



Galaxies
Evening Service
5 March 2006
Service by Pete Cowley



Welcome:

The theme for tonight's service is "soundscape of the spirit" in which we listen to some contemporary songs with strong Celtic and Gaelic influences and consider what the words and music are saying to us.

Call to togetherness:

Leader: We are all part of the rhythm of life.
As we mark this day of the journey, may peace be with us.

People: **May we be makers of the peace.**



Leader: Where there is confusion and discord,
People: **We will use loving-kindness as a way through.**

Leader: Where there is coldness and indifference,
People: **We will use the fire of our love to warm the coldness, to light fires of love and banish indifference.**

Leader: Where there is injustice and discrimination
People: **We will challenge it, we will speak out, we will do all we can to change it**

Leader: Where there is joy and hope,
People: **We will celebrate and share it together.**

Leader: Jesus says to us, 'Come and follow me'
Now we bind our hearts together and reaffirm our commitment to think wisely, to act justly, and to live compassionately.
Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

I give thanks for life and put my trust in all its possibilities for good ... For my good, for the good of those whose lives mine touches, for all people, and for the earth itself;

I celebrate the honest search for meaning, for purpose, for truth and wholeness shown by people of faith through the ages, and join them in the quest;

I recognise in Jesus a man of integrity, insight and vision who continually challenges my willingness to settle for too little, both in myself, and in the world around me;

I find in the Christ of faith a source of strength and wholeness, an inspiration to new beginnings, and a spur to be all I am capable of;

I affirm the communities of trust, love and endeavour of those who, from time immemorial, have shared in the search, and who, with me, have felt our imagination quickened, our creativity fired, the boundaries of our understanding and empathy extended;

In these ways, and in the dynamic of their inter-linking I experience that which I call God
And in God I put my trust,

Now and into the future

Amen

(by Ian Harris)

Contemporary Reflection

Soundscapes of the spirit

Enigma - Sadness

Procedamus in pace In nomine Christi, Amen

(Let us go forth in peace In the name of Christ, So be it)

Cum angelis et pueris, fideles inveniamur

(We shall find the faithful in the company of angels and children)

Attollite portas, principes, vestras et elevamini, portae aeternales et introibit rex gloriae Qius est iste Rex glorie?

(Lift up ye heads o ye glorious gates, and be ye lifted up ye everlasting doors, and the king of glory shall come in. Who is the king of glory?)

Sade, dis-moi, Sade, donnes-moi Sade tell me Sade give me

Procedamus in pace In nomine Christi, Amen

(Shall we proceed in peace In the name of Christ, Amen)

Sade, dis-moi Qu'est-ce que tu vas chercher?

le Bien par le Mal la Vertu par le Vice

Sade, dis-moi, Pourquoi l'evangile du Mal?

Quelle est ta religion, Ou sont tes fideles?

Si tu es contre Dieu, tu es contre l'Homme

(Sade tell me what is it that you seek? The rightness of wrong

The virtue of vice Sade tell me why the Gospel of evil ? What is your religion?

Where are your faithful? If you are against God, you are against man)

Sade dit moi pourquoi le sang pour le plaisir ?

Le plaisir sans l'amour.

N'y a t'il plus de sentiment dans le culte de l'homme ?

(Sade tell me why blood for pleasure? Pleasure without love?)

Is there no longer any feeling in man's Faith?)

Sade, es-tu diabolique ou divin? Sade are you diabolical or divine?

Sade, dis-moi Hosanna

Sade, donnes-moi Hosanna

Sade, dis-moi Hosanna

Sade, donnes-moi

(Hosanna Sade tell me, Hosanna, Sade give me, Hosanna, Sade tell me, Hosanna

Sade give me, Hosanna)

In nomine Christi, Amen

(In the name of Christ, Amen)

Discussion: What emotion did the sound evoke.

What impact did the words have, what do you get from them.

Enigmna - Return to innocence

That's not the beginning of the end

That's the return to yourself

The return to innocence

Love - Devotion

Feeling - Emotion

Love - Devotion

Feeling - Emotion

Don't be afraid to be weak

Don't be too proud to be strong

Just look into your heart my friend

That will be the return to yourself

The return to innocence

If you want, then start to laugh

If you must, then start to cry

Be yourself don't hide

Just believe in destiny

Don't care what people say

Just follow your own way

Don't give up and use the chance

To return to innocence

That's not the beginning of the end

That's the return to yourself

The return to innocence

Don't care what people say

Follow just your own way Follow just your own way

Don't give up, don't give up

To return, to return to innocence.

If you want then laugh

If you must then cry

Be yourself don't hide

Just believe in destiny.

Discussion: What emotion did the sound evoke.

What impact did the words have, what do you get from them.

Loreena McKennitt - The Mummers' Dance

When in the springtime of the year · When the trees are crowded
with leaves · When the ash and oak, and the birch and yew · Are
dressed in ribbons fair

When owls call the breathless moon · In the blue veil of the night ·
The shadows of the trees appear · Amidst the lantern
light

We've been rambling all the night · And some time of this day ·
Now returning back again · We bring a garland gay

Who will go down to those shady groves · And summon the shadows
there · And tie a ribbon on those sheltering arms · In the
springtime of the year

The songs of birds seem to fill the wood · That when the fiddler
plays · All their voices can be heard · Long past their woodland
days

And so they linked their hands and danced · Round in circles and in
rows · And so the journey of the night descends · When all the
shades are gone

"A garland gay we bring you here · And at your door we stand · It
is a sprout well budded out · The work of our lord's hand"

Discussion: What emotion did the sound evoke.

What impact did the words have, what do you get from them.

Prayers for the people

God of loving-kindness, peace-on-earth and justice-for-all, we pray, that we will help strengthen the hands of all who strive for peace and justice throughout the world, and, seeing that all human beings are our relatives, we will share the pain of those who are oppressed, and will strive to promote the dignity and freedom of every person.

God of love, in the dignity and worth you give to all your creatures, may we always acknowledge the respect, diversity and richness of your creation; that we may honour the persons who come to us; that we may refuse to use or to be used as objects of selfish gratification; and that we may work for equity and justice for all people. Amen.

Individual prayers from the people gathered

Our Confession - by Michael Leunig

All:

God help us to find our confession;
the truth within us which is hidden from our mind;
the beauty or the ugliness we see elsewhere but never in ourselves;
the stowaway which has been smuggled into the dark side of the heart,
which put the heart off balance and causes it pain,
which wearies and confuses us,
which tips us in false directions and inclines us to destruction,
the load which is not carried squarely because it is carried in ignorance.

God help us to find our confession.
us across the boundary of our understanding.
lead us into the darkness that we may find what lies concealed;
that we may confess it towards the light;
that we may carry our truth in the center of our heart;
that we may carry our cross wisely
and bring harmony into our life and our world.

Amen.

Passing the Peace

Leader:

Let us share our peace and love
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.

People:

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 that 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.

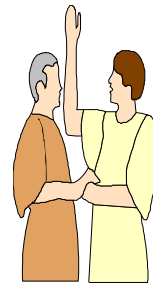
People share the peace with those around them.

Leader

We recognise and bless the gifts brought to the table and those given to support the mission of Galaxies.

The Millenium Prayer (Cliff Richard)- Sung to Auld Lang Zine

Our Father who art in Heaven
Hallowed be thy name
Thy Kingdom come thy will be done on earth as in heaven
Give us to thee our daily bread
And forgive our sins
As we forgive each one of those who sins against us
And lead us not to the time of trial
But deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory



repeat above

Lead us not to the time of trial
But deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom the power and the glory
Let all the people sing Amen
In every tribe and tongue
Let every hearts desire be joined
To see the kingdom come
Let every hope and every dream
Be born in love again
Let all the world sing with one voice
Let the people say amen
repeat above

Amen Amen Amen

The blessing

Let us stop for a moment and calm our thoughts as we prepare ourselves for radical action, just like Jesus:

- to act with peaceful, careful listening; even in the face of aggression
- to calmly and lovingly challenge duplicity, bigotry, prejudice and injustice wherever we encounter it.
- to accept people with loving-kindness in all our interactions.
- to share our joy and blessings freely with others.

Notices

Tea, Coffee and Conversation

Reaching for Rainbows

I keep reaching for rainbows . . .

Thinking one God's morning,

I will wake up with rainbow ribbons in my hair,

With hurts painted over in hues that only angel wings could brush,

Black obliterated, chaos hurled beyond the rainbow and my vision,

The world created in a myriad of colours:

The Hungry fed,

The dying held,

The maimed walking,

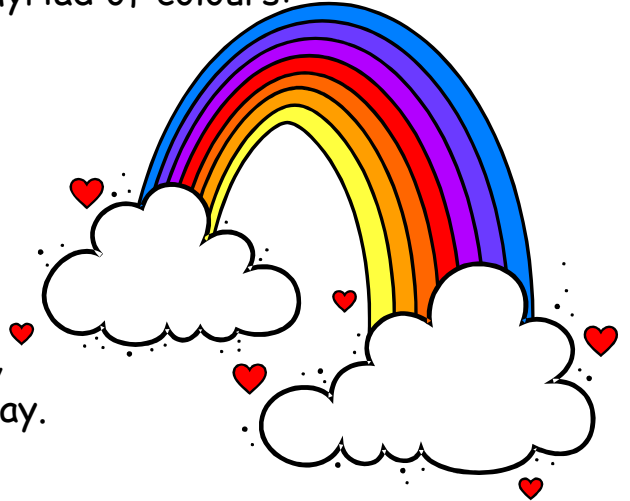
The angry stroked,

The violent calmed,

The oppressed freed,

The oppressors changed,

And every tear wiped away.



I keep reaching for rainbows,

But instead of colours in our storm,

Gray and black infiltrate, dirtying the sky,

And I hear human voices wailing in the darkness,

The never-ending darkness . . .

Just the same

I know the promise of the rainbow.

I keep thinking I'll turn a corner one day

And find a litany of rainbows

Flung across the sky,

Hosannaing back and forth

Through all the ages and

Out into eternity forever amen!

Every tear wiped away

It's a promise

When we become rainbows to each other.