

St. Mary's Church, Eastham



Celtic Morning Prayer

Wednesday 11th November 2020

OPENING

The speaking of God
is not far away.

It is not in heaven or beyond the sea.

**The speaking of God is on our lips
and in our listening heart.**

The knowing of God
is not far away.

It is not for those who are wise in their own eyes.

**The knowing of God is in our hands
and in our wisdom's heart.**

The loving of God
Is not far away.

It is not for the pure and the perfect.

**The loving of God is in our body
and in our broken heart.**

You, our God, are not far away
so that we should have to find you.

**You have found us, and known us and loved us
and given us a heat of flesh.**

ATTENDING

We walk with a company of witnesses:
the people and moments that have shaped us;
traditions that have oppressed;
traditions that have empowered;
chinks of light that have exposed and inspired us;
voices, gentle and harsh.

The living memory of the past grounds us.

The unresolved pain of the past weighs us down.

Let us be open to them.

Let them speak to us.

Let us meet them

and in that meeting, find healing and hope.

A Psalm: Psalm 36 (NLT)

¹Sin whispers to the wicked, deep within their hearts.^[a]

They have no fear of God at all.

²In their blind conceit,

they cannot see how wicked they really are.

³Everything they say is crooked and deceitful.

They refuse to act wisely or do good.

⁴They lie awake at night, hatching sinful plots.

Their actions are never good.

They make no attempt to turn from evil.

⁵Your unfailing love, O LORD, is as vast as the heavens;

your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds.

⁶Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,

your justice like the ocean depths.

You care for people and animals alike, O LORD.

⁷ How precious is your unfailing love, O God!

All humanity finds shelter

in the shadow of your wings.

⁸You feed them from the abundance of your own house,

letting them drink from your river of delights.

⁹For you are the fountain of life,

the light by which we see.

¹⁰Pour out your unfailing love on those who love you;

give justice to those with honest hearts.

¹¹Don't let the proud trample me

or the wicked push me around.

¹²Look! Those who do evil have fallen!

They are thrown down, never to rise again.

Praise be to God our Creator.

A Bible reading: Ecclesiastes 3 (NLT)

3 For everything there is a season,
a time for every activity under heaven.

2 A time to be born and a time to die.

A time to plant and a time to harvest.

3 A time to kill and a time to heal.

A time to tear down and a time to build up.

4 A time to cry and a time to laugh.

A time to grieve and a time to dance.

5 A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones.

A time to embrace and a time to turn away.

6 A time to search and a time to quit searching.

A time to keep and a time to throw away.

7 A time to tear and a time to mend.

A time to be quiet and a time to speak.

8 A time to love and a time to hate.

A time for war and a time for peace.

9 What do people really get for all their hard work? **10** I have seen the burden God has placed on us all. **11** Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end. **12** So I concluded there is nothing better than to be happy and enjoy ourselves as long as we can. **13** And people should eat and drink and enjoy the fruits of their labour, for these are gifts from God.

14 And I know that whatever God does is final. Nothing can be added to it or taken from it. God's purpose is that people should fear him. **15** What is happening now has happened before, and what will happen in the future has happened before, because God makes the same things happen over and over again.

A SHORT REFLECTION

OFFERING

Our prayer: a curling leaf,
a flash of red and gold
in the turning of the year,
the turning of the day.

Nothing stays the same.
From the dying of things
beauty is born,
the magic of life is revealed.

**We pray that we might walk with the one
In whom we die, in whom we live again.**

Our prayer; a curling leaf,
offered in faith to the one who never stops creating.

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 (alternative version by Steven Shakespeare)

Divine mother, divine father:

To be in you is to be in heaven.

May we hear the wonder that echoes in your name.

May we accept no rule but the rule of love.

May we never tolerate the evil of hunger.

May the hurt we cause be forgiven

And the hurt we receive be healed.

**May we remember that we are fragile
and cherish the life we share with all.**

For all love and life and power

is the gift of the Spirit.

Amen.

Blessing:

**May your blessing fall like leaves,
a touch of transformation.
May your blessing be gathered in secret,
ready for the time to grow.
Amen.**

Liturgy from *The Earth Cries Glory* by Steven Shakespeare
Shakespeare, S., 2019. *The Earth Cries Glory*. Norwich: Canterbury Press

