

Morning Prayer – Wednesday, December 23, 2020

St. George's Anglican Church, Cadboro Bay. [www.stgeorgecadborobay.ca](http://www.stgeorgecadborobay.ca)

### **Opening Words**

“Your kindness and love will always be with me each day of my life, and I will live forever in your house, O LORD” (Psalm 23:6)

In the midst of sorrow and challenge, loneliness and longing, contentment and ease, may I invite gratitude for life into my heart. May I give thanks for all that I am and all the relationships that sustain me. And may the joy of Jesus be with me, increasing my love for the world and for all beings, so that my joy might be complete.

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

### **Romans 8:39 (The Message)**

I'm absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely *nothing* can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.

***A moment of silence to reflect on the reading***

### **Canticle**

The songs of prayer lodge in our mouths.  
Let us sing through the snow.  
At the dinner table.  
On the rooftop where we dance.  
May these sounds heal our hearts  
and those distant hearts that hear.

*Hawksley Workman*

### **Poem “Christmas Light” by May Sarton**

#### CHRISTMAS LIGHT

When everyone had gone  
I sat in the library  
With the small silent tree,  
She and I alone.  
How softly she shone!

And for the first time then  
For the first time this year  
I felt newborn again,  
I knew love's presence near.

Love distant, love detached  
And strangely without weight  
Was with me in the night  
When everyone had gone  
And the garland of pure light  
Stayed on, stayed on.

***PRAYERS FOR OTHERS, THE WORLD, AND ONESELF***

**Closing Prayer**

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness,

send Your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious about many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To You we say, 'Come Lord Jesus!'

*Joel Mason*

Sources

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

Poem: "Christmas Light" by May Sarton, *Poetry* (December 1987).