer,
poised and silent in the lawn,
but at night, she is a dark body, lean
and long against the lavender cotton
of my summer sleeping. We are bone
and bone, muscle and muscle,
and underneath each surface
a quiet and insistent pulse.

Closing Prayer

Glory be to you
Great Creating Spirit
who shines in distant stars beyond numbering
And on earth peace.
Glory be to you
Great Creating Spirit
who sings and wings in birds on high.
And on earth peace.
Glory be to you
Great Creating Spirit
whose thunder shakes the shining firmament

And on earth peace
Glory, glory, glory
And on earth peace.

Sources:

Praying with the Earth: A Prayerbook for Peace by John Philip Newell (Eerdmans, 2011).

Poem – Poem copyright ©2018 by Tami Haaland, "Sleeping With the Chihuahua," from *What Does Not Return*, (Lost Horse Press, 2018).