

Service of Holy Communion

A Liturgy for Takurua - Winter

GATHERING

Our help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:2

Let us gather to find rest for our weary souls
in the embrace of the Mothering God
who cradles the world in the hands of love.

SILENCE

During which a candle may be lit

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Where can we go from your spirit?
Or where can we flee from your presence?
If we ascend to heaven, you are there;
if we make our bed in Sheol, you are there.
If we take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead us,
and your right hand shall hold us fast.
If we say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,

and night wraps itself around me,”
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you. Amen.

Psalm 139:7-12

I roto i te pōuri te mārama e whiti ana; heoi, kīhai i mau i te pōuri.

The light shines in the darkness, **and the darkness did not overcome it.**

John 1:5

PRAYER for WINTER

Taken from Michael Leunig's "The Prayer Tree"

We give thanks for the blessing of winter:
Season to cherish the heart.
To make warmth and quiet for the heart.
To make soups and broths for the heart.
To cook for the heart and read for the heart.
To curl up softly and nestle with the heart.
To sleep deeply and gently at one with the heart.
To dream with the heart. To spend time with the heart.
A long, long time of peace with the heart.
We give thanks for the blessing of winter:
Season to cherish the heart. Amen.



TIME OF SHARING

This is a sacred space for cherishing one another's heart.
It is a safe space and a non-judgmental space.
If you would like to share, you are welcome. If you would rather not, that is fine too.
...time of sharing...
...Even before a word is on our tongue, God knows it completely.
In what has been said, and in what has been left unsaid,
know that you are heard, you are known, you are loved, held in the heart of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING(S)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

This bread and wine is a seal of the Holy Spirit.

It is a physical sign of the innermost truth:

that we are deeply cherished, protected, cared for, and held safe in Christ, who lifts us into the very heart of God.

And so even in the darkest and longest of nights, we give praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one

who comes in the name of the Lord

Hosanna in the highest.

Tapu, tapu, tapu, e Ihowā,

e te Atua o ngā mano.

Ki tonu te rangi me te whenua

i te nui o tou korōria.

Hōhana i runga rawa.

Ka whakapaingia tēnei e haere mai nei

i runga i te ingoa o te Ariki.

Hōhana i runga rawa.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

In this meal, seal us once more, O God,

with the fullness of your life poured out for the world.

As we gather in the long, dark of winter,

we remember how your Spirit brooded over the chaos,

bringing light and life from the darkness.

We remember that you provided for your people in the desert,

bringing water from the rock and food from the heavens.

We remember how you cherished your people,

holding them even when they were far from home.

We remember how John the Baptist preached hope in the wilderness

orienting the people the coming day.

And so in our wintertime, we look with John the Baptist to your kingdom coming.
The day is dawning, the light is breaking, the frost is thawing.
Come, Lord Jesus, warm our hearts once more
with the hope of your life poured out for the world.
Great is the mystery of faith: ***Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.***

And we live in this mystery. Warmed by the light of the coming day,
we remember that on the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread,
and giving thanks he broke it, saying,
“this is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”
In the same way, after supper, he took the cup, saying,
“this cup is new covenant sealed in my blood.
Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.”
For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you proclaim the death of the risen Lord until he comes.

Holy Spirit of God, brooding over the wilderness,
through these gifts of bread and wine,
may we be united with you, with one another, and with your world,
and lifted through Christ into the eternal, loving heart of God.
The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
The cup we take is a sharing in the life of Christ.
The gifts of God for the people of God.
Communion is shared, after which a short post-communion prayer may be said.

BENEDICTION (or a short hymn)