

St.Mary's Church, Eastham



Celtic Morning Prayer

Wednesday 1st July 2020

We shall rise up like eagles,
riding on the shimmering air.

We shall go as the wind goes,
searching where it will.

We are open to the dawn,
to the moment of new birth.

We are drawn to the breath,
to the time of inspiration.

**Give us, Holy Spirit,
a clear mind,
an open heart,
a first step
into your future.**

Speak to us a Word of clarity:
a breath to loosen tired thoughts.

Speak to us a Word of freedom:
a storm to shake the bonds of injustice.

Speak to us a Word of invitation:
a still centre where all are welcome.

**Within the weaving of the Spirit,
within the touch of air on skin,
within the atmosphere of love,
speak to us a Word of grace.**

Steven Shakespeare

A Psalm: Psalm 33:1-9 (NLT)

- ¹ Let the godly sing for joy to the LORD;
it is fitting for the pure to praise him.
- ² Praise the LORD with melodies on the lyre;
make music for him on the ten-stringed harp.
- ³ Sing a new song of praise to him;
play skillfully on the harp, and sing with joy.
- ⁴ For the word of the LORD holds true,
and we can trust everything he does.
- ⁵ He loves whatever is just and good;
the unfailing love of the LORD fills the earth.
- ⁶ The LORD merely spoke,
and the heavens were created.
He breathed the word,
and all the stars were born.
- ⁷ He assigned the sea its boundaries
and locked the oceans in vast reservoirs.
- ⁸ Let the whole world fear the LORD,
and let everyone stand in awe of him.
- ⁹ For when he spoke, the world began!
It appeared at his command.

Praise be to God our Creator.

A Bible reading from the Gospel of John: John 3:1-8 (NLT)

There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. ²After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you."

³ Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."
⁴ "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?"
⁵ Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.¹ ⁶ Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. ⁷ So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit."

A SHORT REFLECTION

A Time of Prayer

Short intercessory prayer followed by a time of silence during which we lift to God our own prayers.

The 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.
And forgive our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory,
are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

A Song of the Spirit – Inspired by John 3

The wind blows where it chooses
and we do not see its end.

In the night of unknowing,
we must learn to begin again.

Those who look for signs and wonders
must find themselves reborn.

Beyond the world of condemnation
and the stigmas of oppression,

God turns the world upside down,
a gift to reveal what we love.

We are known for who we are,
lifted to the light of truth.

In the breath of the spirit of Christ
there is a nameless freedom.

Free of purpose and control,
we live for life itself.

For the wind blows where it chooses,
the Spirit of a wild God.

Steven Shakespeare

**Glory to the God in the lifting air.
Glory to the God in the heat of the sun.
Glory to the God in the water's flow.
Glory to the God in the darkness of earth.
Glory to God in all creation.**

AMEN.

