

Compline – Monday, December 7, 2020

Celtic Daily Prayer – The Northumbria Community

**modifications made for inclusive language*

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

Opening

I make the cross of Christ upon my breast
over the centre of my heart.

And, I beseech the Living God of the universe –

May the Light of Lights come

May the Peace of Peace come

May the great Love of Your heart come

and breathe new life and love into my heart this night.

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

Scripture – Exodus 24:12-18 (CEV)

The LORD said to Moses, "Come up on the mountain and stay here for a while. I will give you the two flat stones on which I have written the laws that my people must obey." Moses and Joshua his assistant got ready, then Moses started up the mountain to meet with God.

Moses had told the leaders, "Wait here until we come back. Aaron and Hur will be with you, and they can settle any arguments while we are away."

When Moses went up on Mount Sinai, a cloud covered it, and the bright glory of the LORD came down and stayed there. The cloud covered the mountain for six days, and on the seventh day the LORD told Moses to come into the cloud. Moses did so and stayed there forty days and nights. To the people, the LORD's glory looked like a blazing fire on top of the mountain.

Poem – "Mountain" by Clifton Gachagua

On the day I set out on the climb,
grief saddled in my back like a bag of marbles,
my breath like clouds hanging on the low peaks of a mountain,
on the day I set out
leaving nothing behind, nothing on the bed, no version of myself,
just my voice through the night, the voice I use to ward off nightmares.
(My voice is a still life in itself, a shroud green and ultramarine deep blue,
a bowl of apples and tangerines on a table.)
On the day I set out,
the mountain is high in front of me, the unreliable god of mist and fog.
I have no voice to say how high
my fingers must lift as if on a lover's upper lip,

to take in the breath of how high my mountain is—white teeth behind
a snow cap, numberless springs, cold like the enzymes in spit—
a version of me is still asleep: the moving of a limb in sleep.
Everything becomes lucid.

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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving

O God, at this time, we lift up to you our concerns, hopes and thanksgivings for ourselves and others, naming them out loud or holding them in our hearts....

Closing Prayers

I am placing my soul and my body
in thy safekeeping this night, O God,
in thy safekeeping, O Jesus Christ,
in thy safekeeping, O Spirit of perfect truth.
Keep me as the apple of your eye;
hide me in the shadow of your wings.
May I awaken in the morning
to the wonders of Your love.

Sources:

Prayers are from: Celtic Daily Prayer: Book Two, Farther Up and Farther In Northumbria Community, London: William Collins Books, 2015.

Poems: Clifton Gachagua, "Mountain" from *Madman at Kilifi* (University of Nebraska Press, 2014).