



Galaxies Evening Service 19 August 2007

Service by Pete Cowley
& Fergus Collinson



Welcome:

Tonight we are continuing to look at Spring festivals and this one is a Christian festival called "Blessing of the Fields" or "Rogation Sunday" (Rogare means "ask"). The Blessing of the Fields, is asking God's Blessing on the land, weather, seed, the farmers, and all who toil to bring us the food that we eat.



Rogation Sunday at St. Thomas' Parish, Washington, DC

Gathering together (Written by Jono, Matthew & Chris, St. Andrew's Rainbow Room)

Leader Haere mai
We come to this place of kindness and welcome
We come to worship God, however you conceive
We come to welcome God with our prayers and songs
We come to think of people in our past and our present
We come to thank our lucky stars for warm homes,
for hearty food and clean water
We come to share the starlight of love.



Invocation:

Leader: The work of the Creator is visible:

PEOPLE: Let us respond with praise.

Leader: The example of Jesus is apparent:

PEOPLE: Let us respond with obedience.

Leader: The wind of the Spirit is blowing:

PEOPLE: Let us respond with joy.

Leader: The Word of God is calling:

PEOPLE: Let us worship in spirit and in truth. AMEN.

Introduction:

Leader: Let us praise God, who plants the seeds and reaps the harvest.

PEOPLE: Blessed be god forever!

Leader: Today we seek God's blessing on the seeds and the crops they produce. Christ reminds us that, unless the seed is planted in the earth and dies, it will not yield fruit. As we live in an urban environment and do not plant seed crops we use these small house plants as symbols of the seed. As we tend and care for these young offshoots of Aloe Vera, we find it will look after us in times of burns where we can apply its sap to our skin to cool, soothe and heal us.



PEOPLE: Blessed be god for whom all things are possible

Affirmation of faith (said all together)

We believe

in God the creator who gives birth to all that is .. with labour and sighing and looks to the world with joy and love.

We believe

in Christ the reconciler, who is earthed in our life and enfleshed in its patterns of dying and rising, who gives honour to our reality and grace to our way.

We believe

in God the free Spirit, who weeps with our grieving in the depths of our darkness and dances among us high on life's mountains - the Spirit who finds us with newness and hope.

We believe

in the community of faith, which is born of our humanness, is nurtured in sharing and grows whole in our struggling and celebration as one people of God.

Notices

If you have any notices to bring to our attention please speak up.

Contemporary reflections

Rogation Sunday - is it still needed?

Thoughts, reflections, Discussion.

I've got to go there! (By Fergus Collinson)

Street smart wee 5 year old, is useful
knowing Mum will call the Police if I
set off to the Auckland Weekly News
winter train pix photo essay



pre-moisturiser, pre-sunblock Sir Edmund
Hilary snow men shovel, and Irish coffee
tin cups un-jamming points
The Greymouth Express curving around
the Bealey
snowy dialogue
silver carriage sides
meanwhile, on-location...
Ms Columbia Pictures toga
orangey gold
Princess Margaret
elbow gloves - Bettine
and all the little Leanings returning
Murray and Jane, Ernest and John
Brown paper stomachers
tied with string
Bettine Armoured
to have and to hold
Wendy and Fergus and Shellie
Long Term Relationships
to not throw up
August 28 1970

I've escaped mum, I'm away!
On the Friday night railcar to Christchurch
Christchurch Friday night railcar
Joan Baez and Bob Dylan and Mick Jagger and Johnny Cash and June
Going to Jackson
Town
transistored
soon

Homeless men
tramper ladies for about nine hours
nothing is open after nine -
sprawled on the pinky white marble floor of Christchurch Railway Station
sprawl....Waiting
for the newspaper vans to turn up, so we can go
What big mountains!
Nor-westerly stars
stab
Railcar lights off, so we can sleep
which some of us do, to
Jackson
On the less wild side
we are walking past a wash-out
The Otira
shitty angry gnaw
our driver very slowly moving ahead

At Greymouth the Ring of Fire rescued
Boer War - A Class beauty is at the front of our train
is nearly ready to go
I think I slept and snoozed a fair bit of the way
to Arthur's Pass
What I am noticing is -
how late we're running
My inner voice is saying
Fergus!
You'll miss the railcar out of Christchurch
You have to get off now
I love this, my mid 1950's Owaka childhood road
overgrown, twisty gravelly
extra waterfalls bounus gouge
That far off time before Giardiasis,
the soda taste tussocky
in the shadowy icy
sunshine gold slant
Hey!
Here you are mate



my fourth hiker's friendly angel tells me at
Orari Station
Over your shoulder, the railcar headlights
slowing
Bryan and Betty getting out of their very
Brethren steering wheel
gear change Fairlane
he's finished fixing up
Fergus -
You surprised us!
We thought you were getting off the railcar
If that ride of yours was five minutes later
we'd have thought you mixed up the dates again
and turned round and driven off to Peel Forest
We are saying

Thank you God for looking after me
They don't have the phone...

T S Elliot wrote the great line
August is the cruellest time
breeding dead lilacs out of
despair
Spring is when I wake up
re-assess life rigorously
whether I want to or not
and make an adventure
happen

Blessing the Fields Ritual

leader: We become aware of the subtle movement of the seasons. As we progress from winter to spring, we become aware of increasing light as hopefully soon, increasing warmth.

People: (SOMEONE put the flowers in the vase)

Leader: Great Spirit of Love, bless the fields and the seeds to be planted, no longer by us city dwellers, but still somewhere not too far away from us, that the crops germinate and provide a bountiful harvest so that they may provide food and work for many.

PEOPLE: Grant the farmers and their families the assurance of your loving concern and presence; and bestow upon them a patient and trusting spirit. (SOMEONE Light a candle)

Leader: Bless also the supermarket workers who keep everything available so easily for us, and everyone who has a hand in the production and transportation of food and goods.

PEOPLE: Bless all the food supply chain, that they may realise how important and valued their jobs are. (SOMEONE light a candle)

Leader: Lord of the Harvest, protect these lands from wind and hail; and grant us favourable weather throughout the growing season.

PEOPLE: Make us truly grateful for all of your good gifts, and produce in us a willingness to share our goods and talents with others, especially those without adequate food.
(SOMEONE light a candle)

ALL: AMEN.

Prayer

Leader: Let us Pray

Creator God, we thank you for your awesome creation, for the seed, the soil, the water, the seasons of the year and the cycle of nature.

PEOPLE: Walk with those who till, plant, and care for the fields that they may be strengthened by your constant presence in all their Labours.

Leader: Give us favourable weather that all farming efforts may not be in vain.

PEOPLE: May the hungry be fed and may we always be mindful of their needs and wants. May the governments around the world make good and wise decisions regarding the food for their people.

Leader: Keep us aware and sensitive to the needs of our farmers and their families. May they have a fair return for their efforts.

PEOPLE: Bless all those who work in related agricultural businesses.

Leader: We pray for all those hospitalized, institutionalized, and home-bound. Touch them with your healing bands. Fill them with your comfort and hope.

PEOPLE: Give peace and strength to those individuals bearing painful, heartbreaking burdens.

Leader: All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

All: AMEN

Departure

As we depart from this place
of light,

love,

and warm hearts

may we be a light to others

may we treat all we meet with loving-kindness

may we warm others hearts with our care and commitment

to compassion, truth and justice

in all our dealings.