



Galaxies Evening Service 28 June 2009

Service by Pete Cowley &
Fergus Collinson



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 22nd. 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**