

Compline – Tuesday, December 8, 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 20:18-21 (CEV)

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin." Then the people stood at a distance, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

Poem – "Thunder Raising Poison" by Ali Cobby Eckermann

a whisper arrives. two thousand. two thousand or more. did you hear it?
that bomb. the torture of red sand turning green
the anguish of earth turned to glass
did you hear it? two thousand. two thousand or more
yams cremated inside the earth. poison trapped
in glass like a museum. did you hear it?
two thousand. two thousand or more
tears we cried for our Land
for the fear you gave us, for the sickness and the dying two thousand years of memory here
two thousand. two thousand or more
peaceful place this place. happy place till you come with your bombs
you stole our happiness with your poison ways
you stole our stories
two thousand. two thousand or more
our people gone missing. did you hear it?
where's my grandfather? you seen him?
where's my daughter? you seen her?
Mummy! you seen my mum? Dad!

two thousand. two thousand or more
times I asked for truth. do you know where they are?
two thousand. two thousand or more
trees dead with arms to the sky. all the birds missing. no birdsong here
just stillness. like a funeral. two thousand or more
a whisper arrives. did you hear it?
two thousand. two thousand or more
it sounds like glass. our hearts breaking. but we are stronger than that
we always rise us mob. two thousand. two thousand or more
you can't break us. we not glass. we are people!
two thousand. two thousand or more
our Spirit comes together. we make a heart
did you see it? in the fragments. it's there in the glass
two thousand. two thousand or more
our hearts grow as we mourn for our Land
it's part of us. we love it. poisoned and all

** Notes:*

This poem is a response to the installation Thunder Raining Poison created by Kokatha glass artist Yhonnie Scarce. It is a statement about the impact of atomic bomb testing on our traditional lands at Maralinga in South Australia by the British government during the 1940s–60s.

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: "Thunder Raising Poison" by Ali Cobby Eckermann, *Poetry* (May 2016)