**“*Fruit of the Earth, Fruit of Resurrection*”**

**A Liturgy to Celebrate the Autumn Harvest in Eastertide**

**Sunday 24th April 2022**

**Mosgiel Methodist Church Rev David Poultney**

**Before We Begin**

“*This we know, the earth does not belong to us,*

*we belong to the earth.*

*This we know, all things are connected like the blood which unites one family. All things are connected.*

*Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons and daughters of the earth.*

*We do not weave the web of life, we are merely a strand in it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves*”

Chief Seattle

**CENTERING** *What we need is here*  Wendell Berry

*Geese appear high over us,*

*Pass and the sky closes.*

*Abandon, as in love or sleep,*

*holds them to their way,*

*clear in the ancient faith:*

*what we need is here.*

*and we pray not for a new earth or heaven,*

*but to be quiet in heart, and in eye,*

*clear.*

*What we need is here*

**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 grace**

**NEWS AND NOTICES**

**CANDLE LIGHTING** We light these candles 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**

**CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT’S PRESENCE**  adap Christine Hoff Kramer

We celebrate a spirit that moves through air,

in the wind that whips through and tugs at our clothes,

in the breath that flows in and out of our lungs,

in the wings of the dove that came down to bless Jesus.

**Spirit of air we welcome you.**

We celebrate a spirit that moves through fire,

in the light of the sun that warms the earth,

in the heat of our bodies as we dance and play,

in the tongues of flame that inspired the disciples.

**Spirit of fire, we welcome you.**

We celebrate a spirit that moves through water,

in the current of the ocean that ebbs and flows,

in the pulse of the blood that throbs through our veins,

in the moment of baptism when we know God’s love.

**Spirit of water, we welcome you.**

We celebrate a spirit that moves through earth,

In the rumble of thunder on a stormy night,

In the pleasure in our mouths as we eat our food,

in the loaf that we break at this and our every table.

**Spirit of earth, we welcome you.**

We celebrate a spirit that never rests,

who in the stillness of winter turns our faces

towards spring,

and awakens our creativity with tongues of flame.

spirit within all, that contains all,

move through us to bring justice to our troubled world.

**We honour you, Blessed be.**

**HYMN WOV 91** Morning has Broken Eleanor Farjeon

Morning Has Broken, Like The First Morning  
Blackbird Has Spoken, Like The First Bird  
Praise For The Singing, Praise For The Morning  
Praise For The Springing Fresh From The World

Sweet The Rain’s New Fall, Sunlit From Heaven  
Like The First Dew Fall, On The First Grass  
Praise For The Sweetness Of The Wet Garden  
Sprung In Completeness Where His Feet Pass

Mine Is The Sunlight, Mine Is The Morning  
Born Of The One Light, Eden Saw Play  
Praise With Elation, Praise Every Morning  
God’s Recreation Of The New Day

**MEDITATIVE READING** *Autumn Leaf* Bill Wallace*This autumn shall be for me the most glorious of them all for I shall no longer struggle possessively to clutch life but instead like a leaf let myself be blown by God’s spirit and whenever I touch the earth sing the song of the universe, dance in the power of God’s grace and with tenderness offer myself to all.*

**PRAYER** adap Diana Applebaum.

In the fading of the summer sun,

the shortening of days, the cooling breeze,

in the Godwit’s northern flight, and in moonlight rays,

**we see the Creator’s hand.**

In the gold and red spreading in the forest canopy of green,

in chilly mornings and crisp evenings,

in fruit that falls, in frost’s first kiss,

**we see the Creator’s hand.**

Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude,

our limited insight which prevents us

from appreciating the wonder that is the world,

the endless cycle of nature,

of life and death and rebirth.

Forgive us for taking without giving,

reaping without sowing.

**Open our eyes to see, our lips to praise, our hands to share.**

**May our feet tread lightly the path we tread**

**and our footsteps be worthy of following,**

**for they lead to you.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever Amen**

**PRAYER IN A NEW ZEALAND EASTERTIDE** Rob Ferguson

God of autumn, God of Easter,

we offer thanks, praise and the tremblings of our living.

May Jesus’ resurrection life be amongst us

and lead us like the fantail through the bush trails

of the busy seasons of our life.

and may we rest in you, no matter what the season. **Amen.**

**HYMN WOV 77** For the beauty of the earth Foliot Sandford Pierpoint

For the beauty of the earth,  
For the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies:  
Christ our God, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice 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:  
Christ our God, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.  
  
For the joy of ear and eye,  
For the heart and mind's delight,  
For the mystic harmony  
Linking sense to sound and sight:  
Christ our God, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.  
  
For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above;  
For all gentle thoughts and mild:  
Christ our God, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.  
  
For each perfect gift of thine  
to our race so freely given;  
graces human and divine,  
flowers of earth and buds of heaven:  
Christ our God,, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.

**A STORY** *Autumn Assembly* Margaret Silf

**FROM THE SCRIPTURES**  1 Corinthians 15: 20-28, John 12:23-26.

**A REFLECTION**

**BLESSING OF PRODUCE**

These are the products of the alchemy of wind and rain,

the miracle of sunshine and soil.

They are a sign of the miraculous generosity of the earth,

constantly birthing newness.

We bless these gifts in the name of God,

source of all life.

In doing so we offer a blessing to the Earth

and commit to embody this in our tenderness and care **Amen**

**HYMN WOV 59** We plough the fields and scatter Matthias Claudius

We plough the fields and scatter  
the good seed on the land,  
but it is fed and watered  
by God's almighty hand;  
he sends the snow in winter,  
the warmth to swell the grain,  
the breezes and the sunshine  
and soft refreshing rain.  
*All good gifts around us  
are sent from heaven above,  
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord  
for all his love.*  
  
He only is the maker  
of all things near and far;  
he paints the wayside flower,  
he lights the evening star;  
the wind and waves obey him,  
by him the birds are fed;  
much more to us his children,  
he gives our daily bread.  
*All good gifts...*  
  
We thank you, then, O Father,  
for all things bright and good,  
the seed-time and the harvest,  
our life, our health, our food:  
accept the gifts we offer  
for all your love imparts;  
and that which you most welcome,  
our humble, thankful hearts.  
*All good gifts...*

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CARE FOR OTHERS**

**THE OFFERTORY** Janet Morley Loving God, take our hands, take our lives,

ordinary as wheat or cornmeal,

daily as bread,

our stumbling generosity, our simple actions

and find them good enough to help prepare a feast

for all your people **Amen**

**HYMN** Bringing in the Sheaves Knowles Shaw

Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness,  
Sowing in the noontide and the dewy eve;  
Waiting for the harvest, and the time of reaping,  
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

*Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves,  
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves;  
Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves,  
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.*

Sowing in the sunshine, sowing in the shadows,  
Fearing neither clouds nor winter’s chilling breeze;  
By and by the harvest, and the labour ended,  
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

Going forth with weeping, sowing for the Master,  
Though the loss sustained our spirit often grieves;  
When our weeping’s over, He will bid us welcome,  
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

**COMMISSIONING** We now extinguish these candles 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** Roddy Hamilton

May there always be two thousand acres of sky above us,

may there always be the story of the earth beneath us,

may there always be the song of the air between us.

And may love, that shook creation from God’s hand,

shake us alive.

That we might walk in God’s way,

now and always **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**