



## Galaxies Evening Service 16 July 2006

Service by Pete Cowley & Fergus Collinson



### Welcome:

Welcome to our service tonight reflecting on what winter means to us.



*Auckland University as seen through winter trees in Albert park last week!*

### Gathering together

**Leader**

Haere mai

We come to this place of kindness and welcoming

We come to give thanks to the great Spirit we call God however we envisage

We come to welcome God with our lives, our thoughts and our deeds

We come to reflect and consider the natural world in this season of winter



## Call to worship

### Leader

We are gathered in this sanctuary of light and warmth.

Here in the presence of God

Matariki has risen, the days are still short and cold.

Winter is here but still we have much to celebrate much to reflect on and give thanks to God for!

### All

*In all seasons and in all places*

*we come to rejoice and give thanks.*



## Affirmation of Faith

All:        The God of our understanding is varied, vibrant and rich in diversity  
              Much like we are!  
              We understand little about the nature of the universe we inhabit  
              but we enjoy its beauty, ponder its mystery, and look after our home.  
              Amidst our struggle to find understanding and meaning in our life,  
              our predecessors in faith give us a glimpse of God that is unsurpassed;  
              A God called Loving-kindness; Peace-on-earth; Justice-for-all  
              These are our noblest intentions and when we embody and enact them  
              We allow the Kingdom of God to be created anew within us  
              We too are called - God

## Contemporary Reflection - Reflections on Winter

Please choose one and after 5 minutes of reflection, we will discuss our thoughts about it, how it speaks to us.

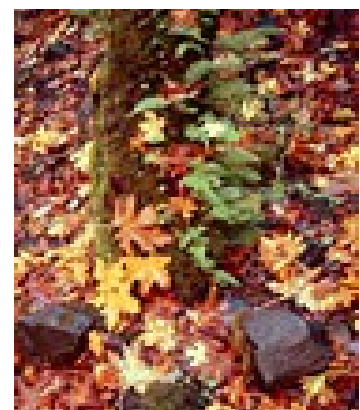
- What you see in the winter scene painting by Fergus
- A spiders web covered in dew
- A winter scene that inspired you
- A fallen leaf as an exquisite work of art
- A winter walk in nature
- A poem - **Outwitted**

He drew a circle that shut me out

Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout -

But Love and I had the wit to win

We drew a circle that took him in. - Edwin Markham



## Spirit who broods

Leader Spirit who broods, Spirit who sings,  
mothering bird peace in your wings.  
Spirit of truth laser and light  
searching the path, seeking the right.  
Spirit of love larger than law  
quick to forgive, keeping no score.  
Spirit of hope never subdued  
Spirit of God, Spirit of Good

All **Come from within, come, make us one  
Come and renew the face of the earth.**

## Eternal Spirit - by Jim Cotter

All:  
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

Leader As we pass the shortest day of the year  
we feel the promise of hope and light.  
The cold winds of winter whisper of spring.  
May the beauty of the earth fill you with wonder.  
May this new year be bursting with possibilities unfurling like fern fronds.  
May your life be filled with blessings as numerous as the stars.

## Notices

## Tea, Coffee & conversation

## A Warming Winter Recipe

*"Winter is the time to eat nourishing foods to warm both the body and the soul," says Jo. "Take the time to prepare this soup and share with your family or friends. If you live alone just divide into portions and freeze. If you make a soup filled with organic vegetables and some form of protein (lentils, chickpeas, beans, etc.) you almost have a complete meal. Add some organic rye bread and you do have a complete meal. Wherever possible try to purchase organic ingredients for your soup. Organic food has health and environmental advantages but more importantly it tastes fantastic!"*

### **Replenish Split Pea Soup**

Preparation Time: 10 minutes

Cooking Time: 35 minutes

Serves: 8

### **Ingredients**

1-1/2 cups split peas  
1 bay leaf  
vegetable stock  
1 clove garlic, smashed and chopped  
1 medium onion, chopped and fried  
1 large carrot, cooked and chopped  
2 celery stalks, chopped  
1/2 red pepper, cooked and chopped  
1/4 cup plus 1 tbsp. plain flour  
1/2 cup organic milk  
hearty bread  
freshly ground black pepper  
1/8 tsp. tabasco (optional)  
2 tbsps. fresh parsley, chopped fine  
3/4 cup plain organic yogurt, stirred smooth

### **Instructions**

Wash and sort split peas in colander. Place split peas, and all but last 7 ingredients in large, heavy-bottomed saucepan. Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to low, cover and cook 20 minutes. Shake flour and milk vigorously in container with tight-fitting lid. Shake until all lumps have disappeared. Stir gradually into boiling mixture. Wrap bread in foil and place in warm oven. Reduce heat under soup to low. Cook 10 minutes. Stir often. Add pepper, tabasco and parsley. Cook 5 minutes. Stir in yogurt just prior to serving. Remove from heat. Serve with warm hearty bread.

