Contemplative Noonday Prayer & Scriptural Reflection May 5, 2021

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St. Columba’s Episcopal Church, Inverness, CA

St. Colman Mac Ui Cluasigh of Cork

7th Century

Please respond to any parts labeled “& All” with your microphone set on mute. We will need 3 readers for today...
Reader 1 will read the collect, Reader 2 the psalm responses and Reader 3, responses for intercessory prayers and Eta Compline.

Deacon Ari: O God, make speed to save us.
Mother Teri & ALL: O Lord, make haste to help us.
+ Glory to You O Eternal Source,
    Divine Savior, and Holy Spirit:

As it was in the beginning is now
    and will be forever. Amen

[Reader 1] The Collect
O living God who is ever-present among us, help us to see light
    even in the shadows and reflect the radiance of your Love so
that we may be a light to others as we all travel the Way home
to You. In your name we pray, Amen (Noonday Prayer Group)

Isaiah 65:17-25 (NRSV)

[Mother Teri] For I am about to create new heavens
    and a new earth;

[Reader 2 & All]  the former things shall not be remembered
    or come to mind.
For I am about to create new heavens
    and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
    or come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice for ever
    in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
    and its people as a delight.
I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; 

*no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,*

*or the cry of distress.*

No more shall there be in it

an infant that lives but a few days,

or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;

*for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,*

*and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.*

They shall build houses and inhabit them;

*they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.*

They shall not build and another inhabit;

*they shall not plant and another eat;*

*for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,*

*and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.*

They shall not labour in vain,

or bear children for calamity;

*for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—*

*and their descendants as well.*

Before they call I will answer,

while they are yet speaking I will hear.
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,  
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;  
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!  

They shall not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
says the Lord.  

+ Glory to You O Eternal Source,  
Divine Savior, and Holy Spirit:  

As it was in the beginning is now  
and will be forever. Amen
Deacon Ari:

A reading from the Gospel According to John
(14:18-31, NRSV)

‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’ Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, ‘Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?’ Jesus answered him, ‘Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

‘I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, “I am going away, and I am coming to you.” If you loved
me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way.

Deacon Ari   Hear what the Spirit is saying.
People      Thanks be to God.

Celtic Contemplation: 15 minutes

Please sit comfortably and close your eyes for 15 minutes of silent meditation. Chimes will sound to begin and end the time. For today’s reflection:

“Be joyful, brothers and sisters. Keep your faith and do the little things.” ~ St. David of Wales

Please follow along and chant the Kyrie with us while on mute. We will chant 3x through.

Deacon Ari / People

Kyrie Eleison (Kyrie Eleison)
Christe Eleison (Christe Eleison)
Kyrie (Kyrie), Christe (Christe)
Eleison (Eleison)
Deacon Ari: Lord, hear our prayer;
[Reader 3 & All]: And let our cry come to you.

God of compassion,
  teach us how to embody your love

God of faithfulness
  help us to be constant in service

God of creation
  give us compassion for all your children

God of blessing
  hear our prayers¹

Please offer your intercessions here, aloud or silently.
Prayers given aloud are followed with:

Deacon Ari: We pray to the Lord
[Mother Teri]: Lord, hear our prayer
  Continue after personal intercessions with...

Deacon Ari: God of love
[Reader 3 & All]: draw our hearts to you²

Be their light in darkness.
  Be their hope in distress.
  Be their calm in anxiety.

¹ Daily Prayer for All Seasons, p. 13
² Daily Prayer for All Seasons, p. 13
Be strength in their weakness.
Be their comfort in pain.
Be their song in the night.³

[Mother Teri] Please join now in praying as Jesus taught...

Our Father in heaven,

[Mother Teri & All]: hallowed be your Name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Deacon Ari: Let us bless the Lord.
[Mother Teri & All] Thanks be to God.

Please remain for discussion on today’s topic and scriptural reading.

³ excerpted from the Ita Compline, Northumbria Community.
Died 7th century. This Saint Colman was a professor at Cork. About 664, he wrote a prayer in verse (or 'lorica') seeking protection for the yellow plague that killed one-third of Ireland's population. Colman and his fellow-students took to flight before it, and sought refuge on an island, according to the universal Irish belief that pestilence could not cross the water, and that at a distance of "nine waves" from the shore they were safe. En route they chanted the prayer, which is believed to be the only extant writing from Finbarr's (f.d. July 4) school at Cork. The prayer was included in Kathleen Hoagland's *1000 Years of Irish Poetry* published November 1999

A most curious story in one of the prefaces to this hymn relates that this visitation of the Biiide Connaill or Yellow Plague came in consequence of a struggle between the oligarchy and democracy, owing to the great increase in the population, which caused a scarcity of agricultural land. The nobles of Ireland, supported by three well-known abbots, and with their two joint-kings at their head, fearing a famine, assembled together and prayed and "fasted" before God to get the population reduced.
The plague came in answer to their prayers, but it is satisfactory to note that, instead of merely cutting off the superfluous common people, as the combined church and state of the day desired, it selected as its first victims every one of the important personages who had demanded its aid.

(From Wikisource & https://celticsaints.org/2021/0506b.html)

**Scriptural Study**

**Isaiah 65:17-25**

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    and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
    or come to mind.
18 But be glad and rejoice for ever
    in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
    and its people as a delight.
19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
    and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
    or the cry of distress.
20 No more shall there be in it
    an infant that lives but a few days,
    or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
    and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.
They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

They shall not labour in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—and their descendants as well.

Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—it's food shall be dust!

They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

John 14:18-31 NRSV

18 ‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’ Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, ‘Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?’ Jesus answered him, ‘Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not
love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

25 ‘I have said these things to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. 28 You heard me say to you, “I am going away, and I am coming to you.” If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. 29 And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe. 30 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; 31 but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way.