



## Galaxies Evening Service 16 December 2007

Service by Pete Cowley



### Welcome:

Tonight we just 9 days away from Christmas. It is a time of sharing and tonight we have shared a meal together much like Jesus would have done with his friends.

### Around the table:

Dear lover of food and wine  
your laughter doesn't feature in the  
gospels (writers never take humour  
seriously) but your enjoyment of good  
times come through between the words  
and your cosmic jokes shimmer  
on even the dullest days.

Dear lover of parties and people,  
thank You for the gift of celebration  
and the ways your hospitality has touched  
us through two thousand years of dinners,  
picnics, holidays, festivals, weddings,  
dances, birthdays and reunions, reminding  
us that serious concerns all too often  
divide us, that love and laughter heal us  
and make us one.



*A traditional Christmas tree with gifts underneath.*

### Passing the Peace:

**Leader:** Now that we are reminded that God  
the free Spirit shares itself with us, we can share our peace and love with one another.

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.

**All:** 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, which 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.

Each person shares hugs or whatever those around  
them.



## **A Flowering Christmas - a poem by Boyd Glassey**

Reader: The grey green buds -crowd - the dark green foliage,  
times to blaze with glory, for a month of red Epiphany

A moment of joy in an old solid tree  
reaching ever up and out  
for the advent of its next coloured epiphany.

The pohutukawa tree carries the Jesus story  
from Christmas to Christmas, days and years,  
for person to person  
in its strong light of red glow  
returning like a star, every year.



## **Great Spirit Prayer: (all together)**

"Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the wind,

Whose breath gives life to all the world.

Hear me; I need your strength and wisdom.

Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.

Make my hands respect the things you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice

Make me wise so that I may understand the things you have taught my people.

Help me to remain calm and strong in the face of all that comes towards me.

Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.

Help me seek pure thoughts and act with the intention of helping others.

Help me find compassion without empathy overwhelming me.

I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy  
Myself.

Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes.

So when life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

## **Departure:**

Leader: As we depart from this place  
of light,

love,

and warm hearts

may we be a light to others

may we treat all we meet with loving-kindness

may we warm others hearts with our care and commitment

to compassion, truth and justice

in all our dealings.

Have a safe, happy Christmas and remember "the reason for the season"!