



Galaxies Evening Service 25 January 2009

Service by Pete Cowley



Welcome:

Tonight we are thinking about what the new year may bring for us. Thinking about last year and planning for this year.

Gathering together:

Leader: We are members
of a vast cosmic orchestra.
In which each
living instrument
is essential
to the complimentary
and harmonious playing
of the
whole.

ALL: Amen

Introduction:

Summer is extravagant
and over-stated - and showy

Summer colours are bright
and gaudy and over-the-top.

Summer is life abundant
and prolific and overwhelming.

Summer sun is dazzling
**and brilliant and hot -
sometimes.**

Summer rain is warmer,
but just as wet as any other time.

Yet summer riots its colours loudest where sun and showers combine
to bring out the glory.

Just as God's blessings abound
in the joy and sorrow by which all growth comes.



Nothing too religious by Andrew Pratt & Marjorie Dobson

Affirmation of faith (said all together):

Life is just one door after another,
and the thing about doors
is that they don't compromise.
We all know the slamming door.
Sometimes it shuts so fast
that it almost cuts us in two,
and we are left in a state of grief.
At other times a door closes slowly,
squeezing us out of breath
until we have to step aside
and let others be locked out.
A certain fact about doors
is that when one shuts on us
another one always opens,
but that's not easy to see.
Often, I'm so busy knocking
on the door that's solidly shut,
that I'm not aware of the other door
wide open at my back.

The Open Door, Joy Cowley from Oh Light

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.



Notices:

If you have any notices to bring to our attention please speak up.

Workshop: What will the new year bring?

Thinking about last year - what worked, what were highlights.

Possible changes for the future:

- Our services - here is a list of the themes for this year: do we want to make any changes?

22 Feb *Spirit in Art - Letting our creativity flow.*

22 March *Autumn equinox - death and rebirth!*

26 April *Spiritual Cinema Circle video.*

18 May *AIDS memorial Service.*

24 May *Galaxies 17th Birthday!*

28 June *Winter solstice/ Matariki.*

26 July *Reading that has stirred our spirit.*

23 Aug *An adventure!!*

27 Sep *Spring has sprung - new life.*

25 Oct *Season of Creation.*

22 Nov *Flower Communion.*

27 Dec *Christmas down under.*

- **Meeting places:**

- *We could hold some services in the church now that the stage is there and we can face the front.*

- *or outside services/alternative spaces: - botanical gardens, the dell, the peace garden, Bolten St. Cemetery. Waitangi Park, a beach, a walk after our meal - city tracks, Otari Bush, someone's home*

- **Community engagement :**

- *how can we reach people, (suggestion to be a refreshment stop at St. Andrew's at the end of the Gay History Walk which is part of Proud 09)*

- *what do we have to offer, how do we define our "spirituality" define what we "Do"*

- **Things we could incorporate or do:**

- *more Hymns/Music*

- *more artistic endeavours*

Departure:

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.