



Galaxies

Evening Service

5 February 2006

Service by Pete Cowley



Welcome:

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and a restful break and are feeling refreshed and energised for another year, one whole month of which seems to have gone by with rather frightening speed ... again!

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 all we can to change it**

Leader: Where there is joy and hope,
People: **We will celebrate and share it together.**

Leader: Jesus says to us, 'Come and follow me'
Now we bind our hearts together and reaffirm our commitment to think wisely, to act justly, and to live compassionately.
Amen.



Hymn

He came singing love (AA59)



Affirmation of Faith

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 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)

Readings

Job 7:1-4, 6-7

1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

Mark 1:29-39

Contemporary Reflection

Don't let other people define you.

Hymn

Light of Lights Beholden (AA89)

Prayers for the people

God of loving-kindness, peace-on-earth and justice-for-all, we pray, that we will help strengthen the hands of all who strive for peace and justice throughout the world, and, seeing that all human beings are our relatives, we will share the pain of those who are oppressed, and will strive to promote the dignity and freedom of every person.

God of love, in the dignity and worth you give to all your creatures, may we always acknowledge the respect, diversity and richness of your creation; that we may honour the persons who come to us; that we may refuse to use or to be used as objects of selfish gratification; and that we may work for equity and justice for all people. Amen.

Individual prayers from the people gathered

Our Confession - by Michael Leunig

All:

God help us to find our confession;
the truth within us which is hidden from our mind;
the beauty or the ugliness we see elsewhere but never in ourselves;
the stowaway which has been smuggled into the dark side of the heart,
which put the heart off balance and causes it pain,
which wearies and confuses us,
which tips us in false directions and inclines us to destruction,
the load which is not carried squarely because it is carried in ignorance.

God help us to find our confession.
us across the boundary of our understanding.
lead us into the darkness that we may find what lies concealed;
that we may confess it towards the light;
that we may carry our truth in the center of our heart;
that we may carry our cross wisely
and bring harmony into our life and our world.

Amen.

Passing the Peace

Leader:

Let us share our peace and love
Let us feel the power of the earth that holds us together.
Let us celebrate our gifts in song and dance.
Let us all rejoice in our power and our beauty.

People:

We open our hearts to the miracle of birth and the mystery of God's love in all creation.
We carry in us the divine light that shone so brightly the night of Christ's birth.
The gift of love, which we share tonight, deepens us as people, deepens us as sisters and brothers.
People share the peace with those around them.

Offertory Hymn

Take my gifts (AA127)

(Offering plate passed around during the hymn)

Leader

We recognise and bless the gifts brought to the table and those given to support the mission of Galaxies.

The Lord's Prayer - Jim Cotter

Eternal Spirit Earth-maker, Pain-Bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be.

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

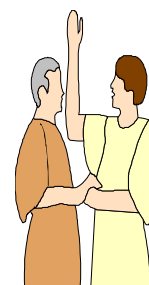
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever.

Amen.



The blessing

Let us stop for a moment and calm our thoughts as we prepare ourselves for radical action, just like Jesus:

- to act with peaceful, careful listening; even in the face of aggression
- to calmly and lovingly challenge duplicity, bigotry, prejudice and injustice wherever we encounter it.
- to accept people with loving-kindness in all our interactions.
- to share our joy and blessings freely with others.

Departure Hymn

Loving spirit (AA94ii)

Notices

Tea, Coffee and Conversation

Many thanks to Tony pears for his piano playing

