



Galaxies Evening Service 6 May 2007

Service by Fergus Collinson



Welcome:

Welcome to our service tonight

Tonight we celebrating turning 15 years old. We'll do what we do best - Share food and eachother's company, be creative, and support one another.



Theodosius, my huggy cheerful angel

Sometimes he forgets to hold his wings out, and I have to rescue him
Photographer - Seth Fraser

Call to togetherness and sharing:

Leader: God, we are all part of you, your creation, your life and your love.

As we gather together to look back on the last 15 years to see where we have been and to look forward to where we might be in the future

All: May the love of God lead is in surprising twists and turns, self discovery and help us to care for all of creation

Sharing our meal - The Blessing

All: Creator and creating God, we give thanks for the abundance we have here is Aotearoaa. We remember all those who are not so fortunate and will do what we can to help.

WE ARE CREATIVELY FIFTEEN - AWESOME

Lets party!



Fergus wearing a mask made by Crystelle Plimmer.

Photo: Seth Fraserr

I've bought paper and felt tips along - I want us all to do at least two artworks

Make sure one of them is about someone you don't know very well
(I am woefully conscious of running past people most of the time - I apologise for that)

Draw a reckless, mad, thoughtful fun project you'd love to start with these two people.

We'll lay our creations out on the table and look at them together.

We'll talk about how we can make our ideas happen

Then we give them to each other

We all say to each other

Thank you for being my spiritual family



I am real pleased to say, for me, us has grown, is growing or you can say I'm actually pretty pissed off with us



I love feeling much more included
less locked out of most of the conversation,
more valued than I used to be

Thank you Felix Preval, who is me in the play Bouncing with Billie, for your starkly beautiful sentence "Just when I think cruising the lonely streets of 90's Wellington couldn't be any more bleak, daunting... you show me a way in, and I find friends, and lovers and myself."

Franciscan Blessing (Departure)

May God bless you with discomfort ...
at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships
so that you may live deep within your heart

May God bless you with anger ...
at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people
so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace

May God bless you with tears ...
to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and
to turn their pain into joy

May God bless you with enough foolishness ...
to believe that you can make a difference in the world
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done
to bring justice and kindness to all

AMEN



Notices

FABULOUSLY UNEXPECTED AND MIRACULOUS NEWS UPDATE

The very recent elections in Nigeria which have been hugely criticised for being rigged have surfaced the delightful surprise of a vice-president prepared to stop or stall some of the world's harshest anti-gay legislation

Crimes such as men caught having sex with another man were to be punished by 14 years jail.
Anybody caught talking to gay men - 5 years jail

Penalisation of all family and friends seen to be helping, or supporting us

What is especially deeply shameful about this North Korean style legislation is the wider Anglican church's approval - At the recent global Anglican church hierarchy council get together in Lagos it was felt it was more important to stop the Anglican church being split by

the scism following the American Episcopalian churches ordination of a gay bishop, and woman as arch-bishop than to take a Christ-like stand against this truly mediaeval hate legislation

Here in Wellington its pretty damn wonderful (and I'd hope, not unique in Aotearoa) that Bishop Tom Brown is keen to hear from queer people about their experiences of interacting with others of God's family in the Wellington diocese. For all I know, this may be an innovative first - Do we feel welcomed, or disapproved of? Maginalised, or included in aspects of church that interest, challenge and delight us?

At ease to be honest about being us, or expected to live a double life so we don't get trashed/ thrown out? Pass the word around

Reactions to me being Christian and gay are all over the place. They range from admiration that this is where my spiritual core is to utter amazement! Regardless, I notice that church is such a denying outfit none of my range of creative friends want to trial being here even if I'm having fun putting us together vividly for Galaxies



Me in homemade "neighbours with binoculars townhouse" friendly costume on a recent languid (sigh) Newtown summer day! Photo: Seth Fraser