



## Galaxies Evening Service 28 October 2012

Service by Pete Cowley  
Web: [galaxies.org.nz](http://galaxies.org.nz)

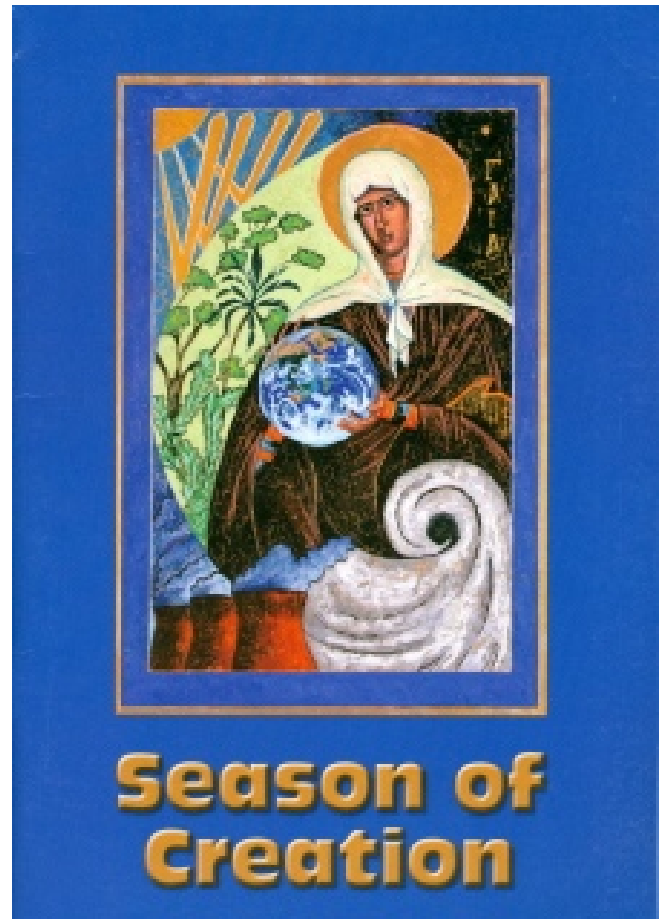


### Welcome:

The theme for tonight's service is the "Season of Creation: Earth, Humanity, Sky & Mountain.

The Charter for the Season of Creation is:  
**Celebrate** Earth as a sacred planet filled with God's vibrant presence.

- **Unite** with all creation in praising the creator of the universe.
- **Confess** our sins against creation and empathise with a groaning creation.
- **Embrace** our kin in creation as our extended family.
- **Proclaim** the good news that the the cosmic Christ who fills and renews all creation is embodied by the themes of Justice, Love and Mutuality of Jesus of Nazareth.
- **Gather** at the shared table to receive the healing power of Christ that extends to all creation.
- **Go forth** on a mission to be partners with Christ in the healing of creation.



### Call to togetherness and sharing:

**Leader:** God, we are all part of you; your creation, your life, and your loving. We gather together to celebrate and to honour all that has been created

**All:** May all that God has created be honoured, nurtured and protected.

## Passing the Peace:

**Leader:** Now that we are reminded that we are to honour all creation, let us start by honouring each other by sharing our peace and love with one another.

**All:** We open our hearts to the mystery of God's love in all creation. We carry in us the divine spark, the gift of love and care, which we share tonight, deepens us as people of God



Each person shares hugs, or whatever you are comfortable with, with those around them.

## Notices

If you have any notices to bring to our attention please speak up.

## Contemporary reflection - The Season of Creation



### **What Is the Season of Creation?**

In the seasons of Advent, Epiphany, Lent and Easter we celebrate the life of Christ. In the season of Pentecost we celebrate the Spirit of God. Now, in the *Season of Creation*, we have an opportunity to celebrate God, the Creator of everything that exists.

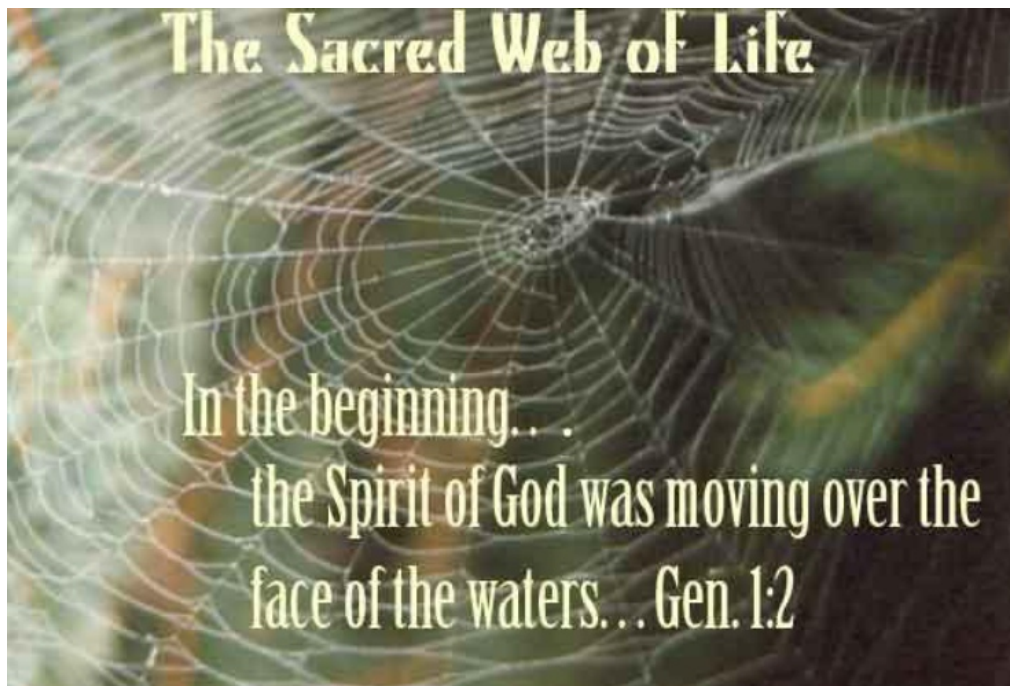
The *Season of Creation* was designed to run for four Sundays in September, prior to St Francis of Assisi Day but because *Galaxies* meets once a month I am bring all these elements into one service, so hang on tight! As we journey through the Earth, Humanity, Sky and Mountain aspects of the Season of Creation!!

### **Why a *Season of Creation*?**

There is growing concern in Christian communities about the ecological crisis and the way human beings are treating the Earth. Planet Earth is in peril! All creation is suffering.

An effective way to focus these concerns is through worship. By concentrating our worship on God's creation and our relationship with creation, we can seek ways to heal rather than exploit creation. The *Season of Creation* helps us care for our planet home so that it may continue to care for us.

## Earth - The Sacred Web of Life



"In the beginning ... the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters ... Gen 1:2

### Confession

We are sustained and nourished by God's presence and love.

**Thanks be to God**

As we mourn the distress and wounds of God's creation.

**God weeps with us.**

As we face rising waters, hunger and displacement.

**God suffers with it.**

As we struggle for justice.

**God struggles with us.**

As we expose and challenge climate injustice.

**God empowers us.**

As we strive to build alternative communities.

**God works with us.**

As we offer our gifts to all.

**God blesses us.**

Sisters and brothers, rejoice.

**Sustained by God's presence and love we worship God**



## Humanity



Who said we did not make God in our image?

## Confession

We live in an awe-inspiring universe.

**The earth on which we live has been kind to us.**

May we grow in insight and understanding

**So that we see our place in the Web of Life.**

May we grow in wisdom and gratitude

**So that we may acknowledge ourselves to be creatures of the earth.**

May it continue to provide us with pure air, clean water and good soil,

**So that we may enjoy the life it has given us.**

May it continue to provide us with our daily bread

**So that we, in turn, may care for the earth.**

We acknowledge our past carelessness and lack of gratitude.

**With genuine sorrow we confess our greed and wastefulness.**

We promise to abide by what the earth requires of us

**Which is to share its bounty and avoid waste.**

We promise to be caring and thoughtful of others

**And not trample over or ignore those weaker than we are.**

We promise to live at peace with all people

**And treat humans of all nations as members of one family.**

We promise to treat all of earth's creatures compassionately

**And thus acknowledge the unity of all creation.**

Let us all help one another so to do!

## Sky



### Creation Prayer

It is right to give thanks for all Creation  
and especially this day, for what we understand of the heavens  
...therefore with angels and archangels,  
ancient voices in the forest, high voices from the sky,  
deep voices from the sea, and the whole company of creation,  
we proclaim the Sacred Presence among us:  
Holy, holy, holy, Creative Spirit, Genesis of all life,  
earth and sky are elements of your presence  
skies, clouds, planets, stars—and we—glorify all being.

## Mountain



### Confession

We invite the mountains to worship with us:

**mighty boulders and deep forests,  
icy glaciers and swirling snow.**

We invite the wild to join us in wonder:

**gliding hawks and noisy kea,  
mysterious moths and magic mushrooms.**

We join with the mountain creatures in praising God:

**leaping trout and crawling creatures,  
Mount Cook lily and honey bees.**

We call the depths of the mountains to celebrate:

**pounamu and sparkling stones,  
volcanic rock and silver shale.**

We enter the mountain of God today:

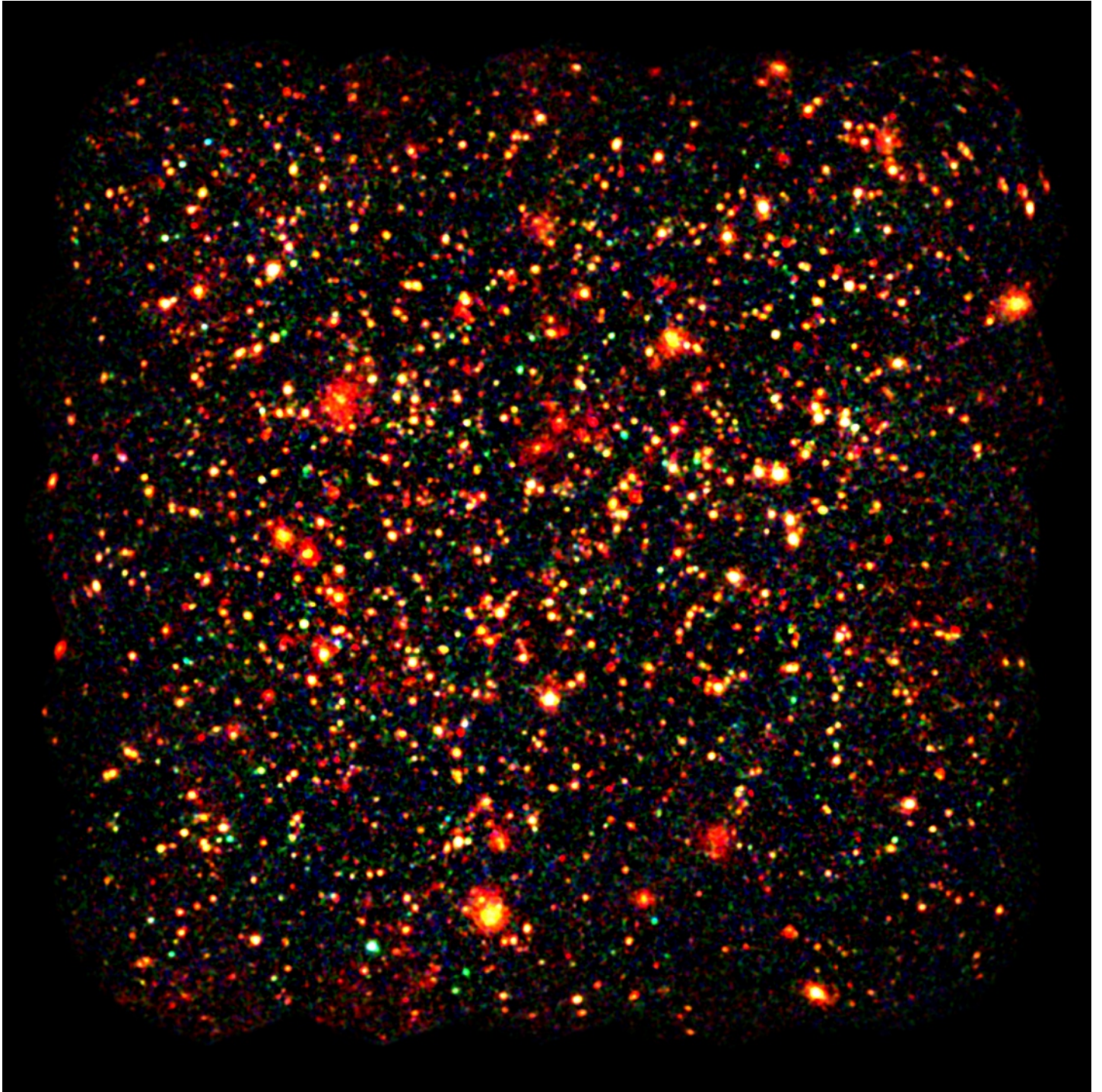
**and we worship in God's presence,  
a sacred place on our planet.**

We celebrate the song of the mountain!

**Sing! Mountain! Sing!**



## Departure



God, our Creator, as we reflect on the mysteries of the cosmos, we celebrate the wondrous design of the universe and the wisdom that guides its course. Help us to discern how we are connected with past and present members of the cosmic community. Teach us to sense the presence of the cosmic Christ, whose presence fills and reconciles all forces in creation. Thank you for all those you have sent to support us and to challenge us that we may grow. May we in turn support and challenge others we meet along the way.

**Amen!**