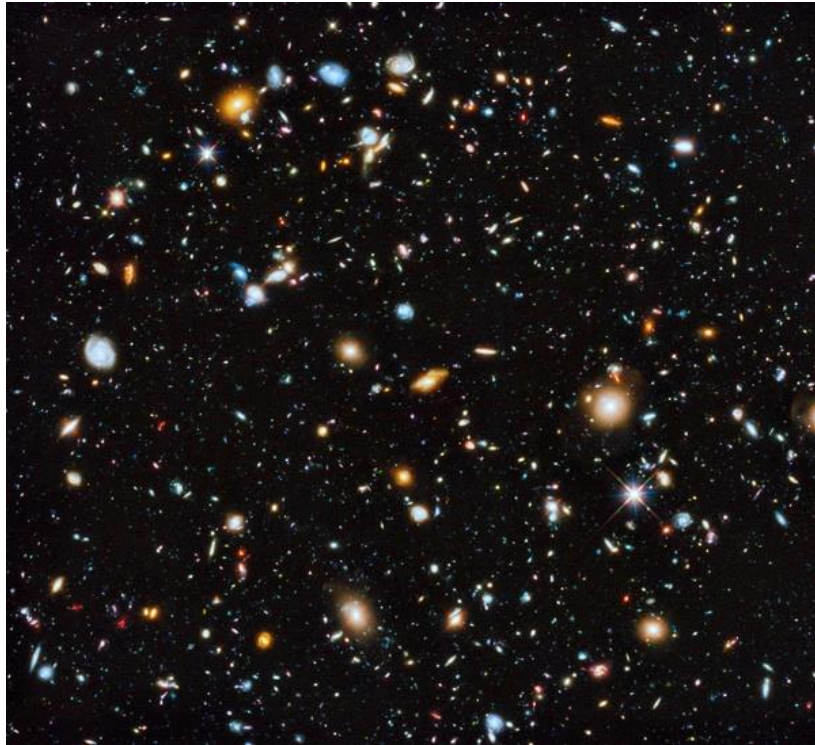


St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 17 October 2021
Service of Holy Communion with Albany Deaf Church
The Drama of Job: God speaks



Gathering music

Welcome

Gathering words

Hungry for meaning?

Welcome home.

Thirsty for purpose?

Welcome home.

Yearning for comfort?

Welcome home.

Burning for challenge?

Welcome home.

Ready for learning?

Welcome home.

Eager for serving?

Welcome home.

Hymn Praise the Lord, the ground of goodness

Praise the Lord, the ground of goodness,
source of silence, sound and time,
nourisher of fed and foodless,
catalyst of sense and rhyme.

Praise the Lord with city voices,
pitched in concrete, sweat and steel,
let the thousand urban choices
bias to what's right and real.

Praise the Lord as science advances,
research deepens, knowledge grows.
Let such progress serve, with gladness,
every need God shall expose.

Praise the Lord, the world's Creator;
praise our host and guest, the Son;
praise the ever-roving Spirit,
pulse of life for everyone.

Opening prayer

Almighty God,
creator of the stars and the skies,
and the ground beneath our feet.
We come before you aware of the grace extended to us.
We are in awe of your creation in all its diversity
and your deep love for all that you have created.

Help us to believe in your love
especially when we feel the most unlovable.
When life threatens to overwhelm us,
wrap us in wonder and rock us gently
as a mother rocks her child.

For the beauty of the earth that we have not seen,
for the beauty of the earth that we have damaged,
forgive us, God, and strengthen all who seek healing.

For the joy of human love that we have ignored,
for the joy of human love that we have diminished,
forgive us, God and strengthen all who seek healing.

Hear us now as we bring to you where we have failed you.

(silence)

God, who both gives and forgives.
we thank you that you forgive us,

and give us again the task
of tending the earth and each other,
a living echo of your love for all creation.
Amen.

Old Testament Reading Job 38:1-7, 16-18

“Why do you confuse the issue?
Why do you talk without knowing what you’re talking about?
Pull yourself together, Job!
Up on your feet! Stand tall!
I have some questions for you,
and I want some straight answers.
Where were you when I created the earth?
Tell me, since you know so much!
Who decided on its size? Certainly you’ll know that!
Who came up with the blueprints and measurements?
How was its foundation poured,
and who set the cornerstone,
While the morning stars sang in chorus
and all the angels shouted praise?

“Have you ever gotten to the true bottom of things,
explored the labyrinthine caves of deep ocean?
Do you know the first thing about death?
Do you have one clue regarding death’s dark mysteries?
Do you have any idea how large this earth is?
Speak up if you have even the beginning of an answer.

Reflection

Hymn Lord you sometimes speak in wonders

Lord, you sometimes speak in wonders,
unmistakable and clear,
Mighty signs that show your presence,
Overcoming doubt and fear.

Lord, you sometimes speak in whispers,
still and small and scarcely heard;
only those who want to listen
catch the all-important word.

Hymn Lord you sometimes speak in wonders

Lord, you sometimes speak in Scripture,
words that summon from the page,
shown and taught us by your Spirit
with fresh light for every age.

Lord, you always speak in Jesus,
Always new yet still the same:
Teach us now more of our Saviour,
Make our lives display his name.

The Lord's Supper

The Invitation

Here is the table set for our special meal.
The bread, the wine prepared and presented.
Ready to be served and shared.

We remember Jesus sharing a meal like this with his disciples, his friends. He included everyone. Today we are his disciples, his friends. Each one of us is welcome. How amazing it is to be so loved and included, just as we are.

This is ordinary bread and ordinary juice. But when we eat the bread together and drink the juice together, something extraordinary happens which brings us closer to Jesus and to one another. We become the 'Body of Christ.'

Which means that our hearts and hands and feet continue to do Jesus' work in the world.

The Story of the Last Supper

It was on a night when old familiar stories were retold that Jesus and his friends shared in the sacred meal which Jews call the Passover. During that meal, rich in food and memory, Jesus took a piece of bread and after he had blessed it, he broke it saying 'This is my body broken for you. Remember me when you do this'

And Jesus took wine lifted it saying: 'This cup is a symbol of my covenant with you. Remember me when you drink from it'

And because we are his disciples today
we remember that story
and how the story continues in this place today
and we remember Jesus
as we break this bread together
and share this wine with each other
We take these elements to be set apart from common uses
to this holy use and mystery.

And as he gave thanks let us draw near to God and offer our prayers and thanksgiving

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God, of all the things you have created
we take the simplest food and find you among us

as we eat together.

Through the ages you have raised up prophets to show us your path of righteousness and to prepare the way through the wilderness of our living. In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, your only beloved, to be for us the way the truth and the life.

In the story of Jesus we hear your love being retold and we remember all Jesus has done because of that love. Jesus proclaimed Good news to the poor and set people free from all that bound them.

Jesus Christ continues to break open the bread of life for all who are held captive by pain of mind, body or spirit. He continues to pour the living waters of grace and peace to all who grieve. He overcame death once and for all.

Together we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Through the Spirit
you set this bread and wine apart
to be used only as an image of you
and your love...

We thank you
that you have called us your children
sharing with us a love
that is more powerful than the universe
and that you sit here with us
blessing us in bread and wine.

The New Zealand Anglican Lord's Prayer

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come
on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Breaking of Bread

Poem: Eucharist

Sharing of the bread and wine

Hymn Eat this bread (sung three times)

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst.

The sharing of Christ's peace

God makes peace within us.
Let's claim it.

God makes peace between us.
Let's share it.

Let us offer each a sign of Christ's peace.

Hymn We sing a love

We sing a love that sets all people free,
that blows like wind, that burns like scorching flame,
enfolds like earth, springs up like water clear :
come, living love, live in our hearts today.

We sing a love that seeks another's good,
that longs to serve and not to count the cost,
a love that, yielding, finds itself made new :
come, caring love, live in our hearts today.

We sing a love, unflinching, unafraid
to be itself, despite another's wrath,
a love that stands alone and undismayed :
come, strengthening love, live in our hearts today.

We sing a love, that, wandering, will not rest
until it finds its way, its home, its source,
through joy and sadness pressing on refreshed :
come, pilgrim love, live in our hearts today.

We sing a burning, fiery, Holy Ghost
that seeks out shades of ancient bitterness,
transfiguring these, as Christ in every heart :
come joyful love, live in our hearts today.

Sending

We go from this place to live as changed people,
because we have been fed by the living Lord
and cannot remain the same.

Lord, ask much of us;
expect much from us;
enable much by us;
encourage many through us.

So, may we live to your glory as citizens of your kingdom on earth.

Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the companionship of the Holy Spirit
abide with you this day and evermore. Amen.

Music

Worship Leaders: Rosie Magee, Pam and George Russell

Reader: Lorna Cammock

Musician: Alasdair Grant

Interpreter: Mary McDevitt

Image: "Hubble's colourful view of the Universe" by Hubble Space Telescope / ESA
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Technical team : Alison Bruce, Philippa Burgess, Amy Marcham, Susan McLarty,
Mary Margaret Scott

Gathering Music:

Frank Bridge, Andantino (No. 5 from 'Six Organ Pieces')

Percy Whitlock, Fidelis (No. 3 from 'Four Extemporizations')

During Communion: Edward Elgar, arr. Bothwell Thomson, Chanson de Matin

Postlude: Marco Enrico Bossi, Entrée Pontificale

Gathering words and poem, 'Eucharist' by Jim Burklo, used with permission.

Communion Liturgy by Ana Gobledale www.worshipwords.co.uk (adapted)

Scripture Reading from 'The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language', 2016

The Lord's Prayer: *The New Zealand Book of Prayer | He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa*

Hymns from Church Hymnary 4th Edition except: *Praise the Lord, the ground of goodness* (verses 1-3,6) from Known Unknowns, John L Bell and Graham Maule, Wild Goose Resource Group, 2018.

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