

PRAYERS & REFLECTIONS

D. PRAYERS OF AOTEAROA/NEW ZEALAND

LAND OF BUSH CLAD FERN FROND FOREST

*Land of bush-clad fern frond forest
Land of inland lake, geyser and stream,
Gentle creative Breath of the Father, Living Spring,
We praise you.*

*Land of golden beaches, pebbly sand, paua, toheroa and pipi
Land of volcanic plateau and soaring mountain peak
Author of Beauty, Explosive Word of the Father
We Praise You.*

*Land of sparkling gulf stream waters
Land raging foam-flung seas
Lord of the Dance, Controller of Tides.
We Praise You.*

*Land of night owl - Morepork, and nocturnal Kīwi,
Land of Pied Stilt, Pukeko, Kea and Kakapo,
Light of the World, Dispeller of Darkness,
We Praise You.*

*Land of ancient Maori Myth and Legend,
Land of where the great canoes first touched the earth,
Alpha and Omega, Beginning and End. We Praise You.*

*Land of enterprise, Land of Friendship,
Land of Migration, Land of the Free,
God of Nations, Love's true Dwelling,
We Praise You.*



Sister Pamela Hedges, sjc

THE RED POHUTAKAWA

The red pohutakawa be-crimsoned splendour
 Straddles the beach
 Dark trunk upraised,
 Red flowers encircled,
 Whilst below tide gently spread.
 Black jagged rocks algae clinging
 Mussel encrusted, small crabs scurrying.
 Night falls,
 Dark velvet mantle covers the earth.



Sister Pamela Hedges sjc

CELEBRATION OF AOTEAROA

Let us celebrate, O Aotearoa,
 Land of volcano, geyser and stream.
 Land of clear crystal mountains,
 Land where the sun longs to beam.

Let us celebrate, O Aotearoa,
 Let us celebrate, O tangata whenua.
 People of the Land, People of the Earth.
 Let us celebrate, O Aotearoa,
 Let us trumpet the news of re-birth
 For God the Lord of all that is
 God who Is - once more comes to earth.

To this land of green clad beauty
 of Totara, Kauri, Pohutakawa and Puriri,
 Of Kiwi, Kaka, Pukeko and Morepork
 of all God's creatures that people the earth.

Let us praise God who is
 For Southern Alps that pierce the skies,
 For wool clad sheep going placidly by,
 For raging torrent
 and gentle mist,
 For waterfall's splendour
 and flowers sun-kissed.

Let us celebrate, O Aotearoa,
 Land of the Maori at birth,
 Land of those who came
 From over the sea,
 Land of the oppressed,
 Land of the Free.

Let us celebrate, O Aotearoa,
 Let all that is - praise God.

Sister Pamela Hedges sjc

Service of Reconciliation:

Introduction:

"As Catholic New Zealanders we must be prepared to work for a reconciliation of Maori and Pakeha in a society which has a place for the many peoples who now live here. Reconciliation is a strong word for it speaks of the overcoming of sin and evil and the renewal of human hearts made possible by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. A genuine reconciliation is built on justice and leads to peace. Its power is the power of the love, forgiveness, and compassion with which God enfolds his people. Reconciliation is God's gift for the uniting of the human family.

In 1990 we must be grateful for what has been achieved in the relations between Maori and Pakeha. There must be sorrow too for opportunities missed, for mistakes made, for wrongs done. And let us ready ourselves for what has still to be done."

(Excerpt from Bishop Meeking's Pastoral Letter 26.11.89)

Confession:

Reader 1: God our Father and Creator and Sustainer, you have given us life and love and have placed us in this land. Your will is for us to love one another as unique and precious expressions of your likeness.

Response: Merciful God, enlighten us in our attitudes and actions.

Reader 2: Divine Spirit the Maori culture ensured that all had a sense of belonging. European settlement has meant for them loss of land, loss of spiritual heritage, loss of their means of survival, and for many, loss of dignity.

Response: Merciful God, enlighten us in our attitudes and actions.

Reader 3: God of Love, show us those actions by which we have broken the community you have willed for us, that we might acknowledge our wrongs and seek a new way forward together.

Response: Merciful God, enlighten us in our attitudes and actions.

Reader 4: Gracious God, your Son Jesus Christ came to show us the way of peace and harmony. He showed us his way, the way of compassion. That means dying to ourselves in order that we and others may live.

Response: Merciful God, enlighten us in our attitudes and actions.

Scripture:

Leader: Now let us hear this word too from God, written in the Holy Gospel according to Matthew, reporting the words of Jesus himself.

Reader: *"If when you are bringing your gift to the altar, you suddenly remember that your sister or brother has a grievance against you, leave your gift where it is before the altar. First go and make peace with your brother and sister, and only then come back and offer your gift."* (Matt. 5:23-24)

— Quiet Reflection —

Prayers:

- Leader:** We now place our intercessions before God and pray —
- Side 1:** Gracious God, we pray for all the peoples of Aotearoa New Zealand. Help us to discover what allegiance to Christ means in this land.
- Side 2:** May there be an authentic encounter between the people of the land, the Maori, and those who have come from afar.
- Side 1:** By your Spirit, keep our churches open to listen and respond to the yearnings for justice, of Maori, of women, of youth, of unemployed people, of those who are marginalised in our society.
- All:** Through repentance and conversion guide your church into a deeper unity so that it may serve Christ's vision more effectively.
Through Jesus Christ, Amen.
- Leader:** May the God of Justice and Creativity empower us to honour the Treaty to share our power and to create new hope for all the peoples of this land.

Through the grace of God abiding within each one of us may we build a world of peace, and joy, and freedom.



All: Amen.

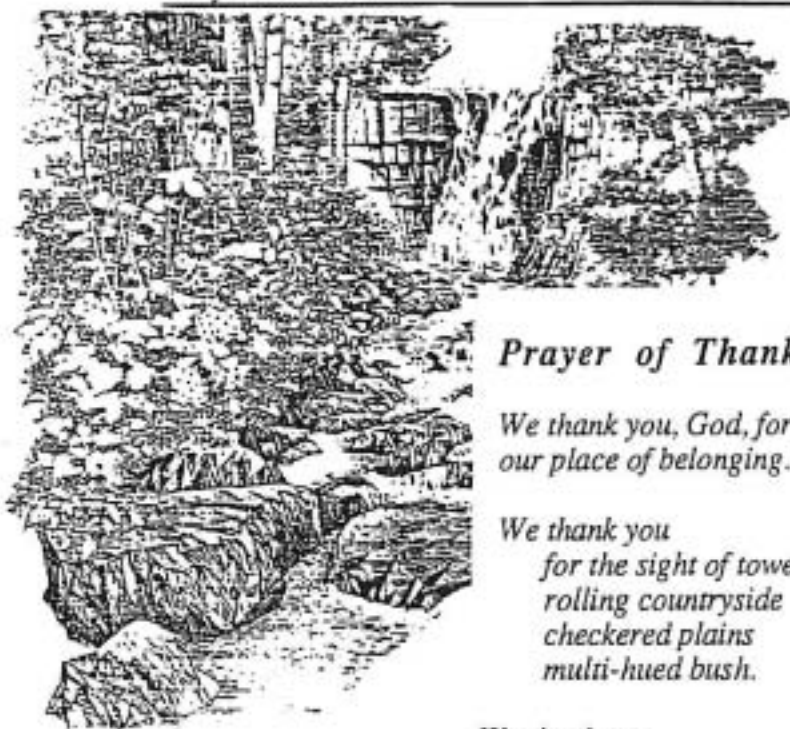
Song:

(Words by Jane Higgins — sung to the tune of Praise My Soul the King of Heaven)

Creator God of hope and justice,
hear the broken earth cry out;
Land which birthed and blessed its people,
now has known their blood poured out.
Blood is crying out for justice,
from the wounded broken ground.

Loving God we pledge ourselves now
to the healing of this pain;
May true justice flow like water,
giving life and strength again;
Earth once washed by tears of sadness,
will be blessed by cleansing rain.

In this land of Aotearoa,
may the fire of justice burn;
We will hold its light before us,
see its truth, its hope discern.
Now a life of love in action,
is the task to which we turn.



Prayer of Thanksgiving

*We thank you, God, for this land of Aotearoa
our place of belonging.*

*We thank you
for the sight of towering mountain peaks
rolling countryside
checkered plains
multi-hued bush.*

*We thank you
for sound of Tui and Korimako
rushing mountain streams
gurgling braided rivers
waves pounding the shore
the silence of the solitary places.*

*We thank you
for the smell of rain soaked forests
city gardens' perfumes
fresh frosted air
earth itself.*

*We thank you
for the touch of soft moist moss
sharp mountain rock
smooth coastal stones
crisp leaf and snow
tender hand of friends and lovers
the heart beat of all that lives.*

We thank you
.....

(Students add their own words individually)



PRAYER OF PRAISE AND THANKS

(Say together)

We praise you O God for creation, for the world you brought into being.

We thank you for Rangi and Papa (sky and earth),
for whenua and moana (land and sea),
for Maunga and mania (mountain and plain),
for roto and awa (lakes and rivers),
for ngahere and manu (forest and birds).

We thank you for this land of Aotearoa, our home;
for the islands of Te Ika a Maui and Te Waipounamu;
for all that makes living here so distinctive and enriching.

We give thanks for Tongariro and Aoraki,
mountains that remind us there is a rock on which we can stand
as your people;
for Waikato and Waitaki,
rivers that remind us that there is an ever-flowing power
to sustain us as people;
for kereru and korimako, for kiwi, tui and all birds,
that remind us of the colour and song that enrich life with you;
for kauri and totara, for rimu, tawai and all the trees of the forest
that remind us that as your people we may stand proud and tall.

We praise you that you created people, nga iwi, to enjoy creation.
We thank you that you sent Jesus the Christ, God, yet one of us, to reveal
your nature, to set us free from all bondage and to show us the nature of
life as you would have it.
We thank you for all that was, and still is achieved through the spirit of
this Jesus. May we with the aid of your Holy Spirit always strive to
follow in his footsteps.

John Roberts.
Permission granted by the poet.



PRAYER OF OFFERING

(Each verse read by a single reader)

To you, Creator God, we bring **EARTH**
symbol of this sacred land of Aotearoa
pledged by treaty to be shared with justice.

To you, parenting God, we bring **WATER**
remembering the precious gift of seas, lakes and rivers.

To you, God of warming love and searing truth, we bring **FIRE**
to remind us of the honouring and betrayal of the Treaty.

To you, God of life and creativity, we offer **AIR**
breath of our lungs, inspiration of our spirits,
symbol of religious and political freedom.

To you, God of growth, we bring **SEEDS**
sign of enormous potential within human beings,
hope of its flowering and fruiting in the lives of the people.

To you, God of Covenant, we offer **TE TIRITI O WAITANGI**,
cornerstone of the nation.
guide for our bicultural journey.

We are yours, O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Enable us as responsible, loving and creative people,
to create a just, empowering and celebrating society in Aotearoa. Amen.



OPENING PRAYERS

Benedicite Aotearoa

O give thanks to our God who is good:
whose love endures for ever.

You sun and moon, you stars of the southern sky:
give to our God your thanks and praise.

Sunrise and sunset, night and day:
give to our God your thanks and praise.

All mountains and valleys, grassland and scree,
glacier, avalanche, mist and snow:
give to our God your thanks and praise.

You kauri and pine, rata and kowhai, mosses and ferns:
give to our God your thanks and praise.

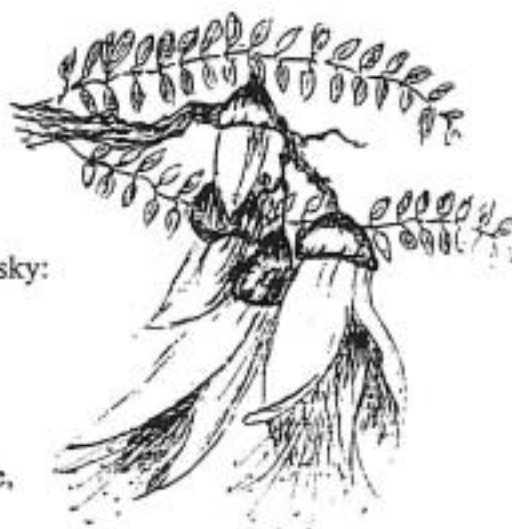
Dolphins and Kahawai, sealion and crab, coral,
anemone, pipi and shrimp:
give to our God your thanks and praise.

Rabbits and cattle, moths and dogs, kiwi and
sparrow and tui and hawk:
give to our God your thanks and praise.

You Maori and Pakeha, women and men, all who
inhabit the long white cloud:
give to our God your thanks and praise.

All you saints and martyrs of the South Pacific:
give to our God your thanks and praise.

*God our Creator,
when you speak there is light and life,
when you act there is justice and love;
grant that your love may be present in our meeting,
so that what we say and what we do
may be filled with your Holy Spirit.*



CLOSING PRAYER

We pray O God for the Land, Forests and Fisheries,
for the cherishing of all the treasures of this country.

Congregation: Your will be done on Earth

We pray O God for the Peoples of this Land,
for the Maori People the Tangata Whenua,
for the Pakeha People,
for the honouring of their covenanting together in the Treaty of Waitangi,
for all the diversity of migrant peoples,
for our ancestors, ourselves, and for those to follow after us.

Congregation: Your will be done on Earth

We pray O God for the Communities and Institutions which bind and shape us;
perpetuate what is good,
purge what is dishonourable,
renew in us a spirit of integrity,
raise up whatever new things are needed to
restore and sustain us all.

Congregation: Your will be done on Earth

O God, you have called us to forsake all false gods and to follow You

We have chosen this day whom we will serve

You have called us to forsake selfish and exclusive behaviour —
as individuals and as groups.

We have chosen.

You have called us to follow your way of Love, Justice and Peace for all.

We have chosen.

You have called us to follow your Way of seeking out the excluded,
the 'down' and 'out', — those passed by, neglected, and exploited in our day.

We have chosen.

You have called us to honour the provisions of Your law and of Your covenant;
to honour our own Treaty and our covenanting.

We have chosen.

May we forsake the violent and selfish ways of the World.
May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with us.
May the Holy Spirit inspire us.
May God be our security and our liberation.

Amen.

The Blessing / Benediction

May the God of justice and creativity
empower us
to honour the Treaty
to share our power
and to create new hope
for all the peoples of this land.

Amen.

Hymn for 1990

(Sung to Hymn to Joy)

Land of shining primal forests,
Sculptured ribbon framed by sea;
Land of mystic snow-clad markers
Charged with raw vitality;
Valley wreathed in mist of mourning,
Earth caressed by sparkling light,
Gift of God, our awesome homeland,
Signed with nature's cross at night.

Sing two races' different stories,
Sing their hope and sing their needs.
Let the Treaty write our story,
Frame our vows and shape our deeds.
Bid the people sit at table,
Share their joy and share their pain;
Join in covenant and banquet,
Break the bread and break the chains.

To the nation's patterned weaving
We have brought our vibrant threads —
Gifts of language, gifts of custom;
Precious gifts of heart and head.
Let us name our river, mountain,
Make this soil our spirit's earth,
Find the Christ in land and people,
Bring God's tender dream to birth.

Dream our country's future pathway,
Shape that journey day by day;
Use the Treaty's founding wisdom,
Share the power and share the praise.
Then beyond the present struggles,
Festive joys and lurking fears,
Nation-building based on justice
Shall empower the people's prayers.



KO WAITANGI AHAU

Tekoteko carved by
Professor Hirini Moko Mead
Used with permission of Manuka Henare
National Catholic Commission for
Justice, Peace and Development.

Bill Wallace
1990 Worship Resources CCANZ Prayers
Used with permission of the poet.

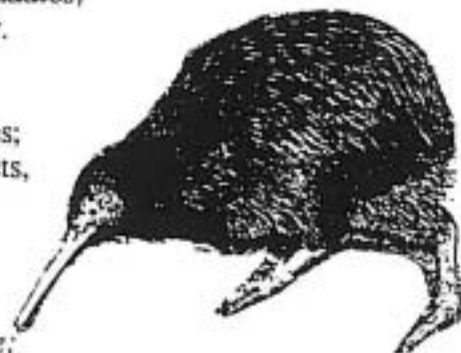
CANTICLE OF THE KIWI

Bless the Lord!
 You sun reflecting moon and stars and men of space,
 Both outward bound and flying home again,
 Bless the Lord! Bless Him, earth's atmosphere,
 Warm winds, great storms and frost and hail and rain.

*Bless the Lord! you tumbling mountain torrents;
 Bless Him, you glaciers, rivers, creeks and streams;
 Bless the Lord! you ponds and pools and puddles,
 And limpid lakes, reflecting faint star beams.*

Bless the Lord! you farms and fisheries;
 Bless Him you bores and reservoirs and mines;
 Bless Him, you power and reclamation projects,
 You forests of exotic firs and pines.

*Bless the Lord! you kauri and kowhai;
 Bless Him, titoki, totara and tawa,
 Bless Him, you varied beech and native pine;
 Bless Him, you rimu and pohutakawa.*



Bless the Lord! you red deer, thar and chamois;
 O bless Him here, in your adopted land,
 Bless the Lord! you rocks and cliffs and outcrops,
 Bless Him, good earth, and gravel, clay and sand.

*Bless the Lord! you mountain mists and vapours;
 You fertile fields, with winding river fog;
 Bless Him, you thermal works and great volcanoes;
 Bless Him, you city smoke and steam and smog.*

Bless the Lord! you people in your homes,
 In cottages and bungalows and flats,
 Bless the Lord, in mansions and in units
 Bless Him in every caravan and bach.

*Bless the Lord! you dotterils and godwits;
 Bless Him, you shags, gannets, gulls and terns;
 Bless the Lord in wild winds and sea-spray;
 Bless Him on coasts, where tide and fortune turns.*

Bless the Lord you frogs and night cicadas,
 You slugs and bugs and worms and silvered snails;
 Bless Him bright bees and dragon-flies and moon-moths,
 You glow-worms with starlight shining in your tails.

*Bless the Lord! you purest kotuku;
 O Bless Him fully in your high white flight;
 Bless the Lord, you grounded takahe;
 O Bless Him, humble kiwi, through the night.*

— by Fay Clayton, 'Seashore Christmas & Other Poems - Futuna Press 1972.
 Used with permission of the poet.

[Written in 1969 — inspired by three young men reaching the moon. Adapted from the Canticle of the Three Young Men, beginning with men in flight and ending with the flightless kiwi.]

Prayer for a Hui

God of Nations, we come before you:

- with gratitude for the achievements of the past
- with pain for the wrongs committed
- with hope for a different future.

We thank you for the great people who have gone before us.
We praise you, Lord. Kororia Ki a Koe, e Te Ariki.

We have not honoured our founding covenant, the Treaty of Waitangi. Lord, forgive us. E Te Ariki, Tohungia Ra Matou.

May we find new ways to make your kingdom come, the kingdom of love and truth, of justice and peace. Lord, hear us. E Te Ariki, Whakarongo Mai Ki a Matou.

Through this hui may we young adults commit ourselves to build a better church and a better world, with your help. For you are our Creator, our Saviour and our Life-giver. Amen.

Courtesy Fr Bernard Dennehy

Paiaia
 Taurua W
 Hare Hone Hone Hone
 Kiri Kiri Kiri Kiri
 Waiwaka
 Whakato
 Petaia
 Moira
 Wairarua
 Kawa
 Wai
 Reweti Atuaiaia
 Ava
 Waiwaka Kiri Kiri
 Te mana

Pi
 Hana
 Tasha
 Kaiti
 Punaia
 Ke Kera
 Te Kamara
 Pomara
 Waiwaka
 Te Tia
 Maruio
 Kaiti
 Waiwaka