

**St Andrews on Zoom  
13<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – Lent 2**

**WE REMEMBER THE CHRISTCHURCH TERROR ATTACKS ON THE 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019**

**Today's service was created by  
David Douglas, Laura Hurtado and Fiona McDougal**

**PRELUDE**

**INTRODUCTION**

We are doing things differently again today due to the spread of COVID in Wellington. Please bear with us as we make this transition to ZOOM church and any technical difficulties or glitches in the service that may arise. Many thanks to all the people who have worked so hard and been so flexible in order for this service to happen. Please join in the songs and responses. We won't be able to hear you but you can still participate!

This service was put together by David Douglas, Laura Hurtado and myself, Fiona McDougal. Laura couldn't make it today, but David and I have got together in my house in Upper Hutt to lead our worship. Welcome to my home.

We affirm the sustaining and enlivening effects of gathering together to worship, especially in difficult times. People in Russia, Ukraine, Afghanistan and Tonga, Australia and the UK and many other countries round the world also gather to worship today. We unite in solidarity with all who long, as we do for justice, peace and compassion to flourish in our world.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let there be joy in our coming together in the LIGHT of this new day.

Let truth be heard in the words we speak and the songs we sing.

Let there be health and healing for the DARKNESS of disharmony and despair. Let there be silence for the voice within us and beyond us.

**SILENCE**

With gratitude in our hearts that we can still worship together, even in these circumstances, we sing our first hymn.

**HYMN**

**'Give thanks for life'**

Words © Shirley Murray (AA 45)

Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams (CH4 736&WOV 384)

1. Give thanks for life,  
the measure of our days,  
mortal, we pass  
through beauty that decays,  
yet sing to God  
our hope, our love, our praise,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!
2. Give thanks for those  
who made their life a light  
caught from the Christ-flame,  
bursting through the night,  
who touched the truth,  
who burned for what is right, Alleluia! Alleluia!

3. And for our own,  
our living and our dead,  
thanks for the love  
by which our life is fed,  
a love not changed  
by time or death or dread, Alleluia! Alleluia!

4. Give thanks for hope,  
that like the wheat, the grain  
that lies in darkness  
does its life retain  
in resurrection  
to grow green again, Alleluia! Alleluia!

**WELCOME**

**David**

E te whānau a Te Karaiti  
Ngā mihi aroha ki a tātou katoa.

**Kia ora**

**GATHERING PRAYER**

Here in this moment our broken world of violence and racism is not far from us.

**We are clearly connected with those who continue to suffer**

Here in the presence of our shared lives the broken parts of ourselves are made whole.

**We sense again our connection with all who celebrate the joy and goodness of life ----**

**JESUS' PRAYER**

Jim Cotter paraphrase

***Eternal Spirit***

***Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Love-Maker,  
source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,***

***loving God, in whom is heaven:***

***the hallowing of your name***

***echo through the universe!***

***The way of your justice be followed***

***by the peoples of the world!***

***Your heavenly will be done***

***by all created beings!***

***Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.***

***With the bread we need for today, feed us.***

***In the hurts we absorb from one another,  
forgive us.***

***In times of temptation and test,  
strengthen us.***

***From trials too great to endure, spare us.***

***From the grip of all that is evil, free us.***

***For you reign in the glory***

***of the power that is love, now and for ever.***

***Amen.***

## **HYMN 'Song of faith that sings forever'**

**v FFS 57 s 1-3**

Words: Shirley Murray © Hope Publishing Co. 1999  
Music: Abbeyfield Colin Gibson © Hope Publishing co. 1999

1. Song of faith that sings forever  
through God's people, ages long,  
Word that holds the world together  
when our hearts take up the song,  
always, always, somewhere sounding,  
though the source we do not see,  
counterpoint to all despairing,  
it is hope that sets the key.
2. Song of faith in exaltation,  
rising through the vaults of prayer,  
tune of simple celebration  
offered up in open air,  
song in chapel and cathedral,  
descant to our daily tone,  
song from sickbed or in prison,  
faith must often sing alone.
3. And when life would overwhelm us,  
when there seems no song to sing,  
hear the constant voice of courage  
out of fear and suffering:  
all who've loved and trusted Jesus,  
all who lift us to be strong,  
endless, endless are the voices  
of the faith that makes the song.

## **LIGHTING THE MOSAIC CANDLE Fiona**

### **PASSING THE PEACE**

Traditionally we shake hands to pass the peace and say, "peace be with you." Now that COVID-19 is here, and we are on ZOOM we suggest you greet those you are with at the moment. Or perhaps after the service ends get in touch with someone here today and check in with them to see how they are doing.

## **THE WORD IN TEXTS Pat Booth**

### **Hebrew Bible Isaiah 2: 4 – 5**

### **Gospel/New Testament Luke 13: 29 - 35**

### **RESPONSE**

For the Word in scripture,  
for the Word among us,  
for the Word within us,  
**we give thanks.**

## **REFLECTION Part 1 'Kings and Prophets'**

### **David Contemporary reading**

**The Perfect Mosaic** Vanessa Micel

St Athanasius School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

We are one people – under God's blue sky. We are one race --- the race of human beings. We are one mosaic – with many different pieces – all fitting together, perfectly. Yet some do not understand, --- that though we are very different, – we belong together, in harmony. Some people think that if people look different that it is a bad thing, but what would a mosaic be without different colours and coloured pieces. It would be nothing, it would not be interesting, but with many colours and shapes and sizes it becomes beautiful like us. Everyone is beautiful – no matter what the colour of their skin, no matter what their shape or size or belief. Because we are one people – under God's blue sky. We are one race, --- the race of human beings. We are one mosaic, with many different pieces, --- all fitting together, perfectly."

### **Reflection Part 2 From darkness to light by Laura Hurtado read by Fiona**

"Grief, kindness, hope. It has two sides, like day and night. The night part is dark. It is painful and sad. At the same time the night gives hope that soon it will be over and the sun is going to come out."

Words of Fared Ahmed, whose wife was killed on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Fared is a member of the NZ Order of Merit for services to interfaith communities.

## **SONG**

### **'We are connected'**

by Chris Skinner

1. We are connected like branches to the tree.  
We all walk the planet, let's walk with dignity.  
No matter our colour, no matter our creed,  
all of us are gifted and all of us we need.
2. We are connected, one great family.  
Let's light the fire together and let it shine for all to see.  
Shine, everybody standing in the light;  
shine, everybody warmed by the fire.
3. Shine, no one left in the dark or in the cold;  
shine, come together to embrace and to hold;  
shine, forgive and heal the hurts that divide;  
shine, standing with, along, beside.
4. Shine, Shine! We are connected, connected!  
Breath and life, connected.  
Earth, sea and sky, connected.  
Hands and hearts, connected.
5. We are connected like branches to the tree.  
We all walk the planet, let's walk with dignity.  
No matter our colour, no matter our creed,  
all of us are gifted and all of us we need.

## LITANY

A litany celebrating Hebrew insights and Islamic traditional verses from the Holy Quran.

David

The Talmud and the Rabbis teach:

“We share similar ethical and moral values and some key religious practices. **We believe in one God with different names and worshipped in different ways.** We can learn about each other's faith which encourages us to learn more and so deepen our own faith.

**We recognise the divine in each person. “That since we are ‘made in the image of God’ this not only calls us to strive to be holy because God is holy but that every act of disrespect to another human being is an act of disrespect towards God himself.”** that the **righteous of all nations have a share in the world to come so we must be tolerant,** understanding, and informed as to the various ways righteousness may be achieved.”

Islam also teaches the acceptance of human diversity:

“Had God so willed He could have made *Mankind* as one community that he may try you, **but He made you as you are. So live with one another in good works.**

To God you will return and then He will inform you in that which you differed.” (*Sura V. v.111*) **“We believe in God and the revelation given to us and to Abraham and Ismail, Isaac and Jacob** and the tribes and that given to Moses and Jesus and that given to all the prophets from their Lord **and we make no differences between one another of them as we bow to God.”** (*Sura 11. v. 136*) “If the enemy incline toward peace, do also incline toward peace and trust in God **for He is the One that heareth and knoweth all things.”** (*Sura V111. v.61*) “The servants of God Most Gracious are those who walk on earth with humility **and when the ignorant address them, they say, 'Peace'.**” (*Sura XXV. v.53*) “O Mankind we created you from a single pair of a male and female and made you into nations **and tribes that ye may know each other, not that ye may despise each other.** Verily the most honoured of you in the sight of God is he who is the most righteous of you. **And God has full knowledge and is well acquainted with all things.**” (*Sura XL1X, v.13*)

## OFFERING

Fiona

We can't physically give our offering today, but some already give online. Another option might be to give to a charity online. Or as you listen to the offering music pause to think of someone you could offer a helping hand to this week.

## OFFERTORY MUSIC

## OFFERING HYMN AA 127 'Take my gifts'

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Take whatever I can offer--  
gifts that I have yet to find,  
skills that I am slow to sharpen,  
talents of the hand and mind,  
things made beautiful for others  
in the place where I must be:  
take my gifts and let me love you,  
God who first of all loved me.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Fiona

Glynn Cardy "A book of blessings"

Blessed is a world where the weak  
are protected, none go hungry,  
and the benefits of life are shared.

**Blessed is a world where everyone  
Is treated with dignity and respect,  
And all know a safe place called home.**

Blessed is a world where animals  
and plants, the land and the oceans,  
are respected and cherished.

**Blessed is a world where peace is grounded  
In justice, justice is guided by love,  
And love is gifted unconditionally.**

Blessed is a world where with courage,  
kindness, and grace we stand together,  
and create this vision of hope.

**May our offering today fulfil that blessing  
Amen**

**NOTICES-** please send any notices for the coming week to the office to be included in the next e-news.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### CIRCLE OF PRAYER

We think today of the people of Nicaragua. We hold all refugees in our hearts. We pray in particular for those detained for many years in Papua New Guinea & Nauru. We give thanks for progress that has been made and pray that their calls for justice might yet find a compassionate response. In New Zealand, we remember those in Parliament, and today we name Penny Simmonds (Invercargill) and Scott Simpson (Coromandel). Here in the Central Presbytery, we pray for the leaders and people of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Hunterville.

