

St.Mary's Church, Eastham



Celtic Morning Prayer

Wednesday 22nd July 2020

May our purpose be strong:
To strive for what is fittest.
Let us all love Jesus,
For this is the highest thing.

From Feilire Oengusso

**In my waking and arising
be the first thought that enters my head.
In my eating and drinking
be the first thought that enters my head.
In my walking and journeying
be the first thought that enters my head.
In my working and serving
be the first thought that enters my head.
In my sowing and harvesting
be the first thought that enters my head.
In my rejoicing and sorrowing
be the first thought that enters my head.
In my resting and sleeping
be the first thought that enters my head.**

A Sonnet for Easter Dawn by Malcolm Guite

He blesses every love which weeps and grieves
And now he blesses hers who stood and wept
And would not be consoled, or leave her love's
Last touching place, but watched as low light crept
Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs
A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.

She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,
Or recognise the Gardener standing there.
She hardly hears his gentle question 'Why,
Why are you weeping?', or sees the play of light
That brightens as she chokes out her reply
'They took my love away, my day is night'
And then she hears her name, she hears Love say
The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.

A Psalm: Psalm 42 (NLT)

As the deer longs for streams of water,
so I long for you, O God.
²I thirst for God, the living God.
When can I go and stand before him?
³Day and night I have only tears for food,
while my enemies continually taunt me, saying,
"Where is this God of yours?"
⁴My heart is breaking
as I remember how it used to be:
I walked among the crowds of worshipers,
leading a great procession to the house of God,
singing for joy and giving thanks
amid the sound of a great celebration!
⁵Why am I discouraged?
Why is my heart so sad?
I will put my hope in God!
I will praise him again—
my Saviour and ⁶my God!
Now I am deeply discouraged,
but I will remember you—
even from distant Mount Hermon, the source of the Jordan,
from the land of Mount Mizar.
⁷I hear the tumult of the raging seas
as your waves and surging tides sweep over me.
⁸But each day the LORD pours his unfailing love upon me,
and through each night I sing his songs,
praying to God who gives me life.

⁹ “O God my rock,” I cry,
 “Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I wander around in grief,
 oppressed by my enemies?”
¹⁰ Their taunts break my bones.
 They scoff, “Where is this God of yours?”
¹¹ Why am I discouraged?
 Why is my heart so sad?
I will put my hope in God!
 I will praise him again—
 my Saviour and my God!

(A short silence)

A Bible reading: John 20:1-2, 11-18 (NLT)

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. ² She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, “They have taken the Lord’s body out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

¹¹ Mary returned to the tomb and was standing outside crying. And as she wept, she stooped and looked in ¹² and saw two white-robed angels sitting at the head and foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying.

¹³ “Why are you crying?” the angels asked her.

“Because they have taken away my Lord,” she replied, “and I don’t know where they have put him.”

¹⁴ She glanced over her shoulder and saw someone standing behind her. It was Jesus, but she didn’t recognize him!

¹⁵ “Why are you crying?” he asked her. “Whom are you looking for?”

She thought he was the gardener. “Sir,” she said, “if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him.”

¹⁶ “Mary!” Jesus said. She turned toward him.

“Master!” she exclaimed.

¹⁷ “Don’t touch me,” he cautioned, “for I haven’t yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell

them that I ascend to my Father and your Father, my God and your God.”

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, “I have seen the Lord!” Then she gave them his message.

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, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Conclusion

**Christ be with me,
be after me,
be before me,
and be at my right and left hand.
May everything I do be for Christ.**

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Amen

