

In the Loving Care of God - 2



Coolock House

Opening Hymn: In Every Age Janet Sullivan Whitaker

Long before the mountains came to be
and the land and sea and stars of the night,
through the endless seasons of all time,
you have always been,
you will always be.

Refrain

In ev'ry age, O God,
you have been our refuge.
In ev'ry age, O God,
you have been our hope.

2. Destiny is cast, and at your silent word
we return to dust and scatter to the wind.
A thousand years are like a single moment gone,
as the light that fades
at the end of day.

3. Teach us to make use of the time we have.
Teach us to be patient even as we wait.
Teach us to embrace our ev'ry joy and pain.
To sleep peacefully,
and to rise up strong.

Psalm 33

Antiphon: God keeps a loving eye on all who believe, on those who count on God.

Shout joy to the Lord,
lovers of justice,
how right to praise!
Praise God on the harp,
with ten stringed lyre
sing to the Lord.

Sing God a new song.
Play music to match
your shout of joy.
For the Word of the Lord is true:
what God says, God does.
This lover of truth and justice
fills the earth with love.

God speaks: the heavens are made;
God breathes: the stars shine.
God bottles the waters of the sea
and stores them in the deep.

All earth, be astounded,
stand in awe of God.
God speaks: the world is;
God commands: all things appear.

God blocks the plans of nations,
disrupts all they contrive.
But God's plan and design
lasts from age to age.
Blest the land whose god is the Lord,
the heirs whom God has chosen.

The Lord looks down
and sees our human kind.
From heaven God surveys
all peoples on earth.
The maker of human hearts
knows every human act. . . .

God keeps a loving eye
on all who believe,
on those who count on God
to bring relief from famine,
to rescue them from death.

With all we are, we wait for God,
the Lord, our help, our shield.
Our hearts find joy in the Lord;
we trust God's holy name.
Love us, Lord!
We wait for you.

Glory to you, three in one.
Your mercy endures forever.

Antiphon: God keeps a loving eye on all who believe, on those who count on God.

Reading: "The Callaghan Room" Mary Wickham, RSM

Praise God for you
William and Catherine Callaghan,
who led the other Catherine to many years
of bedside reading
inscribing on her heart the dynamic word,
the word finding her a ready memory,
the word falling into rich soil,
buried for later in the earth of daily devotion;
the word smooored in the hearth,
banked down for the great fire of tomorrow.

Thank you Callaghans
for your gracious silences,
for your hospitable kindnesses,
for your need of her care,
a barren couple
whose legacy was life through life,
gift which became her gift,
a small mercy made large by
the kindnesses of that one house Coolock,
whose inner light
yet radiates God's love.

She must have loved you to have brought with her
so much that reminded of life with you,
so much more than mere things,
however fine,
imbued with memory and meaning,
tokens of fondness and blessing for her.

Intercede for us, Catherine and William,
that our mercy
may always be informed by the inner light
of right silences
the strength of right conviction,
the belief in each one's dignity.

Mary Wickham describes the "the inner light of right silences" that was characteristic of the Callaghan home. We are invited now to enjoy that silence as a space within which to reflect of these questions:

Catherine experienced the providence of God through the generosity of others such as the Callaghans. Who are the persons in my life who have opened up possibilities for me, who have created the environments in which I could flourish, who have enabled my ministry, who have been witnesses of love and fidelity strengthening me in my own commitment, who have been signs to me of God's love and mercy? How have I known God's providence through them?

How have I experienced the truth of the psalmists words "God keeps a loving eye on all who believe, on those who count on God"?

Sharing

When everyone who wishes has had the opportunity for sharing, enjoy the silence again for a moment and then name the persons you would like to remember gratefully, as examples to you of God's provident love.

Closing Prayer:

Let us pray –

In every age, O God, and in all these people, you have been our refuge, our strength, our hope. Fill us with gratitude for the constancy and fidelity of your care manifested in many and various signs of your love. As we have experienced your provident goodness, may we be channels of that same goodness to others. We ask this, filled with confidence, for you are our God, now and always. Amen.

Repeat the opening song.