



Galaxies Evening Service 1 April 2007

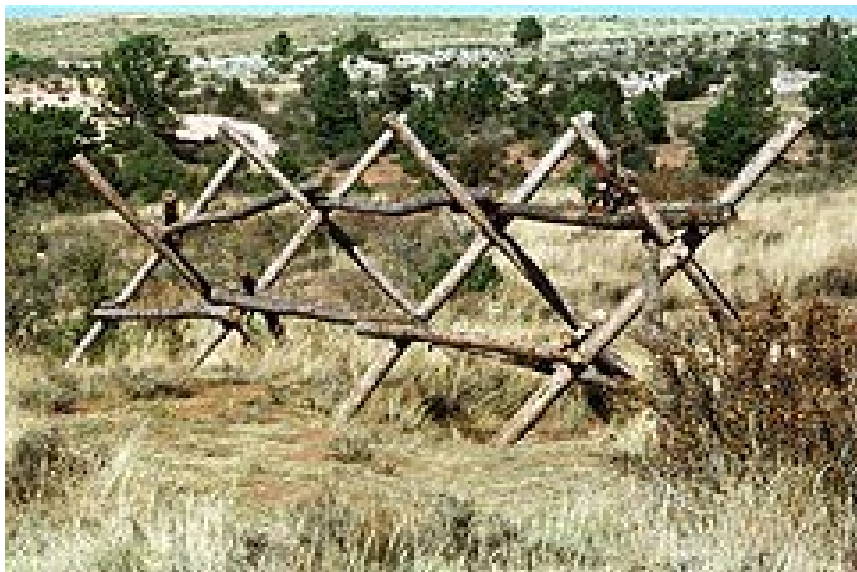
Service by Norman Knipe
& Pete Cowley



Welcome:

Welcome to our service tonight

Easter is almost here and today we are looking at what Easter means for us here and now - we are looking at the past and the near present - at Modern-day Crucifixions.



The desolate fence in Laramie where Matthew Sheppard was crucified!

Setting the Scene

- (Leader lights the Christ Candle)
- Chimes are heard
- **Introduction.**
Can the liturgy and symbols of the traditional worship and the theological statements of the past still hold meaning for us?

A hope for this service is that through the liturgy we use we will be led by our creative thinking to a God whose spirit surrounds us and confronts us in our very being. And also that we will discover that the situations and events that caused Jesus to be crucified are still with us, and with us to a greater extent, so that we will be challenged again to celebrate Easter as a modern-day crucifixion.

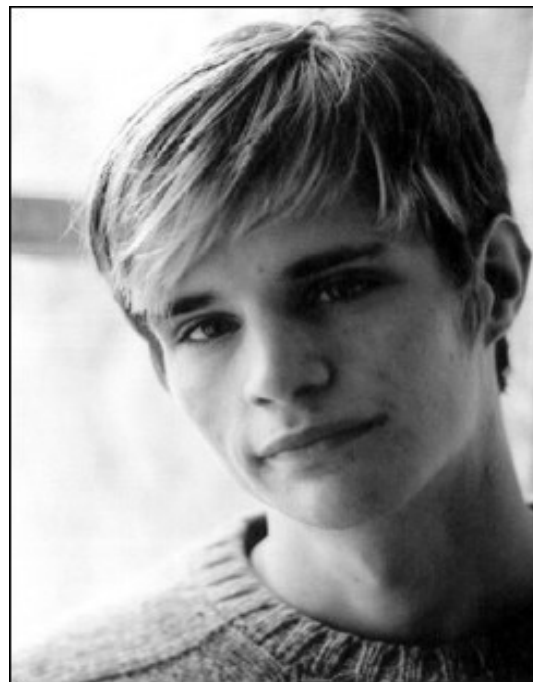


A Modern-day Crucifixion

- The Laramie project - the story of Matthew Sheppard's Crucifixion
(Read by Norman)
- **Breaking the bread and pouring the wine**
- A search into the understanding of Christ's Crucifixion and how it perpetuates today
(Read by Norman)

Song: (From The Jerusalem Passion) Where are the eagles (meditate on the words as the song is played)

Eagles are used in the scriptures as symbolic of believers. The fact that they are creatures of vision that feed on a slain body, provides the background to the poetic question 'where are the eagles?'. The narrator declares that 'eagles' know where the body of Christ is. It is to be found where believers gather as the living body to partake of the broken body of Christ. 'Where are the eagles?' ... where are those whose instinct is to gather in unity as the body of Christ; why don't they see and fly home?



Where are the eagles, where are the eagles?
Why don't they hear, why don't they see? And why don't they fly home?

Make your flight in the summer, Make your flight in the winter,
Before iniquity makes love of many cold.
Make it right with your brother, Before the night hour is over,
Before the lightning flash When the Son will then appear.

Some will say 'here', some will say 'there', only a few will say 'prepare'.
Now is the end, the time is near, Nations are failing now for fear.

There's an Eagle, there's a Man, There's a Lion, there's a Lamb,
There's a Body gathered here, But where, Lord? Where are the eagles?"

Where are the eagles, where are the eagles? Why don't they hear, why don't they see?
And why don't they fly home?

No, He is not in the desert, No, He is not in the temple,
But where the body is found there will eagles fly.
Those who are here He will gather, Those who are not He will scatter,
Before the lightning flash When the Son will then appear.

There's an Eagle, there's a Man, There's a Lion, there's a Lamb,
There's a Body gathered here, But where, Lord? Where are the eagles?"

Young men be swift, old men be strong, knowing the time is not too long.
All men repent, all men believe, come with the eagles, come receive.

Listening to God

(Read by Norman & Pete)

the breaking of the bread and the gushing of the wine
the pain of sorrow and the pulse of hope
the echo of our name
and the bread in our teeth
a cup on our lips
and breathing at our side
as we wait for the sounds of God
the breaking of the bread
and the gushing of the wine.

(A brief silence)

We hear sounds in the distance:
the vibration of human lives
the crackle of fear and the murmur of distrust
the scramble for rice and the tearing of garbage the shuffle of withered limbs and the sigh of rich tourists
the growl of empty bodies and the splash of spent blood
the breaking of the bread and the gushing of the wine.

(A brief silence)

We hear the snarl of a bullet and the snap of a trigger
the sudden yell of unseen mines
the cough of smoking ruins
the whisper of desolation and the silence of a lifeless field
the breaking of the bread and the gushing of the wine.

(A brief silence)

We hear the bleating of the lamb and the breaking of the womb
the death of the lamb and the breaking of the tomb
a word that was healing and a God that was feeling
in the breaking of the bread and the gushing of the wine.

(A brief silence)

And we listen for the bursting of joy
and the bubble of children's faces
and the dancing of willows
and the surprise of open lives
the shout of mountains
and the laughter of a second birth
the leap of our spirit and the swirl of celebration
in the breaking of the bread and the gushing of the wine.

The wonderful news

- **The spirit of Christ with us today**

The resurrection shouts that the spirit of Jesus is here in all the situations and relationships that are part of our life.

Following him means not only celebrating the good news but living it ... With responsibility, courage and vision we can open ourselves to that loving presence empowering us to live his teaching and his belief.

- **The power of Love**

(Read by Norman)



Song: (The Jerusalem Passion) The Communion Chorus

In the certain hope of Christian unity, this celebration anthem looks forward to the day when believers will be able to eat and drink at the table of friends, no longer divided by their separate doctrinal distinctions and traditional divisions; whereupon the blood of Christ, the royal blood, will be able to flow and bring life to the world.

I'll meet you here at one table of friends. We'll meet at last at one table of friends.
Where there once were many, let there now be one, and let the royal blood begin to flow.

And I exchange the betrayer's kiss, and I exchange my denying lips,
For a mouth filled with praise and a heart filled with love.

Hymn: (WOW 669) - I am the light of the world

Chorus:

I am the light of the world
You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds
have found their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun.

to find the lonely and the lost.
to heal their broken souls with love.
to feed the hungry children
with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below, the sky above;
to free the prisoners from their chains,
to make the powerful care,
to re-build the nations,
with strength and goodwill,

to be at one with people everywhere.

to bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old man's heart
and sing to the colours of the earth.

(Jim Strathdee, 1969)

A commissioning

In God we live and move and have our being.

We receive and extend invitations to live this spirit-filled life. These invitations are sometimes spoken and unspoken, in need and in friendship.

Our aloneness often is because we do not hear or accept these invitations from one another. We trudge on never sharing our burdens. We are guilty of looking only to ourselves. We must arise out of that darkness, that aloneness. Each of us can leave that old path and respond to the new, to the call to light and love, to the call to dance. God calls us to dance. Each of us has been called to dance, to move out in joy, shedding our self-consciousness and clothing ourselves with peace. No longer can we afford to wait. God calls us this day to the task of loving.

Song: The Mass is ended, go in peace

The Mass is ended, all go in peace

We must diminish, and Christ increase.

We take Him with us where'er we go,

That through our actions, His life may show.

We witness His love to ev'ry one

By our communion with Christ the Son.

We take the Mass to where (wo)men may be,

So Christ may shine forth for all to see.

Thanks to the Father, who shows the way,

His life is with us throughout each day.

Let all our living and loving be

To praise and honour the Trinity.



Notices