

Daily Prayer

Robert Machray

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

We enter into a time of quiet. We offer to God our selves and in the silence know that God embraces us as God's very own. We offer our hopes and our concerns through our prayers and in the silence listen for God. Today we hold in our prayers the ordinary moments in life—the trials and the joys and we remember Robert Machray, First Primate of All Canada, 1904.

We begin by saying

No one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. *1 Corinthians 3.11*

The First Reading

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3.5-11

The Psalm

Give judgement for me, O Lord,
for I have walked with integrity; ♦
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

Test me, O Lord, and try me; ♦
examine my heart and my mind.

For your love is before my eyes; ♦
I have walked in your truth.

I have not joined the company of the false, ♦
nor consorted with the deceitful.

I hate the gathering of evildoers ♦
and I will not sit down with the wicked.

I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, ♦
that I may go about your altar,

To make heard the voice of thanksgiving ♦
and tell of all your wonderful deeds.

Lord, I love the house of your habitation ♦
and the place where your glory abides.

Psalm 26.1-8

The Gospel Reading

'Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!'

Matthew 7.24-27

We continue with the reflection that follows. In silence, we ask what the reading has to say to us today. Is there something in the reflection that draws us more deeply into the reading? What does God have to say to us? What do we have to ask God?

The Reflection

From *For All The Saints*

Robert Machray became the first primate of the Anglican Church of Canada in 1893, and as we honour his life and service we also commemorate the formation of our Church as a united and independent member in the Anglican communion.

Machray was a Scot, born and raised as a Presbyterian. From an early age he showed great talent as a mathematician, and after studies in the university of his native Aberdeen he went south on a scholarship to Cambridge University. It was there that he became an Anglican. Granted a fellowship, then ordained priest, he seemed to be slated for the career of an academic clergyman. But in 1865, much to his surprise, he was chosen to become the second bishop of Rupert's Land. He arrived at Winnipeg in August of the same year.

Machray's diocese included much of the Arctic as well as the Canadian prairies. He set himself two long-range goals: first, to nurture higher education in Manitoba; and second, to divide Rupert's Land into smaller diocesan units which would be better able to serve Anglican settlers and carry out missionary work. One of his first acts as bishop was to call a clergy conference, which he patiently developed into a full-fledged synod; in time, as Machray's wider plans matured, this body became the basis for a provincial synod. Under his leadership, the western synods led the way in calling for unification of the Anglican Church in Canada.

This movement bore fruit in 1893, when the first General Synod of our Church met at Toronto. Machray was elected primate at this seminal gathering. He remained primate, as well as archbishop of

Rupert's Land, until his death in 1904.

Machray was a tireless worker with a genius for organization; it may be no surprise that he liked to relax by solving mathematical puzzles. But he also possessed a generous heart and was able to work well with a wide variety of people. His vision, integrity, and practical wisdom make him one of the true founders of our Church in this nation.

When the time is right, we conclude our time of silence with the canticle

The Canticle ~ Song of Thanksgiving

Surely, it is God who saves me; *

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defence, *

and he will be my Saviour.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *

from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name;

make his deeds known among the peoples; *

see that they remember that his name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *

and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 12.2-6

We continue in prayer for those people and situations that we hold up before God (The Intercessions) and continue with the concluding collect, the Lord's prayer and the closing sentences.

The Intercessions

With confidence and trust let us pray to our God.

For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church ...

let us pray to our God.

Lord of compassion,

in your mercy hear us.

For the mission of the Church,

that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel
to the ends of the earth,

let us pray to our God.

Lord of compassion,

in your mercy hear us.

For peace in the world ...

that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow
among nations and peoples,

let us pray to our God.

Lord of compassion,

in your mercy hear us.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer ...

for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger;

that they may be relieved and protected,

let us pray to our God.

Lord of compassion,

in your mercy hear us.

For those whom we have injured or offended,

let us pray to our God.

Lord of compassion,

in your mercy hear us.

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God,
let us pray to our God.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

In communion with all those who have walked in the way of
holiness ...
let us pray to our God.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

God our Father,
in your love and goodness
you have taught us to come close to you in penitence
with prayer, fasting and generosity;
accept our Lenten discipline,
and when we fall by our weakness,
raise us up by your unfailing mercy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Our prayers conclude

Almighty God,
you instructed the heart of Robert Machray
to guide the Anglicans of this nation
in the counsels of peace and unity.
Preserve us in wisdom
and lead us in truth,
that we may build upon the one foundation,
which is Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

[let us pray as our Saviour taught us,]

Our Father in heaven,
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

We conclude

May God the Father,
who does not despise the broken spirit,
give to you a contrite heart.

Amen.

May Christ,
who bore our sins in his body on the tree,
heal you by his wounds.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
who leads us into all truth,
speak to you words of pardon and peace.

Amen.

Credits:

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