Morning Devotional

Diocesan Center

May 9, 2023

**Pray**

O God Who Inhabits Our Ministry,

It is no easy thing to admit

another person into our work.

For our sacred work, even if it is done by many,

is ever an intimate, personal thing.

It can feel such a risk to allow anyone else

access to these, our labors of love.

And yet you, O Lord, have clearly called

your children to bear one another’s burdens.

You have instructed us to work alongside

our neighbors as the Body of Christ in the world.

Together, O Christ, let us find work aplenty

in your Kingdom, where humility and

dirty hands might coexist; where grace

will foster between us true fellowship,

so that all who labor under your yoke

may be one in your work. **Amen**.

**Read** *Luke 9:49-50*

John answered, “Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us.” But Jesus said to him, “Do not stop him; for whoever is not against you is for you.”

**Reflect** *Signs of Hope*

Part of our task is to recognize signs of hope, outcrops of the Kingdom, to recognize works of the Spirit even where God’s Name is not named.

We can waste so much energy assuming everyone is against us, and in reacting defensively. Whoever is not against us is for us. This may be the time to form spontaneous coalitions between those who care passionately about the same cause, even if they are different from us. Together we can achieve so much more.

*You are invited to share your thoughts regarding these readings.*

**Music**

Awakening Beauty from Uplifitng Stories

by Christopher Salt and John Rowcroft

**Pray**

We thank you Lord for granting us strength and grace

sufficient for the number of our days;

be with us as we move through the unfolding of our time

in humble obedience to your will,

in sensitivity to your Spirit,

and in joyful expectation of your kingdom.

Illuminate our hearts, our paths, and our vision

as we go along Your Way. Amen.

**Sources**

*Opening Prayer: adapted from Every Moment Holy Volume II,* © 2021 *Douglas McKelvey*

Reflection: Colman Readings, Celtic Daily Prayer Book 2 © 2015 The Northumbria Community Trust

*Closing Prayer: adapted from The Hours: Midday, Every Moment Holy Volume I,* © 2019 *Douglas McKelvey*