

# Inaugural Service

*for the Beginning of an Academic Year*

*An inaugural service is a ceremonial way of marking the beginning of something (in this case of the academic year). Often it will include a commissioning or installation, for instance the installation of a new student executive. If this is the case, the commissioning part of the Service of Commissioning liturgy can easily be added in.*

## **GREETING**

Nau mai, haere mai,  
welcome to this service to mark the beginning of [name occasion].  
Kia noho a Atua ki a tātou katoa. May God be with us all.

***Mā Atua tātou e manaaki. May God bless us.***

*[Introduction]*

## **HĪMENE or HYMN**

## **STATEMENT of PURPOSE**

B6: Inauguration Service, Services for Campus Life, Otago Campus Chaplains

## OPENING PRAYER

Kia inoi tātou, let us pray.

At the beginning of this new year, we pause before you,  
the One in whom we live and move and have our being...

In all the uncertainty and newness that this new year brings,  
we find comfort in this place in which we gather,  
and this whenua on which we stand:

Here, we are connected to those who have come before,  
and rooted to the earth that nourishes us.

We are reminded of the countless prayers that have been offered here:  
the struggles, the failures, the perseverance,  
the hopes, the faith, the humanness,  
of those who have come before.

We add our prayers to theirs, bringing all we are before you,  
the one who is renewing, nurturing, and perfecting all things.  
Take us as we are, accept the offering of our lives,  
and summon out all that we will be,  
so that the seeds we sow this year bear fruit for years to come.

I runga i te ingoa o te Atua,  
o te Matua, o te Tama, o te Wairua Tapu.

***Amine.***

**OR:**

E te Atua, author of life, of all that is, around us and within us.  
We pause at the beginning of this new chapter  
to awaken the whole of ourselves to you.

In pressing pause, we do not put aside our emotions and experiences but seek to understand them in the context of your unconditional love.

We look to your sacred whenua,  
the land which has told many stories old and new.  
Stories of hopes and dreams, success and failures.  
The whenua tells the story of those who have been before  
and reminds us of your constant and unfailing provision through it all.  
The Ōwheo, the water of the Leith, tells of the constant flow of your peace  
in times of anxiety and uncertainty.  
The sunrise over Flagstaff, Signal Hill, Mt. Cargill and Saddle Hill,  
tell us that in times of darkness a new dawn will come.  
The flower that blooms and decays, to make room for something new  
tells of the way, new life comes from death.

We too can tell your story,  
in the stillness of our flowing breath, we can find peace.  
In the joy of life together, in relationship with another,  
we can find light in the darkness.  
In our learning and our growing, we can find new life.  
May we keep telling your story as the year goes on  
In your holy name we pray, Amen.

*This prayer was composed by Richard Brown for the Salmond College inaugural service 2022.*

## **READING(S)**

## **MESSAGE**

## **LIGHTING of the INAUGURAL CANDLE**

*A time of silence can follow the lighting of the candle to give the congregation a chance to bring to mind their hopes for the year.*

*The symbolism of the candle could include:*

- *The unburned candle as a symbol of potential, the unwritten future*
- *As the candle burns down, a symbol of our lives lived*
- *The smoke may be a symbol of giving back to God what is God's, acknowledging that we cannot undo the past, not being bound by guilt and shame.*
- *The flame may be a symbol of God's enduring presence with us in the present*

*After the time of silence:*

E te atua o te mārama, God of light,

Tiaho mai rā roto i te pō, shine in the darkness,

Hei konā tātou titiro atu ai, we will continually be looking there,

Ora, mate hei tātou koe noho ai, in life and death let us rest in you.

Amen.

## **HĪMENE or HYMN**

*Alternatively a musical performance would fit well here.*

*If a commissioning is to be included, it can be included here...*

## **PRAYERS of INTERCESSION**

*Either a written prayer can be read here, or space can be opened for people to voice their hopes for the community. The prayer may conclude with acknowledging the hopes and asking that our own lives may participate in the work of hope and renewal.*

## **HĪMENE or HYMN**

## **BLESSING or TE MANAAKITANGA**

*For example:*

The peace of the earth be with you the peace of the heavens too;  
the peace of the rivers be with you, the peace of the oceans too.

Deep peace falling over you; God's peace growing in you.