



# Galaxies Evening Service 28 June 2009

Service by Pete Cowley &  
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## Welcome:

Welcome to our service tonight celebrating Matariki - the Maori New Year which fell on 24 June this year, indicates lengthening days, a time to plant for the spring harvest, respect for the earth and our biosphere. It is a time for celebration of culture, language, spirit and people past and present.

This is the time for the winter solstice which occurred at dusk on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Christmas really should be celebrated at this time of year in our southern hemisphere not in December.

## Time for reflection

*Winter, season of hidden mystery -  
of death that leads to life  
sleep that leads to reawakening  
reflection that leads to action .*

**Bill Wallace.**



## Gathering together

Leader

Behold there is life!  
To God, greetings  
To the visitors, greetings  
To the dead  
Farewell, farewell, farewell  
The dead to the dead  
The living to the living  
To the visitors

Welcome. Welcome, welcome  
Greetings to you  
Who have come to support the  
reason for this times

I am not a knowledgeable person  
at speaking, but it is right that we  
exchange greetings.  
Therefore - Greetings to you all.

### Lighting the GalaXies candle

This candle symbolises inclusiveness  
everyone is welcome in our community.

### Call to worship

Leader: In the time of darkness, light emerges:

**People: Light to guide us on.**

*(a candle is lit)*

Leader: In the heart of a southern winter

**People: We celebrate the turning of the earth.**

*(a candle is lit)*

Leader: In the calendar's mid year

**People: We celebrate the new year, Matariki.**

*(a candle is lit)*

Leader: God, you dance in the stars promising Spring hope and light and love.

**People: We join ourselves to the earth in transformation and renewal naming ourselves, our home, in this place.**

*(a candle is lit)*

### 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 spark. The gift of love, which we share tonight, deepens us as people, deepens us as sisters and brothers.**

**Each person shares hugs, or whatever you are comfortable with, with those around them.**

### Notices

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



## A Winter affirmation:



*Stonehenge, United Kingdom*

Leader: We have arrived at the Winter solstice, a few short days ago and we acknowledge friends who warm us- with coffee or a meal, letters from far away, the loan of a new or old and cherished book, a drink after work, e-mail messages, open fires ... and arms ... and hearts.

**People: We thank you for friends warming us.**

Leader : As the constellation of Matariki reappears during the waning of the June moon we acknowledge the foods brought by Matariki, the hospitality of others and of ourselves. We are thankful that we can choose to miss breakfast, to work through lunch, to grab a snack, knowing that in a world where many are hungry, we have plenty to eat and to share.

**People: We thank our partners in occupation and recreation, we give thanks to those who help provide for our food and drink and shelter.**

Leader: As the days shorten and colours fade from earth. We remember those who mourn, and celebrate the lives of those who have died. As the leaves fall and carpet the cool earth, our memories turn scarlet and brown and golden

**People We acknowledge the winter of loss and mourning; and remember those who live on in their influence in our lives.**

Leader: In the season of mid winter festivities, as jester and fool we acknowledge the greening force in nature's vegetation and in us. We shout, "Your health" and think of those whose lives

are touched by disease, we send thoughts and healing energy to those who are unwell, and send love to soothe and to heal.

**People:** We give thanks for greening life, for the promise of new life from the depths of Winter, and for our well-being.

**Leader:** In Winter darkness, when we doubt our doubting and question our lack of faith. We celebrate questioning and uncertainty. For those who are too sure, we wish the gift of unknowing; For those who know they are right, we wish the adventure of uncertainty. For those who are afraid to disbelieve, we wish the risk of asking questions, For those who vacillate, we wish the heart's ease of choosing what not to believe.

**People:** When Winter chills us and we think with nostalgia of certainty and assurance, We celebrate the fire of our questioning, the passion of our searching, the integrity of our quest.

*(Bronwyn White. 1997. Wellington)*



**Stonehenge Aotearoa**

*During Matariki we celebrate our unique place in the world.  
We give respect to the whenua on which we live,  
and admiration to our mother earth Papat nuku.  
Throughout Matariki we learn about those who came before us.  
Our history. Our family. Our bones.  
Matariki signals growth.  
It's a time of change.  
It's a time to prepare, and a time of action.  
During Matariki we acknowledge what we have  
and what we have to give.  
Matariki celebrates the diversity of life.  
It's a celebration of culture, language, spirit and people.  
Matariki is our  
Aotearoa Pacific New Year.*

## i TELL YOU nONE oF YOU WILL bE IOST

mAtARIKI iS  
mR aND mRS sTERILE  
aND aLICE  
FINDING mY 1947 bERNARDO  
BERTOLUCCI, tHE sHELTERING  
sKY  
sUNGLASSES  
aSKING  
hOW iS eLLA?

...shooting Mrs Sterile  
loading clothes to dry  
on their collapsible  
wood frame  
the way working Mum's for  
centuries have  
left of the De Chiricoco  
Shane painted  
above the computer

Blazing dumpling... stew  
Leaves we found  
outside their  
Ernst Plishke Romahapa Station 1870's  
trailer park shed  
focused on the fire

... needling  
Surveillance politics  
in their writing  
I do too, its

increasing  
I'm reading their core CD poem  
bUG mY rIDE  
Live music  
Cheap theatre  
Spending money on my painting are all  
punishable offences

... ice cream cones  
with black cherry  
Kirsh  
Me and Mrs Sterile clothed  
salaciously licking



... a Yunnan Chinese Regional Development  
ciggie  
London businessman  
Mr Sterile keeps me dry  
under his  
umbrella

Hey! You're got  
Glesga Vladivar  
Oh how...  
g L A S N O S T!, I'm doing bUG mY rIDE  
better  
Mr and Mrs Sterile are going to write  
the music around me

That hill!  
Its got the stark dark madness of  
Mihiwaka  
lunging into it on the South Island Limited  
with Mum

We can barely  
see  
through the smoked up, steamy  
window  
grabbing me saying  
"That is where Fergus would catch  
the Sunday night train back to  
Dunedin

There were  
no lights  
The two uncles would  
tip him out  
Escaped murderers  
shortcut through the tunnel"  
I think she liked  
heroism

Matariki Mihiwaka  
It is a  
McCahon hill  
McCahon lives  
My childhood  
Mihiwaka  
train, steam and smoke  
condensed  
bursting.



## The Thanksgiving - Gloria by Joy Cowley

Leader     Glorious are you, Mystery of Life  
              essence of all creation  
              You are the symphony of stars and planets.  
              You are the music of the atoms within us.  
              You are the dawn on mountain peaks,  
              the moonlight on evening seas.  
              Forest and farm, the rush of the city,  
              everything is embraced in your love.

**Everyone    We rejoice as we sing our gratitude.**

Leader     Glorious are you, O Jesus Christ,  
              Cosmic love in human flesh.  
              You graced the smallness of time and place  
              to teach us to dance to the music.  
              You walk on our seas and heal in our streets.  
              You make your home in our lives,  
              revealing that cross and resurrection  
              are one on the road to freedom.

**Everyone    We rejoice as we sing our gratitude.**

**Glorious are you, O spirit of Truth,  
wisdom and breath of our being.  
You are the wind that sweeps our senses.  
You are the fire that burns in our hearts.  
You are the needle of our inner compass,  
always pointing to true North,  
guiding us on the sacred dance  
into the Mystery of Life.  
We rejoice as we sing our gratitude.**

## Poroporoaki (Farewell/Departure)

**May peace be widespread  
May the sea glisten like greenstone  
May the shimmer of the light  
guide you on your way.**

**Kia hora te marino  
Kia whakapapa pounamu te moana  
Kia tere te karohirohi  
I mua I to huarahi**