

**St Francis Episcopal Church, San Jose, CA**  
**Morning Prayer, Tuesday, June 8, 2021**  
**Commemoration of Evelyn Underhill**  
**Mystic and Theologian**

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When 2 people are reading: READER 1: Plain Text    *Reader 2: Italics*    **Both: Bold**

**You are invited to begin the service by lighting a candle.**

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**O Lord, open my eyes that I may see the needs of others**  
**Open my ears that I may hear their cries;**  
**Open my heart so that they need not be without succor;**  
**Let me not be afraid to defend the weak because of the anger of the strong,**  
**Nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich.**  
**Show me where love and hope and faith are needed,**  
**And use me to bring them to those places.**  
**And so open my eyes and my ears**  
**That I may this coming day be able to do some work of peace for thee. Amen.<sup>1</sup>**

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O Lord, open our lips  
***and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.***

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.    *1 John 4:16*  
**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind. As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and forever. **Amen.**

Psalm 96

7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; ascribe to the Lord honor and power.  
8 *Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.*  
9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him.  
10 *Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."*  
11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

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<sup>1</sup> Alan Paton <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/justice-prayers>

12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes, when he comes to judge the earth.

13 He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with his truth.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

*A reading from the Second Book of Kings*

14 So the priest Hilkiah, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to the prophetess Huldah the wife of Shallum son of Tikvah, son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe; she resided in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter, where they consulted her. <sup>15</sup>She declared to them, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Tell the man who sent you to me, <sup>16</sup>Thus says the Lord, I will indeed bring disaster on this place and on its inhabitants—all the words of the book that the king of Judah has read. <sup>17</sup>Because they have abandoned me and have made offerings to other gods, so that they have provoked me to anger with all the work of their hands, therefore my wrath will be kindled against this place, and it will not be quenched. <sup>18</sup>But as to the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the Lord, thus shall you say to him, Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Regarding the words that you have heard, <sup>19</sup>because your heart was penitent, and you humbled yourself before the Lord, when you heard how I spoke against this place, and against its inhabitants, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and because you have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, says the Lord. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, I will gather you to your ancestors, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace; your eyes shall not see all the disaster that I will bring on this place.' They took the message back to the king.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God**

**Wisdom freed from a nation of oppressors**

**a holy people and a blameless race;**

**She entered the soul of a servant of the Lord,**

**withstood dread rulers with wonders and signs.**

**To the saints she gave the reward of their labors,**

**and led them by a marvelous way;**

**She was their shelter by day**

**and a blaze of stars by night.**

**She brought them across the Red Sea,**

**she led them through mighty waters;**

**But their enemies she swallowed in the waves**

**and spewed them out from the depths of the abyss.**

**And then, Lord, the righteous sang hymns to your Name,**

**and praised with one voice your protecting hand;**

**For Wisdom opened the mouths of the mute,**

**and gave speech to the tongues of a newborn people.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*A reading from the Gospel of John*

*<sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you\* say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.'*

*The Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the Lord, O heavens and all waters above the heavens. Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, sing praise and give honor for ever. Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew, \* all winds and fire and heat. Winter and summer, glorify the Lord, sing praise and give honor for ever. Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, drops of dew and flakes of snow. Frost and cold, ice and sleet, glorify the Lord, sing praise and give honor for ever. Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, O shining light and enfolding dark. Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, sing praise and give honor for ever.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## The Prayers

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;  
*Govern and uphold them, now and always.*  
Day by day we bless you;  
We praise your Name for ever.  
*Lord, keep us from all sin today;*  
Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.  
*Lord, show us your love and mercy;*  
For we put our trust in you.  
*In you, Lord, is our hope;*  
And we shall never hope in vain.

O God, Origin, Sustainer, and End of all creatures: Grant that your church, taught by your servant Evelyn Underhill, may continually offer to you all glory and thanksgiving, and attain with your saints to the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have promised us by our Savior Jesus Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Ever present God, you called us to be in relationship with one another and promised to dwell wherever two or three are gathered. In our community, we are many different people; we come from many different places, have many different cultures. Open our hearts that we may be bold in finding the riches of inclusion and the treasures of diversity among us. We pray in faith. *Amen.*<sup>2</sup>

Give us, O God, the vision which can see Your love in the world in spite of human failure.  
Give us the faith to trust Your goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness.  
Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts.  
And show us what each one of us can do to set forward the coming of the day of universal peace. *Amen.*<sup>3</sup>

For all those who have fallen victim to hatred and inhumanity, for those loved ones who are left behind to mourn, for the souls of those whose hearts are cold, Lord, hear our prayer.  
For the children who are being born into this world of conflict and violence, for women and mothers who suffer needlessly, Lord, hear our prayer.  
For all those who have been forced into unemployment, who long to return to work, for all those who struggle to support their families, Lord, hear our prayer.  
For the soldiers who are misguided in thinking that their bullets will bring about peace,

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/justice-prayers>

<sup>3</sup> Frank Borman. Prayer from Apollo 8.

<https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/justice-prayers>

for those who feel called to conscientiously object to military orders, Lord, hear our prayer.

For the children who cry in their beds at night and wonder "what have I done?"  
For the mothers and fathers who must try to explain the unexplainable, Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the children who have died before their time, for the soldiers who allow their uniform to strip them of their humanity, for the healers who are denied the opportunity to use their gifts, Lord, hear our prayer.

For the redemption of souls of both victim and perpetrator, for those who commit themselves to the forgiveness of sins, Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.<sup>4</sup>

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**  
Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## EVELYN UNDERHILL

### THEOLOGIAN AND MYSTIC (15 JUNE 1941)

To go up alone into the mountains and come back as an ambassador to the world, has ever been the method of humanity's best friends.

The windows of Christ's Mysteries split the [Light] up into many-coloured loveliness, disclose all of its hidden richness...make its beauty more accessible to us...And within this place we too are bathed in the light transmitted by the windows, a light which is yet the very radiance of Eternity. Evelyn Underhill was born in 1875 and grew up in London. Her friends included Laurence Housman (poet and brother of the poet A E Housman) and Sarah Bernhardt (actress), and Baron Friedrich von Huegel, a writer on theology and mysticism. Largely under his guidance, she embarked on a life of reading, writing, meditation, and prayer. From her studies and experience she produced a series of books on contemplative prayer. The list includes the following (I have starred the ones that seem to be most widely read or highly regarded):



1902 [The Bar-lamb's Ballad](#) (poetry)

1911 [Mysticism](#) \*\*

1913 [The Mystic Way](#) \*

1913 [Immanence](#) (poetry)

1927 *Man and the Supernatural*

1936 *Worship* \*\*\*

1938 *The Mystery of Sacrifice*

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<sup>4</sup> Author unknown. <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/justice-prayers>

Miss Underhill (Mrs. Hubert Stuart Moore) taught that the life of contemplative prayer is not just for monks and nuns, but can be the life of any Christian who is willing to undertake it. She also taught that modern psychological theory, far from being a threat to contemplation, can fruitfully be used to enhance it. In her later years, she spent a great deal of time as a lecturer and retreat director. She died on June 15, 1941.

*by James Kiefer*

[http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/Evelyn\\_Underhill.htm](http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/Evelyn_Underhill.htm)