



KNOX CHURCH, DUNEDIN

growing in courage to live the Jesus way

10am – Sunday 8 January 2017

First Sunday of Epiphany

Pre service music

Welcome

Call to worship

Kia noho a Ihowa kia koutou. May God be with you.

Ma Ihowa koe e manaaki. May God bless you.

Suddenly the heavens open and Love lights up the sky,
and the ordinary is transformed into wonder.

Jesus, whose path we follow, helps us glimpse the Divine
and we hold our breath in awe and hope.

Even in all our human frailty, we dare to come and worship,
expecting to find Love, Life and Mystery; expecting to be transformed.

Hymn *“Come in New Year”*

(Christchurch) CH3 592 - Shirley Murray

1 Come in, come in New Year
with shining summer day!
Your promise calls us here
to celebrate and pray,
through January's open door
to stride with hopeful step once more.

3 The calendar of Christ
will mark the seasons' turn,
Christ's story claim our trust,
Christ's love be ours to learn,
For all the world, for young and old,
we pray a year of peace unfold.

2 Come in, New Year, and sell
your wares of chance and change:
engage us with your spell
to risk and re-arrange,
to feel the Spirit's impulse beat,
to follow down a different street.

Prayers

... the wonder of whose presence fills us with awe:

Let kindness, justice and love shine in our world. Let your secrets be known here as they are in your realm. Give us the food and the hope we need for today.

Forgive us our wrongdoing as we forgive the wrongs done to us. Protect us from pride and from despair and from the fear and hate which can swallow us up. In you is truth, meaning, glory and power, while words come and go. Amen

Passing the Peace

Kia tau tonu te rangimarie o te Ariki ki a koutou;

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

The First Reading: Psalm 29

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church **Thanks be to God**

A Psalm Response

A paraphrase of Psalm 29, Jim Taylor, Everyday Psalms (alt)

Blow, blow, you wild winds.

**Polish earth and sky with your power,
until every street and footpath is scoured clean,
until a shining earth reflects the glory of the heavens.**

The Spirit of Life roars across the oceans;

it bursts upon the mountains, and cascades down to the sea again.

The rush of the wind drowns out all other sounds;

the force of the wind drives the clouds like wild horses.

It bends birches and willows to the ground;

it breaks the strongest branches of the mighty kauri.

Dust flies before the storm;

mice and rabbits scurry for their holes.

Lightning skewers the sky;

Thunder rolls across the land;

the whole earth shivers.

The leaves fall off the trees;

the cities empty their streets;

The mountains hide their heads in clouds.

Love rides the wind like a surfer on an ocean wave.

Let the wind be always at our backs.

May the strength of the storm help us weather the worst,

and bring us through to the calm on the other side.

Hymn

(Praise my Soul CH3 360) - Norman Habel

from *Seven Songs of Creation: Liturgies for Celebrating and Healing Earth*, 2004

1 Watch once more the windswept storm
clouds;
suddenly the sky has wings.
God has come to rain among us,
giving hope to all dry things.
Sing a song of splashing waters,
pulsing through the veins of Earth.

2 Taste the moisture of the morning,
smoother than the best red wine;
toast the lifeblood of the planet:
here's to God's wild wet design.
Sing a song of flowing waters,
pulsing through the veins of Earth.

3 View anew the dark blue ocean,
whales cavorting, spraying foam;
God at play with deep sea monsters,
feeling very much at home.
Sing a song of laughing waters,
pulsing through the veins of Earth.

4 Feel the breath of God move softly,
gentle mists that brush the skin;
earth is breathing God's own spirit,
life renewed from deep within.
Sing a song of living waters,
pulsing through the veins of Earth.

The Second Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church **Thanks be to God**

Hymn *we remain seated to sing*

"The Summons" *Heaven Shall not Wait* - The Iona Community

1 Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

2 Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

3 Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

The Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ **Praise to Christ the Word**

Hymn *we stand to conclude the hymn*

4 Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

5 Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Sermon 'Turning and following' *followed by a period of silence for reflection*

Affirming our faith

We have faith in Creativity
**Creating humanity from stardust
and keeping on bringing to birth
new things beyond our imagining.**

© Dorothy McRae-McMahon, alt.

We have faith in Love
**Seen in Jesus of Nazareth
who entered our unknown journey
and experienced all our living,
who walked in our earthiness
and can still be discovered in our midst.**

We have faith in Mystery
**calling us on to truth
in light beyond our seeing,
stirring within our being
like a melody of possible music,
dancing on before us
in the freedom of passionate life.**

Prayer for others

Offering and Dedication

*We recognise and bless the gifts brought to the table,
and those which wing their way electronically from our banks to the Church's account.*

Hymn “*I am the light of the world*”

With One Voice 669 - Jim Strathdee

I am the light of the world

You people come and follow me

*If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be*

1 When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun. *I am the light...*

2 to find the lonely and the lost,
to heal their broken souls with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below, the sky above; *I am the light..*

3 to free the prisoners from their chains,
to make the powerful care,
to re-build the nations with strength of goodwill,
to be at one with people everywhere; *I am the light...*

4 to bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old person's heart,
and sing to the colours of the earth. *I am the light...*

Benediction and Sung Blessing *The minister will sing the first verse.*

Alleluia Aotearoa 95 - Joy Cowley

May the mystery of God enfold you,
may the wisdom of God uphold you,
may the fragrance of God be around you,
may the brightness of God surround you.

**May the wonder of God renew us,
may the loving of God flow through us,
may the peace of God deeply move us,
may the moving of God bring us peace.**

Postlude

This morning's service was led by Rev Dr Sarah Mitchell

You are invited to morning tea after worship, in the Gathering Area.

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A copy of this week's sermon will be on the website and printed copies available in the church early this week.