



Galaxies Evening Service 25 Sept 2016

Service by Pete Cowley & Fergus
Collinson



Welcome:

Welcome to our service tonight.



Our theme tonight is Peace.

On the 21st of this Month was the International Day of Peace so are we becoming more peaceful?

If not what can we, ourselves, do? - Work for Justice, treat all with compassion and kindness.

Be the peace you want in the world!

Call to togetherness:

Leader: We are all part of the rhythm of life.

As we mark this day of the journey, may peace be with us.

People: **May we be makers of the peace.**

Leader: Where there is confusion and discord,

People: **We will use loving-kindness as a way through.**

Leader: Where there is coldness and indifference,

People: **We will use the fire of our love to warm the coldness, to light fires of love and banish indifference.**

Leader: Where there is injustice and discrimination

People: **We will challenge it, we will speak out, we will do to ease the fear.**

Leader: Where there is joy and hope,

People: **We will celebrate and share it together.**

Leader: Let us greet one another in love and peace as we mark Peace Week and International Day of Peace this month.

People: Before God and one another we stand in peace beside our fellow travellers in life. We listen to each other's stories and share each other's journey that we may understand each other deeply, lovingly and become friends. Amen

Contemporary Hymn - Will Martin - Song of Peace

Affirmation of Faith (all together)

I give thanks for life and put my trust in all its possibilities for good ... For my good, for the good of those whose lives mine touches, for all people, and for the earth itself;

I celebrate the honest search for meaning, for purpose, for peace, for truth and wholeness shown by people of faith through the ages, and join them in the quest;

I recognise in Jesus a man of integrity, insight and vision who continually challenges my willingness to settle for too little, both in myself, and in the world around me;

I find in the Christ of faith a source of strength and wholeness, an inspiration to new beginnings, and a spur to be all I am capable of;

I affirm the communities of trust, love and endeavour of those who, from time immemorial, have shared in the search, and who, with me, have felt our imagination quickened, our creativity fired, the boundaries of our understanding and empathy extended;

In these ways, and in the dynamic of their inter-linking I experience that which I call God
And in God I put my trust,

Now and into the future

Amen

(by Ian Harris)



NEVER DOUBT ♦
♦♦ THAT A
SMALL GROUP OF
THOUGHTFUL
COMMITTED
CITIZENS ♦♦
CAN CHANGE
THE WORLD:
♦ INDEED
IT'S THE ONLY
THING THAT
EVER HAS. ♦
Margaret Mead

Contemporary Reflection - The Dreamer



The Dreamer

Translated by Kim Martin Metzger

There once was a man who was a dreamer. He believed, for instance, that there must be a way to see things ten thousand miles away. Or he figured there must be a way to eat soup with a fork. He thought there must be a way for people to stand on their own heads, and he was sure there must be a way for people to live without fear.

The people told him, "None of those things can be done; you're a dreamer!" And they said, "You've got to open your eyes and accept reality!" And they said, "There are laws of nature, and you can't just change them!"

But the man said, "I don't know. There must be a way to breathe under water. And there must be a way to give everybody something to eat. There must be a way for everybody to learn what he or she wants to know. There must be a way to look inside your own belly."

And the people said, "Pull yourself together, mister; those things will never happen. You can't simply say you want something and then just expect it to happen. The world is the way it is, and that's all there is to it!"

When television was invented and x-ray machines, the man was able to see ten thousand miles away and he could see inside his own belly. But no one said to him, "Okay, I guess you weren't so wrong, after all." And they said nothing after someone invented diving suits that allowed people to breathe easily under water. But the man said to himself: that's what I thought. Maybe one day it will even be possible to get along without wars.

Prayers for peace

May we be filled with the strength to seek peace.

War will not end when the guns are silent.

Violence can never lead to peace.

IF
YOU
WANT
PEACE,
WORK
FOR
JUSTICE

May we be filled with the courage to seek peace.
We grieve for the harm to our own country,
The degradation suffered around the world
The contagion of fear and distrust,
The restriction of freedoms,
The quashing of dialogue and dissent.
We grieve the terrible wounding
of those sent off to fight in wars
that are questioned all over the world.
We grieve the rupture of families
May we be filled with the compassion to seek
peace
We are members of one human family.
We grasp the horror of war in all its forms.
And we struggle to embrace the suffering of all
with love and compassion.

May we be filled with the endurance to seek peace
Recognizing our weakness,
We call on the God of mercy and compassion
to guide us in the days ahead
May we be filled with the vision of peace.

(From the Fellowship of Reconciliation Interfaith Prayer)

Call of Faith to Action

Leader: As we search for some sense in life.

People: *may we find that meaning in our relationships of care, compassion and tenderness.*

Leader: We talk about loving-kindness as God

People: *Let us act with loving-kindness to all people, to all animals, to all of nature on earth*

Leader: We talk about peace-on-earth

People: *Let us not only talk peace, but act peacefully in all we do, and to be peace makers. Let us listen to understand the other peoples point of view.*

Leader: Jesus the Sage challenged the authorities of his time and was tortured and then murdered for his audacity to point out bigotry, prejudice and injustice. In 2000 years the challenge remains just as strong as ever, the dangers just as great - for we are, all of us, either a part of the problem or a part of the solution.

The world needs people who live and breath loving-kindness, peace and justice.
Are we that people?

People: **Yes, we are that people**

Departure Hymn (Contemporary) - Peace Train - Cat Stevens