

# Service of Thanksgiving

*for Graduation*

## **WELCOME**

*A welcome and short statement of the purpose of the gathering.*

Ko te rā tēnei i hanga e Ihowā. Kia hari, kia koa tātou.

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

... [words of welcome]

## **WAIATA | SONG**

## **PRAYER**

Kia inoi tātou, let us pray.

On this graduation day, we give you praise, O God,  
and celebrate the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom.

For you have gifted us with the ability to  
make sense of and understand your world in all its intricacy, complexity, & mystery.

Yet we confess that even in our understanding,  
there is so much that we don't understand.  
Even in making sense of things,  
we recognise that our perspective is so limited.  
We confess that when we think we know more than we do,  
we get into trouble;  
in seeking to dominate, control, and possess the world around us,  
we do not grasp the consequences of our actions.  
Forgive our hubris.  
And grant us humility to never stop listening and learning.

In our knowing, may we dare to be wise:  
to use our knowledge in ways that heal and renew the world.  
Teach us to listen to your Word, who is the wisdom of creation,  
the inner logic through whom all things integrate and cohere.  
Awaken us to your Spirit, you is bringing all things to their good purpose  
in the fullness of time.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.

## **READING(S)**

*Followed by a few words of reflection*

## **MUSICAL REFLECTION**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION**

*If the numbers allow, opportunity may be given for each of the graduands to share something of their story.*

Today, we give thanks.  
For those who have held us ceaselessly in prayer,

both those who are here and those who are absent,  
e te Matua aroha | loving Father, **we give you thanks.**  
For the knowledge which we have rooted ourselves in,  
and for the ways we have grown and been nourished,  
e te Matua aroha | loving Father, **we give you thanks.**  
For comfort and strength in the moments of hardship  
when we felt we had nothing left in ourselves,  
e te Matua aroha | loving Father, **we give you thanks.**  
For friendship, fellowship, and moments of joy,  
when our souls have been restored,  
e te Matua aroha | loving Father, **we give you thanks.**  
For your loving presence, nearer to us than our very breath,  
holding us, guiding us, leading us in the unwritten future,  
e te Matua aroha | loving Father, **we give you thanks.**  
For the striving and the hoping,  
and your glorious future which is coming,  
e te Matua aroha | loving Father, **we give you thanks.**

Even as we give thanks, O God,  
we acknowledge that your coming future is not yet here.  
We live in a world of injustice, violence, sickness, and war.  
And so on this day of celebration,  
we ask that you would take us as we are  
and use us as an offering for the healing of your world.  
May we use our knowledge to hasten towards your coming kingdom.  
We pray these things in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying...

*Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.*

*E to mātou Mātua i te rangi,  
kia tapu tōu ingoa.  
Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.  
Kia meatia tau e pai ai  
ki runga ki te whenua,  
kia rite ano ki to te rangi.*

*Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
And deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
Now and forever. Amen.*

*Homai ki a mātou āiane  
he taro mā mātou mo tēnei rā.  
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 whakawaia;  
Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino.  
Nou hoki te rangatiratanga,  
te kaha, me te kororia,  
Āke, āke, āke, Amine.*

## **BLESSING of the GRADUANDS**

*By Christine Longhurst (extracted from Re:Worship)*

May God's blessing rest on each one of you.  
May God's light shine on you, and make your path clear.  
May hope carry you through the challenging times,  
and gratitude be your response when life is good.

May your days be filled with curiosity and adventure,  
and may you discover the incomparable joy  
of living lives that bring honour and glory to God. Amen.

**OR:**

Mā Ihowā koutou e manaaki, māna koutou e tiaki;  
Mā Ihowā e mea kia tīaho tōna mata ki a koutou,  
Māna anō hoki koutou e atawhai;  
Mā Ihowā tōna kanohi e whakaara ki a koutou,  
Māna anō e tuku te rangimārie ki a koutou.

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

# HĪMENE | HYMN

## BLESSING

*Written by Cheryl Lawrie, extracted from Re:Worship*

we leave today  
going into a future  
as yet unmapped

take faith with you as you go;  
into the parts of your life not yet travelled by love  
into the parts of the world unexplored by grace  
let compassion and hope be the roads that you follow  
today and always

Kia tau ki a tātou katoa,  
te atawhai o tō tātou Ariki, a Ihu Karaiti,  
me te aroha o te Atua,  
me te whiwhingatahitanga  
ki te Wairua Tapu,  
ake, ake, ake Amine.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship  
of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all,  
now and forever, Amen.