

Western Bay of Plenty Methodist Circuit.
Order of Service
13 September, 2020
Land Sunday and Interfaith Sunday

Welcome

Opening music

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
*Gracious God, to Thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light:
Gracious God...

For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight:
Gracious God...

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild.
Gracious God...

For each perfect gift of Thine
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven:
Gracious God...

Folliott Sandford Pierpoint

Opening words

Lord, the air smells good today,
straight from the mysteries
within

the garden
of God.
The trees in their prayer,
the birds in praise,
the first blue violets
kneeling.

Rumi

Call to worship

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;
for he has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers.

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
**Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,
who do not lift up their souls to what is false,
and do not swear deceitfully.**

They will receive blessing from the LORD,
and vindication from the God of their salvation.
**Such is the company of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Psalm 24**

We pray
some of us on our knees,
some hands folded,
palms to heart,
forehead to ground,
some raising a sign in protest,
some gritting their teeth and eyes tight shut
and others lighting a candle.

worldinprayer.org

Prayer of Confession

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;
So what do we think we are doing?

What do we think we are doing -

- when we build our homes and churches on land that was taken from others?
- when we fell native forests to expand farms and mines for profit?
- when our food and clothing derive from the poverty of others?
- when our cheap luxuries are manufactured in sweat shops?
- when we claim this land is ours, and forget that it is God's?

What do we think we are doing?

[Silence]

Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

Prayers for God's guidance

O God, unite our hearts
and set aright our mutual affairs,
guide us in the path of peace.
Liberate us from darkness by Your light,
save us from enormities whether open or hidden.
Bless us in our ears, eyes, hearts, spouses, and children.
Turn to us; truly you are Oft-Returning, Most Merciful.
Make us grateful for Your bounty and full of praise for it,
so that we may continue to receive it
and complete Your blessings upon us. Muhammad al-Jazri, 1389

The carob tree – a Jewish story

Reading: Romans 14:1-12

Reflection – the things we share

Offering Prayer

Nau mai e ngā hua

o te wao

o te ngakina

o te wai tai

o te wai Māori

Nā Tane

Nā Rongo

Nā Tangaroa

Nā Maru

Ko Ranginui e tū iho nei

Ko Papatūānuku e takoto nei

Tuturu whakamaua

Kia tina! TINA! Hui e! TĀIKI E! I

*Welcome the gifts of food
from the sacred forests
from the cultivated gardens
from the sea
from the fresh waters
The food of Tane
of Rongo
of Tangaroa
of Maru
Ranginui who is above me,
Papatuanuku who lies beneath me
Let this be our commitment.
Draw together! Affirm!*

Our prayers for others

Let us pray.

Loving God, we gather today to share your word and reflections.

We are so fortunate to live here in Tauranga and be blessed by our environment and the people who share our community. Despite our world altering with the influx of new residents, we cling to what

we have been doing for so long, resisting adapting to our changing world.

We live amongst people who may worship in a different manner from ourselves; who raise their families in a way foreign to our childhoods; who eat other food and dress in a different style.

Help us to see the commonalities and to appreciate different ways of being humans fully alive. May we not be judgmental but choose instead to be inclusive. This way, stronger diverse communities can evolve and grow together.

In this time of the Covid pandemic throughout the world, we are so fortunate to have had few cases and deaths relative to the population of Aotearoa/New Zealand. There are other countries

throughout the world where there is great loss of life and much suffering, especially amongst the poor. Guide nations to make health improvements and look after ALL their people, including the

poor and others who may have lost their source of income. Be with each nation's leaders and help them make wise decisions.

And for ourselves:

We ask you to be with those who have concerns about family members experiencing difficult relationships.

We ask you to be with those known to us, who are ill, awaiting treatment or are recovering from an operation.

We ask you to be with those who have lost a loved one and are feeling so alone.

We ask you to be with those who struggle to find accommodation for themselves or for their family.

Help us to honour each one's right to uniqueness.

Show us again that there are no limits to the love you have for us:
so we cannot limit our love for each other.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen

1 These hills where the hawk flies lonely,
 beaches where the long surf rolls,
 mountains where the snows reach heaven,
 these are our care.

 Pastures where the sheep graze calmly,
 Orchards where the apples grow,
 Gardens where the roses cluster,
 these are our prayer.

2 Forests where the tree ferns tower,
 rivers running strong and clear,

oceans where the great whales wander,
these are our care.

Race meeting race as equals,
justice for age-old wrong,
worth for every man and woman,
these are our prayer.

3 Cities where the young roam restless,
lives brought to deep despair,
homeless and powerless people,
these are our care.

Places where the Word is spoken,
hands held in serving love,
faiths of our many cultures,
these are our prayer.

4. All that the old world gave us,
all that the new world brings,
language, ideas, customs,
these are our care.
Life finding joy and value,
faith seeking truth and light,
God heard and seen in all things,
this be our prayer.

© Colin Gibson

Commitment: With Every Breath

With every breath I take today,
I vow to be awake;
And every step I take,
I vow to take with a grateful heart.
So I may see with eyes of love
Into the hearts of all I meet,
To ease their burden when I can
And touch them with a smile of peace.

Buddhist, Anonymous

Dismissal

We do not walk alone.
Great Being walks beside us.
Know this and be grateful.

Hopi Indian

Go in peace.