***Not Retreating to our Nets* A Liturgy for the Third Sunday of the Season of Easter Sunday 1st May 2022**

**Mornington Methodist Church Rev David Poultney**

**Before we begin**

*Once we're thrown off our habitual paths, we think all is lost, but it's only here that the new and the good begins  Leo Tolstoy*

**CENTRING**  From Confessions Augustine of Hippo 354-430 *Late have I loved you, beauty so old and so new: late have I loved you. And see, you were within and I was in the external world and sought you there, and in my unlovely state I plunged into those lovely created things which you made. You were with me, and I was not with you. The lovely things kept me far from you, though if they did not have their existence in you, they had no existence at all. You called and cried out loud and shattered my deafness. You were radiant and resplendent, you put to flight my blindness. You were fragrant, and I drew in my breath and now pant after you. I tasted you, and I feel but hunger and thirst for you. You touched me, and I am set on fire to attain the peace which is yours.*

**WELCOME** Kia noho a Ihowa kia koutou God be with you **Kia koe anō hoki And with you also** Hold hands people of God in love **Bind our hearts together in God’s grac**

**CANDLE LIGHTING** We light this candle to remind us of the light of God’s love,The warmth of God’s welcome,And our faith in the ever presence of God,So together we say: **Welcome to our place, Welcome to worship, Welcome in the name of our living God. Amen**

**NEWS AND NOTICES**

**WORDS FOR BGINNING** Francis MacnabThe best thing we can do is to reconnect with the good Spirit of Life, Good Spirit, in this time and place we will refocus our lives; we will let a peaceful harmony settle in our mind and body. We will breathe the breath of life and know it as the gift of life. Help us to look into ourselves. **Help us to look beyond ourselves** **and find our energy renewed; our inspiration expanded; our human sympathies reawakened.**

**HYMN AA 26** Come to our land, come to our hearts Shirley Murray

Come to our land, come to our hearts,

Spirit of peace, Spirit of truth, bring in the spring, the hope and the green, Spirit of growth and Spirit of youth.

*And all our people will sing together:*

*Wairua Tapu, holy your name,*

*there's one great Spirit in all creation,*

*one great Spirit of God!*

Come to our land, come to our hearts,

Spirit of life, breath of new birth,

teach us to care for water and air,

nourish the seed and cherish the earth,

Refrain

Come to our land, come to our hearts,

Spirit of bush, Spirit of bird,

speak to the soul of Aotearoa

joy in your world and joy in your Word,

Refrain

**MEDITATIVE READING** Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim Edward Hays *Remind me ten times and more  
of all that you have forgiven me -  
  
without even waiting for my sorrow,  
the very instant that I slipped and sinned.  
  
Remind me ten thousand times and more  
of your endless absolution,  
  
not even sorrow required on my part,  
so broad the bounty of your love.*

*Yes, I can – I will – forgive  
as you have forgiven me.*

**PRAYER** *A paraphrase of Ps 71* Phil Dyer You, O God are my rock and my refuge. You are the stronghold of my life. **You are my hope. Upon you I have leaned from my birth, from my mother’s womb you have claimed me.** Now I am older and grey headed, you are still with me. **Through the journey of my life you have been there, together we have done marvellous things! In times of hardship and oppression, we endured many trials.** In times of gladness and joy we sang of our love. Our good times cannot be numbered! **When the earth one day reclaims me and I lie in its depths you will be there with me: you shall exalt and comfort me, and since I am made of you, you will raise me Amen**

**A MEDITATION TO HELP US REFLECT ON OUR CONSCIENCES THE FIVE REMEMBRANCES – A FORM OF A TRADITIONAL BUDDHIST MEDITATION** *The Art of Living* Thic Nhat Hanh

*I am of the nature to grow old. There is no way to escape growing old.*

I am of the nature to have ill health. There is no way to escape ill health.

I am of the nature to die. There is no way to escape death.

*All that is dear to me and everyone I love are of the nature to change. There is no way to escape being separated from them.*

*My actions are my only true belongings. I cannot escape the consequences of my actions. My actions are the ground upon which I stand.*

**PRAYER**  We acknowledge we deny the truth of things, that in the face of change we retreat to the familiar, we allow hope to retreat and our horizons to narrow. Like Peter we go back to what we know, we take up our nets. We resolve to live more bravely, and find the resurrection that is intimated in all that passes **Amen**

**A PARAPHRASE OF THE LORD’S PRAYER** Bill Wallace O God of sky and God of Earth, we honour your presence within us and beyond as we eat may we share your gifts of hope and compassion with all the life of the Earth. **Give us O God** **forgiving hearts affirming** **each other with humour and grace. May we** **grow beyond our narrow needs to join in the spreading of a just and loving peace.** You greet us here and everywhere in moments of “oneness” and spaces of delight. **To** **all this we now say “Amen,” your** **song is our anthem, your** **dance our cosmic joy**

**A PRAYER FOR TODAY** May we live with courage, knowing ourselves to be already resurrected. This and every day may we follow the one whom even death could not contain and come out of our every grave into life **Amen**

**HYMN**  **HiOS 7** As the wind blows through the trees Shirley Erena Murray

As the wind song through the trees,  
as the stirring of the breeze,  
so it is with the Spirit of God,  
as the heart made strangely warm,  
as the voice within the storm,  
so it is with the Spirit of God. Never seen, ever known  
where this wind has blown  
bringing life, bringing power to the world,  
as the dancing tongues of fire,  
as the soul’s most deep desire,  
so it is with the Spirit of God.

As the rainbow after rain,  
as the hope that’s born again,  
so it is with the Spirit of God,  
as the green in the spring,  
as a kite on a string,  
so it is with the Spirit of God, making worlds that are new,  
making peace come true,  
bringing gifts, bringing love to the world,  
as the rising of the yeast,  
as the wine at the feast,  
so it is with the Spirit of God.

**A STORY**

**FROM THE SCRIPTURES** Acts 9:1-20, John 21:1-19

**A REFELCTION**

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CARE FOR OTHERS**

**HYMN AA 100** Now To Your Table Spread Shirley Murray

Now to your table spread  
we come, each one in faith  
that you alone provide the words of life or death:  
in wine and bread,  
in promised food  
we find your loving heart, O God.

Hands of the world stretch out  
your mystery to touch  
in longing to believe a truth beyond our reach,  
to sing in joy,  
to cry in grief,  
to know your meaning for our life.

Here is our common wealth  
in sharing what is good,  
as though all humankind around one table stood,  
this bread to break,  
this wine to taste:  
one people in the name of Christ.

**THE OFFERTORY** Here we bring our gifts of money and talents That they may be used to reflect your love in the world. **Bless our gifts and our lives so that they can be used** **To create a better world for all people.** **Amen**

**BLESSING BREAD AND WINE** Blessed are you Lord, God of all creation,through your goodness we have these gifts to offer,which Earth has given and human hands have made. **Blessed be God forever.**

**THE EUCHARISITIC PRAYER** Iona CommunityWe offer you our praise dear God, and hearts lifted high. For in the communion of your love Christ comes close to us and we come close to Christ. Therefore with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea, and sky we sing to you. With the whole communion of saints and with brothers and sisters east and west, we sing to you, and now with our loved ones, separate from us now, who yet in this mystery are close to us, we offer you our praise. **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Life,**  **Heaven and Earth are full of your glory,** **Hosanna in the highest.** **Blessed is the One who comes in God’s name.** **Hosanna in the highest.** Blessed be our brother Jesus, who walks with us the road of our world’s suffering and is known to us in the breaking of bread. On the night before he died Jesus took bread, and having blessed it he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples saying; Take this all of you and eat it, this is my body, given up for you. Do this to remember me. In the same way he took wine, and having given thanks for it he poured it out and gave the cup to his disciples saying; This cup is the new covenant, sealed with my blood. Take this all of you and share it. I shall drink wine with you next in the coming kingdom of God. **Hear us O Christ and breathe your Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine. May they become for us your body, vibrant with your life, healing, renewing, making us whole** **Amen**

**BREAKING BREAD** Michael Morwood We break this bread, bread inviting us to grasp what the eye cannot see: **God with us in the journey of life;** **God with us in our everyday,** **God with us in our living and our loving.** We drink this wine, wine reminding us of promises to love, **of love generously shared,** **of Jesus who loved so totally and our call** **to love as courageously as Jesus loved.**

**THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER** We who have shared the bread of communityand the cup of our common dreamsleave this table challenged to be the body of Christ,loving, redeeming, making things whole,challenging to newness.May this come to be  **Amen**

**HYMN FFS 32** God who sets us on a journey Joy Dine

God who sets us on a journey  
to discover, dream and grow,  
lead us as you led your people  
in the desert long ago;  
journey inward, journey outward,  
stir the spirit, stretch the mind,  
love for God and self and neighbour  
marks the way that Christ defined.

Exploration brings new insights,  
changes, choices we must face;  
give us wisdom in deciding,  
mindful always of your grace;  
should we stumble, lose our bearings,  
find it hard to know what’s right,  
we regain our true direction  
focused on the Jesus light.

End our longing for the old days,  
grant the vision that we lack –  
once we’ve started on this journey  
there can be no turning back;  
let us travel light, discarding  
excess baggage from our past,  
cherish only what’s essential,  
choosing treasure that will last.

When we set up camp and settle  
to avoid love’s risk and pain,  
you disturb complacent comfort,  
pull the tent pegs up again;  
keep us travelling in the knowledge  
you are always at our side;  
give us courage for the journey,  
Christ our goal and Christ our guide.

**COMMISSIONING** We now extinguish this candle but let us say together: **We now embody this light and promise To reflect the light of God’s love In all that we say and do Amen**

**BLESSING WORDS** Jill Harris. Whatever the origins of love we know it is our only hope. It lies at the heart of Easter which shows us how to live. So let us each day make love our song. Let it work its transforming power in us. We cannot do this alone – and that is love’s first lesson **Amen**

**THE GRACE Kia tau ki a tatou katoa, te atawhai o to tatou Ariki o Ihu Karaiti, Me te aroha o te Atua, me te whiwhinga tahitanga ki te Wairua Tapu. Ake, ake, ake Amine**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen**