



WESLEY WELLINGTON

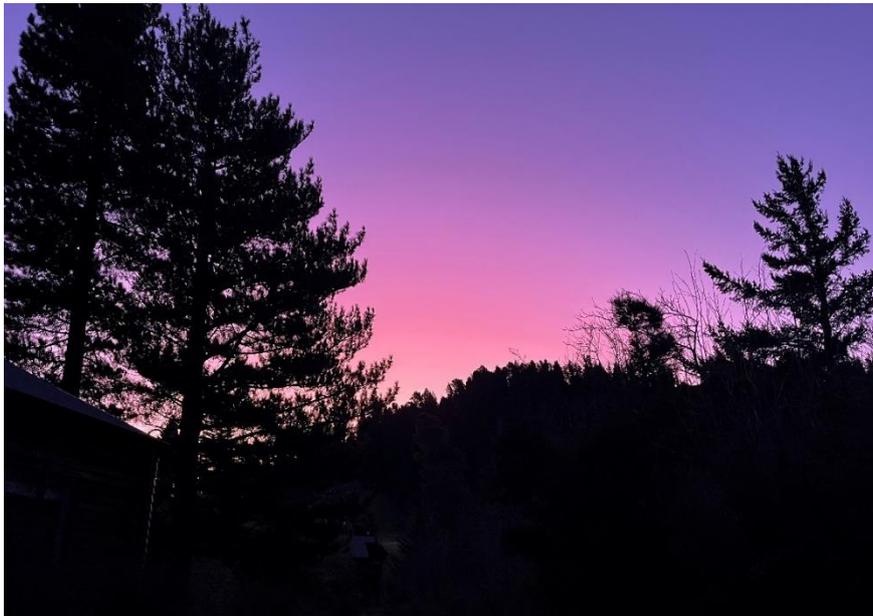
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Sunday 25th September 2022

Season of Creation - Cosmos

Haere mai ki tēnei Whare Karakia

Welcome to this House of Prayer



**We are a multi-racial Christian community:
Methodist in affiliation – Ecumenical in intention
Diverse in theology – Inclusive in outreach.**

**Kia ora koutou katoa — Talofa Lava
Malo e lelei — Bula Vinaka Greetings to you all!**

**Order of Service - 10am Congregation
25th September 2022 –Cosmos Sunday**

**Leader: Rev Nicola Teague Grundy
Organist: Colin Scarf**

Welcoming you today is Alan Dine.

Welcome to today's service. A special welcome to visitors. We hope you will enjoy worshipping with us this morning and will join us again.

WELCOME AND SAFETY BRIEFING – Alan Dine

GATHERING

LIGHTING THE CANDLE – Wendy Conwell

The candle is lit

Here is fire and air, warmth and breath, the air in our lungs, the heat on our skin. This flame is warm as the companionship of friends is warm.

We bless air and fire, with our every breath, with every rising of the sun.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Fountain of life ..

Pulse of life ... Breath of life ...

Earth is filled with the presentness of God.

Holy! Holy! Holy!

The cosmos is filled with the presentness of God.

Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with the presentness of God

Together this day, let us sense the face of God in all creativity.

HYMN “God of the Galaxies” [AA – 54 vs 1-3]

God of the galaxies spinning in space,
God of the smallest seed, our living source,
yours is the gift of this beautiful place.

*Let us care for your garden
and honour the earth.*

Careless and covetous, gross are our greeds,
taking the riches the garden provides,
wasting its goodness, forgetting its needs.

Forests and rivers are ravaged and die,
raped is the land till it bleeds in its clay,
silenced the birdsong and plundered the sea.

OPENING PRAYER

We invite the cosmos to worship with us.

**We invite glittering galaxies high in the sky
to radiate the splendour of God’s presence.**

We call distant domains of space to celebrate with us.

**We invite nebula, nova and black holes
to thank God for their fascinating formation.**

We summon that piece of stardust called Earth,
**to pulse with the rhythm of God’s presence
and celebrate God’s glory in this planet garden.**

We invite millions of living species to dance with life,
**the turtle, the toad and the elephant,
the earthworm, the ant and the dragonfly.**

We invite every creature in the web of creation
**to consciously connect with others
in this community called the cosmos.**

Dance, creation, dance!

Dance with cosmic energy!

Silence

WORDS OF AWARENESS

In the midst of our every day
when life is full
and we are about all those things we are about,
we scarcely have time to fit it all in.

And yet, here we are,
squeezing into this not-so-special-anymore day
a moment to glimpse the Holy,
to step out of time
into a timelessness of awe.

With those who have gone this way before,
and those who have yet to venture forth,
we travel roads of wonder
and give thanks.

HYMN: HYMN “God of the Galaxies” [AA – 54 vs 4-5]

Let there be beauty, and let there be air
fragrant with peace, never poisoned with fear,
freed from the plagues of pollution and war.

*Let us care for your garden
and honour the earth.*

Life is a holy thing, life is a whole,
linking each creature and blessing us all,
making connections of body and soul.

Shirley Murray

REMEMBERING

This morning you received a sprig of Rosemary as you entered.
Smell the leaf and rub it between your fingers
and share with the person next to you
times when you were acutely conscious
of the vast world of time and space.

(Conversation)

We remember moments of wonder,
sensing the infinite world of space,
feeling the mystery of the moment.

We remember and rejoice.

Now away from the busyness of life
and in the silence of this sacred place,
let us give thanks for the gift of life,
and the mystery of an endless horizon
stretching out across the universe.

(Silence)

Dance, creation, dance!

We give thanks for living cosmos

So much a part of who we are!

HYMN: “For the music of creation” [AA – 41]

For the music of creation,
for the song your Spirit sings,
for your sound’s divine expression,
burst of joy in living things:
God, our God, the world’s composer,
hear us, echoes of your voice:
music is your art, your glory,
let the human heart rejoice!

Psalms and symphonies exalt you,

drum and trumpet, string and reed,
simple melodies acclaim you,
tunes that rise from deepest need,
hymns of longing and belonging,
carols from a cheerful throat,
lilt of lullaby and love song
catching heaven in a note.

All the voices of the ages
in transcendent chorus meet,
worship lifting the senses,
hands that praise and dancing feet.
over discord and division
music speaks your joy and peace,
harmony of earth and heaven,
song of God that cannot cease!

Shirley Murray

MINISTRY OF THE WORD - Melina Takau-Samson

In effortless phrases, well-worn upon our lips,
simple forms of inspiration catch us, and call to us again.

**As these words settle into our minds,
May we feel them stir and lift our hearts.**

Proverbs 8: 22-31 [CEV]

From the beginning, I was with the LORD.
I was there before he began to create the earth.
At the very first, the LORD gave life to me.
When I was born, there were no oceans
or springs of water.
My birth was before mountains were formed
or hills were put in place.
It happened long before God had made the earth
or any of its fields or even the dust.

I was there when the LORD put the heavens in place
and stretched the sky over the surface of the sea.
I was with him when he placed the clouds in the sky
and created the springs that fill the ocean.
I was there when he set boundaries for the sea
to make it obey him, and when he laid foundations
to support the earth.
I was right beside the LORD, helping him plan and build.
I made him happy each day, and I was happy at his side.
I was pleased with his world and pleased with its people.

Psalm 104: 24-26 [CEV]

Our LORD, by your wisdom
you made so many things;
the whole earth is covered
with your living creatures.
But what about the ocean
so big and wide?
It is alive with creatures,
large and small.
And there are the ships,
as well as Leviathan,
the monster you created
to splash in the sea.

REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, who creates all things,
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.

We believe in God as the source of all life,
who baptises this planet with living water.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one,
the malnourished one, the climate refugee,
who loves and cares for this world and who suffers with it.

HYMN: “The Cosmic Christ”

Amazing is the Christ who died
to void all sin and curse,
just as amazing is his life
that fills the universe.

The risen Christ is more than one
who waits on some far shore;
in, with and under ev’ry thing
Christ is the living core.

The hidden Christ sustains for us
the blueprint of the skies,
the wisdom in each fragile form,
the soul that lights the eyes.

The cosmic Christ moves deep below
to heal the wounds within,
when all creation groans in pain
because of human sin.

The cosmos hails the Christ, the One
who reconciles all things,
‘til all creation rises new
with healing in her wings.

As Christ unites the universe,
restores this Earth once more,
a cosmic song reverberates,
a rich symphonic score.

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OFFERING

Of all that we have been given we offer these gifts in return,
May these and all that we do, all that we have, all that we are
Be used with wisdom, justice and care. We ask this in the name of Jesus,
In whom God gifted God's own self. **Amen.**

COMMUNITY TIME

If we are in Christ, we are becoming a new creation.

We see God around us. We see God within us.

We give thanks to our Creator.

Let us show the caring nature you have instilled within us by greeting each other as a sign of God's justice of peace, love, forgiveness and grace.

The peace of our Creator be with you in all things.

And also with you.

Notices – Alan Dine

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

We thank you God for a wondrous planet home, connected with a web of worlds we call the cosmos.

God our Creator, you entrust to our care the treasures of the earth:

Help us to be wise and faithful stewards, that we may preserve its riches for future generations and share justly, with all people, the bounty you provide. We pray for those who enjoy too little of the earth's resources:

For the hungry, the homeless, refugees;

For those who have no security, dignity or peace.

Hear the cries of your people, and in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

God our companion, you entrust to our care the treasure of human

relationships: help us to be loyal and faithful to the families and friends

you give to us that we may live in love for one another and together create a community of care.

We pray for those who do not know the joy of companionship:

for those who are alone or estranged from families and friends;
for those who are unnoticed, unwanted, unloved.

Hear the cries of your people, and in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

God our Comforter, you entrust to our care the treasure of your little ones: Help us to be compassionate and faithful in our care for those who suffer, and in our own times of weakness help us to accept the care of others. We pray for those in need of consolation, comfort and hope:

for those who live in fear, anxiety or despair;

for the sad and the sorrowing, the sick and the dying.

Hear the cries of your people, and in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

God, our beginning and our end, help us to serve you faithfully in all that you entrust to us. Teach us to empathise with Earth. Make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation, cries for justice from the air, the clouds and the sky. Make our faith sensitive to the groans of the Spirit in creation, groans of longing for a new creation. Make our hearts sensitive to the songs of our kin, songs of celebration from the stars, the rains and the light.

God our Creator, God our Companion, God our Comforter, God our beginning and our end, teach us to care.

LORD'S PRAYER

E tō mātou Matua i te rangi

Kia tapu tou Ingoa

Kia tae mai tou rangatira-tanga.

Kia meatia tau e pai ai

ki runga i te whenua,

kia rite ano ki to te rangi.

Homai ki a mātou aianeī

he taro mā mātou mo tēnei ra.

Murua o mātou hara
Me mātou hoki e muru nei
i o te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.
Aua hoki mātou e kawea kia whaka-waia;
Engari whaka-orangia mātou, i te kino:
Nou hoki te rangatira-tanga,
te kaha,
me te kororia,
Ake, ake, ake.
Āmine.

HYMN: “Touch the earth lightly” [AA – 143]

Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster, clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God’s garden, hope in God’s children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ re-connect us,
using us gently and making us one.

Shirley Murray

PARTING WORDS

Let us take on this week's life with renewed hope and imagination ...

The candle is extinguished

May the Earth continue to live,
May the heavens above continue to live,
May the rains continue to dampen the land,
May the wet forests continue to grow,
Then the flowers shall bloom
And we people shall live again.

And the blessing of God with us all,
the creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of the World. Amen.

Grace (*said together*)

**Kia tau ki a tātou katoa,
te atawhai o to tātou Ariki o Ihu Karaiti,
me te aroha o te Atua,
me te whiwhinga tahitanga
ki te Wairua Tapu. Amine**

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Liturgy for this service was sourced from:

Uniting Church of Australia – Season of Creation 2022 Series C: Wisdom in Creation,
<https://seasonofcreation.com/worship-resources/liturgies>

Intercessory Prayers from: Nelson. Janet, 1999, Let Us Pray; HarperCollins*Religious*, Australia.

*Acknowledgement: We thank the Garside family for refreshment today.
We also acknowledge the Fijian women for the floral decorations.*

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Or the 10am Facebook Page to keep up-to-date with services and news:
<https://www.facebook.com/wesleywellington.methodistchurch.10am>