

Compline – Saturday, December 19, 2020

Celtic Daily Prayer – The Northumbria Community

**modifications made for inclusive language*

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

Opening

God with me protecting,
the Lord with me directing,
the Spirit with me strengthening
for ever and evermore.

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

Scripture – Jeremiah 33:6-9 (The Message)

“But now take another look. I’m going to give this city a thorough renovation, working a true healing inside and out. I’m going to show them life whole, life brimming with blessings. I’ll restore everything that was lost to Judah and Jerusalem. I’ll build everything back as good as new. I’ll scrub them clean from the dirt they’ve done against me. I’ll forgive everything they’ve done wrong, forgive all their rebellions. And Jerusalem will be a center of joy and praise and glory for all the countries on earth. They’ll get reports on all the good I’m doing for her. They’ll be in awe of the blessings I am pouring on her.

Poem – “The Art of Sideways” by Claire Potter

Northern hemisphere it's almost Christmas.
Sunlight withdrawing into its darkest shell of green
coils ring by ring like a yellow snake in a tight burrow.
The snake's sleep maps an origin pinpoints the start
of where morning lies — its polished skin a simple clock
turning every so often leaving a scaled topography behind.
But just as rain can fall sideways and eyes look aslant
might a northern winter not widen light in the same way
a snake exceeds its skin?
Last summer I stood over a sheath of snake in the bush.
The tail tapered the head was marked with the shape
and angle of invisible eyes.
It could have been a hairnet or a ghost but it was quieter than that.
It could have been laid out across a plate of vine leaves.
A seamstress could have used it as tulle a fisherman as netting
the desert salt as cracks.
Trees are empty on the sidewalk their fallen leaves layered
and overlapping like shelves of ancient papyruses.
One tree casts a long shadow two arms striking upwards
as though piqued by pavement light.
Between the shadow lying flat and still and the tree standing

long and tall there is an angle of forty-five degrees.
There is Icarus falling from blue to decimal to amber.
The distance between north and south is mapped
with the shape and angle of his eyes.
The snake's skin is colorless his eye invincible.
The winter light is warm piercing darkness radiating
a trajectory that points in all directions.

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

O God of life, this night,
O darken not to me Thy light.
O God of life, this night,
close not thy gladness to my sight.
O God of life, this night,
Thy door to me, O shut not tight,
O God of life, this night.
O darken not to me Thy light.

Be it in Thine own beloved arms,
O God of grace,
that I in peace shall sleep and wake.

Sources:

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

Poem: "The Art of Sideways" by Claire Potter, *Poetry* (May 2016)