

Morning Meditation
Wednesday, October 4, 2006

Call to Worship

Friends, the Spirit of God—the presence of Christ is with us.
(*after the candle is lit*) **God in Christ we welcome you.**

Scripture Reading

Psalm 124; Job 1:1, 2:1-6

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.**

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side
—let Israel now say— *

One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and the satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. The Lord said to the satan, ‘Where have you come from?’ The satan answered the Lord, ‘From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.’**

if it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,
then they would have swallowed us up alive,*

The Lord said to the satan, ‘Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason.’**

when their anger was kindled against us;
then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;
then over us would have gone
the raging waters.*

Then the satan answered the Lord, ‘Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.’**

Blessed be the Lord,
who has not given us
as prey to their teeth.*

The Lord said to the satan, ‘Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life.’**

We have escaped like a bird
from the snare of the fowlers;
the snare is broken,
and we have escaped.*

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.*

* Psalm 124

** Job 1:1, 2:1-6

Media Reflection

“Doubting Thomas” by Nickel Creek

(Continued on next page)

Silent Reflection

Prayers of the People*

In this holy moment, let us offer our prayers to God, who leads us through the wilderness.

For the church, that in true repentance, it may turn from its own shortcomings to the transforming grace of God. *(The people may add their prayers silently or aloud.)*

God of love and mercy,
Show us through the wilderness.

For our world, that the angels might still wait on those who wander among the beasts of poverty, hunger, and all oppression. *(The people may add their prayers silently or aloud.)*

God of love and mercy,
Show us through the wilderness.

For every nation and their leaders, that they may have the courage to guard the rights of the poor and the powerless. *(The people may add their prayers silently or aloud.)*

God of love and mercy,
Show us through the wilderness.

For those who suffer, that they may be blessed by our willingness to enter their wounds, with Christ; and that we may be blessed by their willingness to share them. *(The people may add their prayers silently or aloud.)*

God of love and mercy,
Show us through the wilderness.

For the place where we live—that we open ourselves to examine, with discipline, the places in our community still waiting to be illumined by the light of Christ. *(The people may add their prayers silently or aloud.)*

God of love and mercy,
Show us through the wilderness.

For our special concerns and hopes that, in their naming, we may know the certain presence of God with us. *(The people may add their prayers silently or aloud.)*

God of love and mercy,
Show us through the wilderness.

For all who have died, that they may rest completely and joyfully in You, O God, even as they join with you to lead us through the wilderness. *(The people may add their prayers silently or aloud.)*

God of love and mercy,
You will bring us home.

Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

* Adapted from prayer composed by Susanne Watson Epting, New Song Episcopal Church

** Please note the use of inclusive language during the singing of the Doxology