



# Galaxies Evening Service 17 September 2006

Service by Pete Cowley & Fergus Collinson



## Welcome:

Welcome to our service tonight called "Look who blew in: Spring" which is a reflection of our welcome to warmer and longer days, pretty flowers, and new life abounding everywhere..



*Spring has sprung! ... but watch out for the rain, winter is not finished with us yet!!*

## Intro (Fergus)

In this painting called "Tonks Ave" is a view of a fantastic Kowhai tree bursting forth with spring flowers. As you can see they are throwing themselves out with boundless verve and enthusiasm . Alas this tree is no longer!

## Galaxies Candle Lighting

**Leader: (someone to light the candle)**

"Let there be light!"

Let it shine like the spring sun,  
bright but not so warm yet,  
yellow like a brand new daffodil,  
illuminating the joy of a new season,  
new people to meet and know,  
a new spring in our step  
God's love is like a sunny spring day  
even amidst sorrow, despair or drudgery  
God's love is constant!

**All:**

**Wherever darkness is to be put to flight,  
"Let there be light!"**



## Poem "Bloom cycle" by S.J. Grady

flowers

slowly

open

a ballet of sublime colour  
a rush of visual exuberance

whose language  
is beyond lips and ears

the summer field is lifted high

when winter comes  
your bloom forgot  
animals wander over frozen earth  
grasses bend to the breath

of ice-wind

& nomads march hunched against  
chill(ed) blue sky

somewhere under those feet  
seeds wait.

## Litany - Rev. Charles F. Flagg (Adapted)

**Leader:** Spring, the triumph of light over darkness,

**Response:** *Victory of newness and growth, and warmth vanquishing cold,*


**Leader:** We, too, know coldness and darkness within us, as it is in our world.

**Response:** *Let our Galaxies candle symbolise our hopes that spring may take place in our hearts as it warms our world.*

## Discussion

We each talk about what we brought with us and what it signifies to us and each other.

## Meditation - *Terasa Cooley*

 This time of early spring let us allow ourselves to extend the anticipation -- to value the time of budding before blooming, of seeding before sprouting.

This is a time of revelation: the revealing of that which is eternal, which we see every year, but still need to be reminded to see it in a new way.

There is also the revelation of that which is new. Every spring we encounter something never before seen. It is that very newness which embodies hope and potential for the wholeness which is yet to be.

Let us allow spring to unfold slowly that we may appreciate the true mystery of rebirth and renewal.

## Meditation - *Stephen M. Shick*

 *Communion with Earth and Sky*

Early spring awakens  
memories of a deeper cold  
and hopes of a warmer wetness,  
sprouting seeds and budding branches.

Gray trees on gray sky screen eyes  
from all that lies waiting:  
    the color of a million flowers,  
    the feathers of migrating songbirds,  
    the blossoming smiles of friends.

Soon we will no longer look to the night stars to guide us.  
Soon the path will be lit and our task certain.

In the warming days we will plant our future,  
    uprooting useless skeletons of last year's harvest,  
    breaking the clods of indifference,  
    carefully pulling the weeds of neglect

so that roots can stretch.

Before the harvest moon rises and we wait again,  
images of still distant summer days  
awaken thoughts of a time when  
all is done that can be done.

Then the harvest.  
Then the transformation.  
Then the baking.  
Then the bread.

All we know and love is in this cycle.  
All that has been or will be is in this loaf.  
Take it.  
Break it.  
Give thanks  
and pass it on.

### Prayer - v. Victoria Weinstein

Divinity is our birthright. God nods to God from behind each of us. But let us remember, as Mr. Emerson said, "divinity is behind our failures and follies also."

In the silence that follows, let us pray  
that we may notice and accept the Divinity of tiny things  
the Divine of ordinary miracles  
and even in the awkward mistakes.  
In frivolous conversation with friends  
in worldless companionship with a loved one --  
in the work that seems futile one day  
but resonates with meaning the next.  
In the shared meal,  
and the shopping list  
In the peaceful sleep  
in the simple procession of the spring days.

We pray this moment to keep tender vigil over our precious, imperfect lives.  
To know each one as a vessel, however cracked or broken, of the Holy.  
So may we strive to recognize the indwelling presence of God in all people,  
in all living things,  
and even in ourselves.

In the silence, may we open our hearts. So may it be. Amen.

### **Announcements**