

New Year's Communion service 2017

Ecclesiastes reflection from http://www.ucc.org/worship_worship-ways

Setting the Space

Create a display that portrays the passing of time at the front of the worship space. Place blocks or books on a table to make different levels and cover with fabric. Use items such as old calendars, clocks, electronic planners, and watches in the display. Have pens and paper and print the words below from Ecclesiastes 3:1–13 (at end of document) into cards. Print enough so everyone has a choice of words. Prepare the scripture as a slideshow or light candles as the passage is read.

Welcome

The traditional people of this land, the Kulin (koolin) people, call this season in January and February 'Biderap Dry season.' Temperatures are high and there is low rainfall. The brown butterflies are flying and the tussock grass grows long and dry. Long enough for the kids to play hide and seek in. Making good beds too for snakes lazing in the sun. The Southern Cross is high in the south at sunrise.

Perhaps you have felt the dry, slow nature of this season.
Perhaps you feel the play and rest this season can bring.
Perhaps you are feeling the call of something significant in the new day?

Let's take a moment to be still and rest in the presence of our creator, life and love in every season.

***Play slide 1 - track 'A Closed World of Fine Feelings and Grand Design' Aleksandr Tsiboulski
Image 'Tussock Grass'***

Play slide 2

PSALM 23 (ABORIGINAL STYLE)

By Rev. Ron Williams

My big fella boss up in the sky is like the father emu.
He will always look after me and take me to green grass,
And lead me to where the water holes are full and fresh all the time.
He leads me away from the thick scrub
and helps me keep safe from the hunters, dingoes and eagles.
At night time when I'm very lonely and sad,
I will not be afraid, for my Father covers me with His feathers like a father emu.
His spear and shield will always protect me.

My big fella boss always gives me a good feed in the middle of my enemies.

In hot times he makes me sit down in a cool shade and rest.

He gives me plenty of love and care all of my life through.

Then I will live with my big fella boss like a father emu,

that cares for his chickens in good country full of peace and safety,

Forevermore and evermore.

www.tear.org.au/static/files/resources/resourceKitReconciliation.pdf

Opening Prayer – Bec

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com.au/2017/12/prayer-of-examen-for-new-year.html>

or <https://re-worship.blogspot.com.au/2017/12/prayer-for-new-years-day.html>

New Year's Reflection

We have a moment now, on the last day of 2017 to think about the closing of one year, and the beginning of a new one.

Slide 3

Invite you to take a pen and a piece of paper incase it is helpful.

Looking back over the past year, for what are you most grateful?

What gifts and growth will you take from this year into the next?

How do you want to live differently in the new year?

Share these things with God as you write or draw about them.

Reading

In Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 it says :

Slide 4

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Everything Has Its Time

3 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

Slide 5

³ a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;

Slide 6

⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

Slide 7

⁵ a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

Slide 8

⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

Slide 9

⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

Slide 10

⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

The God-Given Task

⁹ What gain have the workers from their toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. ¹¹ He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹² I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; ¹³ moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

Action

I wonder which of these times is on your heart as you think of the year to come? I invite you to come and pick a card or two that you are drawn to today.

People come forward and choose cards.

Let's do some deep listening now as we look at our cards.
What room do you need to make for this time?

What changes may you need to make in your life?
What new things might need to be embraced?
What might you need to let go of?

Let's pray:

Helper in our Past and Hope for our Future:
hold our good intentions,
free us from that which keeps us from the good,
and enable us to move into the coming year
with your love behind, beside, and before us. Amen.

Response – Slide 11 with music

I invite you to come and place your card at the front here at the communion table and take some bread and wine back to your place and hold onto it until we eat and drink together.

Family Communion – Helen

Holy Communion

Prayer

Keeper of our days,
we are grateful for the ways you have been revealed to us in the past:
through the love of community – gathered here and beyond;
through nature and the beauty each season brings;
and through a shared hope ignited within us that does not flicker or fade.
Confident of your love,
we bring our whole selves into your presence:
our achievements and our failures,
our proud moments and our hidden shame,
our undying dreams and our detached resolve.
At this gracious table we meet you
in bread made of common wheat,
broken and shared and made whole again
through a sacred communing with all of creation.

Slide 12

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty,
the whole universe speaks of your glory,
O God Most High.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!
Hosanna in the highest!**

*Offer **Words of Institution** in the tradition of your congregation*

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

Spirit of All Life,
move among this bread and this cup
and make us mindful of our oneness with all creation
so this meal of simple substance
may become a true communion
with the one who makes every tomorrow possible.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Invite people to eat and drink

Offering & Announcements – Slide 13

On camp some of us wrote down ways that we would prepare for advent and the kids made gifts to open. You can come and collect them now.

Closing Prayer

'Ever-present Father, help me to meet you in the scriptures I read and the prayers I say; in the bread I break and the meals I share; in my investments at work and my enjoyments at play; and in the neighbours and family I welcome, love and serve, for your sake and that your love and peace may reign now and forever. Amen.'

or

I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.' May that almighty hand guide and uphold us all.

Birthing – Something new from you



Dying – The end of something



Planting – Working at something new from old



Harvesting – Enjoying what you have



Ending - Finishing something



Healing – Attending to repair of someone or something



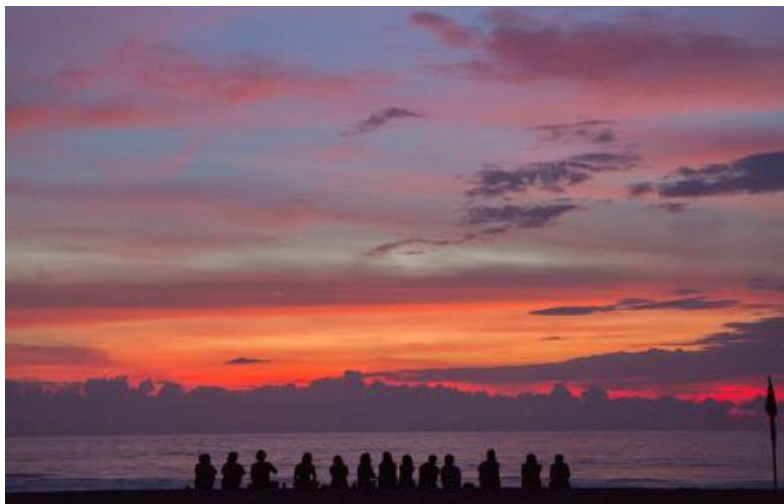
Breaking down – Undoing/Pulling apart something



Building up - Working on / Encouraging



Weeping – Allowing yourself to show your sorrow or anger



Laughing - Getting into the joy of the moment



Mourning – Allowing time to be sad at the loss of someone or something



Dancing – Freedom & movement – alone or together



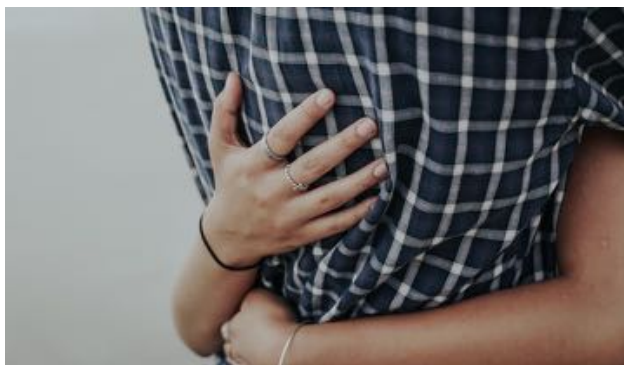
Throwing away – Getting rid of something / Clearing out



Gathering – Collecting, learning, bringing together



Embracing – Bringing people/ something close



Refraining – Stopping from doing something/Holding back



Seeking - Putting effort into finding out something



Losing – Not having something any more



Keeping - Protecting something



Keeping silence – Not speaking



Speaking out – Expressing something



Loving – Feeling or showing great care



Hate – Be unable to stand something



War – Fight for something



Peace making – Bringing people together

