

St.Mary's Church, Eastham



Celtic Morning Prayer

Wednesday 24th June 2020

These are the long days
when the sun rides high above us;
days we enjoy with you, our sustaining God.

Thanksgiving

Gratitude for the sun: blinding pulsing light,
through trunks of trees, through mists,
through walls,
warming caves and corridors –
the one who wakes us –
in our minds so be it.

Echoes a Mohawk prayer

The sun rises daily only because you command it.
Its splendour will not last, created things all perish.
Christ, the true Sun nothing can destroy;
the Sun of suns, he shall reign forever.

A Psalm: **Psalm 148** (The Message)

1-5 Hallelujah!
Praise GOD from heaven,
praise him from the mountaintops;
Praise him, all you his angels,
praise him, all you his warriors,
Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, you morning stars;
Praise him, high heaven,
praise him, heavenly rain clouds;
Praise, oh let them praise the name of GOD—
he spoke the word, and there they were!

*⁶ He set them in place
from all time to eternity;
He gave his orders,
and that's it!*

*⁷⁻¹² Praise GOD from earth,
you sea dragons, you fathomless ocean deeps;
Fire and hail, snow and ice,
hurricanes obeying his orders;
Mountains and all hills,
apple orchards and cedar forests;
Wild beasts and herds of cattle,
snakes, and birds in flight;
Earth's kings and all races,
leaders and important people,
Robust men and women in their prime,
and yes, graybeards and little children.*

*¹³⁻¹⁴ Let them praise the name of GOD—
it's the only Name worth praising.
His radiance exceeds anything in earth and sky;
he's built a monument—his very own people!*

*Praise from all who love GOD!
Israel's children, intimate friends of GOD.
Hallelujah!*

The beauty of summer,
its days long and slow,
beautiful, too, visiting the ones we love.
The beauty of the flowers
on the tops of fruit-trees,
beautiful, too, covenant with the Creator.

We rejoice in the energies of the sun;
in the abundance that can be ours.
Let each raise a hand to bless the sun
and the earth and say together:
**For the sun, and the blessings that flow from it,
for the earth and all it brings forth,
we praise you, generous Giver.**

God's Word

A Bible reading: **Job 38:1-15** (The Message)

And now, finally, GOD answered Job from the eye of a violent storm.

He said:

2-11 "Why do you confuse the issue?

Why do you talk without knowing what you're talking about?

Pull yourself together, Job!

Up on your feet! Stand tall!

I have some questions for you,

and I want some straight answers.

Where were you when I created the earth?

Tell me, since you know so much!

Who decided on its size? Certainly you'll know that!

Who came up with the blueprints and measurements?

How was its foundation poured,

and who set the cornerstone,

While the morning stars sang in chorus

and all the angels shouted praise?

And who took charge of the ocean

when it gushed forth like a baby from the womb?

That was me! I wrapped it in soft clouds,

and tucked it in safely at night.

Then I made a playpen for it,

a strong playpen so it couldn't run loose,

And said, 'Stay here, this is your place.

Your wild tantrums are confined to this place.'

12-15 "And have you ever ordered Morning, 'Get up!'

told Dawn, 'Get to work!'

So you could seize Earth like a blanket

and shake out the wicked like cockroaches?

As the sun brings everything to light,

brings out all the colours and shapes,

The cover of darkness is snatched from the wicked—

they're caught in the very act!

We thank you, O God, for these amazing days,
for the leaping greenery and the arching blue sky.

Everything that breathes seems to cry, 'Yes!'

Today, may our whole being cry, 'Yes' to you.

Life of Jesus, Sun of suns, filling every part of us.

Life be in our speech,

sense in what we say,

the bloom of cherries on our cheeks,

till you come back again.

Love of Jesus, Sun of suns,

filling every heart for us,

love be in our deeds,

strength in our frame

traversing sea and air and field,

rays of Jesus being our shield.

A Gospel reading: **Matthew 6:25-33** (The Message)

25-26 "If you decide for God, living a life of God-worship, it follows that you don't fuss about what's on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. Look at the birds, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of God. And you count far more to him than birds.

27-29 "Has anyone by fussing in front of the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? All this time and money wasted on fashion—do you think it makes that much difference? Instead of looking at the fashions, walk out into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They never primp or shop, but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them.

30-33 "If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to

not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
You burning sun with golden gleam,
warming the earth with friendly beam,
we praise you, we praise you.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

All you who come with grateful heart,
forgiving others, take your part,
praise your Maker. **Hallelujah!**
You who long pain and sorrow bear,
cast on your God your every care.
We praise you, we praise you.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness.
We praise you. **Hallelujah!**
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One.
We praise you, we praise you.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Based on Canticum of the Sun, Francis of Assisi

Time of silence for private prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus said: I came in order that you may have life – life in all its fulness.

John 10:10

Our energies are strong, O God:
we have fulness of life in you.

**Sun shines,
sap rises,
buds burst.**

**Lambs frolic,
birds sing,
people play.**

Glory to God who sustains and nurtures us all.

May our eyes be open to see your hand in nature.

**May our hands be open to cherish your gifts.
May our hearts be open to love you in others.**

May God's face smile upon us.
May God's grace rain upon us.
May God's blessing go with us.

We will go to bless God's world.

AMEN.

Liturgy taken from *The Celtic Prayer Book Volume Three, 'Healing the Land'* by Ray Simpson.