

A Celebration of Life & Leadership

Gathering & Welcome

Opening Words

At this time of our life, as at all times,
there is God,
our company in the questioning,
the seeker after the truth,
the passion in our indignation,
always gently, tenderly, holding us all in love.

In the silence,
in this place and before each other,
let us place this time and all our journeying
along the pathways of life and pilgrimage of faith,
into the hands of God.

A silence is kept

In faith we come, as we are,
as we have been and as we may be,
for you are our God
and we are your people.
In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn 'Great is thy faithfulness'

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not,
Thy compassions they fail not
As Thou has been, Thou forever will be.

*Great is Thy Faithfulness
Great is Thy Faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand has provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.*

Summer and Winter and Springtime and Harvest
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
Great is Thy Faithfulness ...

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.
Great is Thy Faithfulness ...*

The people who retire this Conference

Robert Andrew Ferguson
Anne Griffiths
Kepu Moa
John Murray
Val Nicholls
Asofiafia Tauamiti Samoa Saleupolu

We celebrate the life and ministry of each person...

Hymn 'Now thank we all our God'

Now thank we all our God,
 With hearts, and hands, and voices;
Who wondrous things hath done,
 In whom His world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms,
 Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
 And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
 Through all our life be near us,
With ever-joyful hearts
 And blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us in His grace,
 And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
 In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
 The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
 With Them in highest heaven:
The one, eternal God,
 Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
 And shall be evermore.

*WOV 14
Martin Rinkart*

Words for Letting Go and Moving On

Loving God, caller and companion

in whom we live and move and have our being

The call to follow Christ and to grow in Christ like-ness has been both blessing and challenge.

We have learned and are still learning to share in joy and suffering.

We look back now, knowing some seed has come to harvest.

There have been times of dancing, of praise, and laughter, and times of affirmation.

And there have been mistakes made and lessons learned.

And there have been times when we have hidden our vulnerability behind excuses and much busy-ness.

Loving God, you hear our remembering.

Encourage us to explore today and each new successive day with energy, excitement, courage and faith.

Help us enter into this new beginning with the vision of the Holy Spirit to shed light and love on our future. Amen.

Blessing

Soloist Heimataura Fulivai

The individual tributes are available in the agenda and on the Methodist website www.methodist.org