

Compline – Saturday, August 29, 2020

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

From: Celtic Benediction: Morning and Night Prayer by John Philip Newell

Opening

Blessed are you, O God, for you give me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me (Psalm 16:7)

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

Prayer

As it was in the stillness of morning
so may it be in the silence of night.
As it was in the hidden vitality of the womb
so may it be at my birth into eternity.
As it was in the beginning, O God,
so in the end may your gift be born
so in the end may your gift of life be born.

Scripture and Meditation

With my whole heart I seek you, O God, I treasure your word in my heart (Psalm 119:10-11)

Jesus said, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.' (John 14:27)

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

For the darkness of the night
enveloping the earth
enclosing the day's labour
thanks be to you, O God.
For the quiet that surrounds me
and your promise of peace deep within me
for the stillness of sleep for my body
and the hope of healing for my soul
thanks be to you.
I bring not only my own weariness
but the tiredness of people who struggle this night.
I bring not only my own pain
but the sufferings of those who cry out.
Hear my soul's prayers for rest, O God,
hear my heart's plea for healing.

Recall the events of the day and pray for the life of the world

Poem – “One Certain Thing” by Peter Cooley

A day will come I'll watch you reading this.
I'll look up from these words I'm writing now—
this line I'm standing on, I'll be right here,
alive again. I'll breathe on you this breath.
Touch this word now, that one. Warm, isn't it?

You are the person come to clean my room;
you are whichever of my three children
opens the drawer here where this poem will go
in a few minutes when I've had my say.

These are the words from immortality.
No one stands between us now except Death:
I enter it entirely writing this.
I have to tell you I am not alone.
Watching you read, Eternity's with me.
We like to watch you read. Read us again.

Closing Prayer

The stillness of God be mine this night
that I may sleep in peace.
The awareness of the angels be mine this night
that I may be alert to unseen mysteries.
The company of the saints be mine this night
that I may dream of the river of love.
The life of Christ be mine this night
that I may be truly alive to the morning
that I may be truly alive.

Sources:

Celtic Benediction: Morning and Night Prayer by J Philip Newell © 2000 by the Canterbury Press.

Poem – “One Certain Thing” copyright ©2009 by Peter Cooley, from *Pleiades*, Vol. 29, no. 2, 2009.