



Galaxies
Evening Service
2 July 2006
Service by Pete Cowley



Welcome:

Welcome to our service tonight.

Our theme tonight is celebrating 20 years of Gay freedom from our love being called "criminal"

Call to togetherness:

Leader Life rises in our midst.
People **Sometimes hard-won life.**

Leader: It surprises us when it blossoms forth at unexpected times.
People: **Life born of faithfulness**
Life born of courage
Life born of God

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.
People: **Amen.**



Hymn

Let Justice roll down (AA 85)



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)

Contemporary Reflection

20 Years of Homosexual Law reform

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

A litany for peace

Leader When respect for human beings, irrespective of their race, religion, gender or sexual orientation, is practised in all nations

People: **There will be peace.**

Leader: When participation is substituted for oppression

People: **There will be peace.**

Leader: When ploughshares replace armaments

People: **There will be peace.**

Leader: When a just distribution of riches and resources is established in the world.

People: **There will be peace.**

Leader: When co-operation shapes relationships between persons, groups and nations.

People: **There will be peace.**

Leader: When love for our neighbour is transformed into love-action.

People: **There will be peace.**

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.

Offering Prayer and dedication

People: **At this time and in this place
may our inner replenishment
make us more alive to life's moments
and more responsive to life's creative possibilities.
And let the offerings and the gifts we place on this table
be a sign of our gratitude, and a sign of our hope
for life and the world. Amen.**

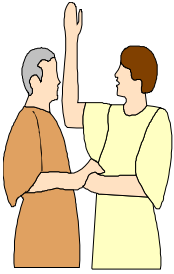
Offertory Hymn

Spirit who broods (AA126) (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

People: 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.
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Departure Hymn

Loving spirit (AA94ii)

Notices

Tea, Coffee and Conversation

Many thanks to Tony pears for his piano playing

