

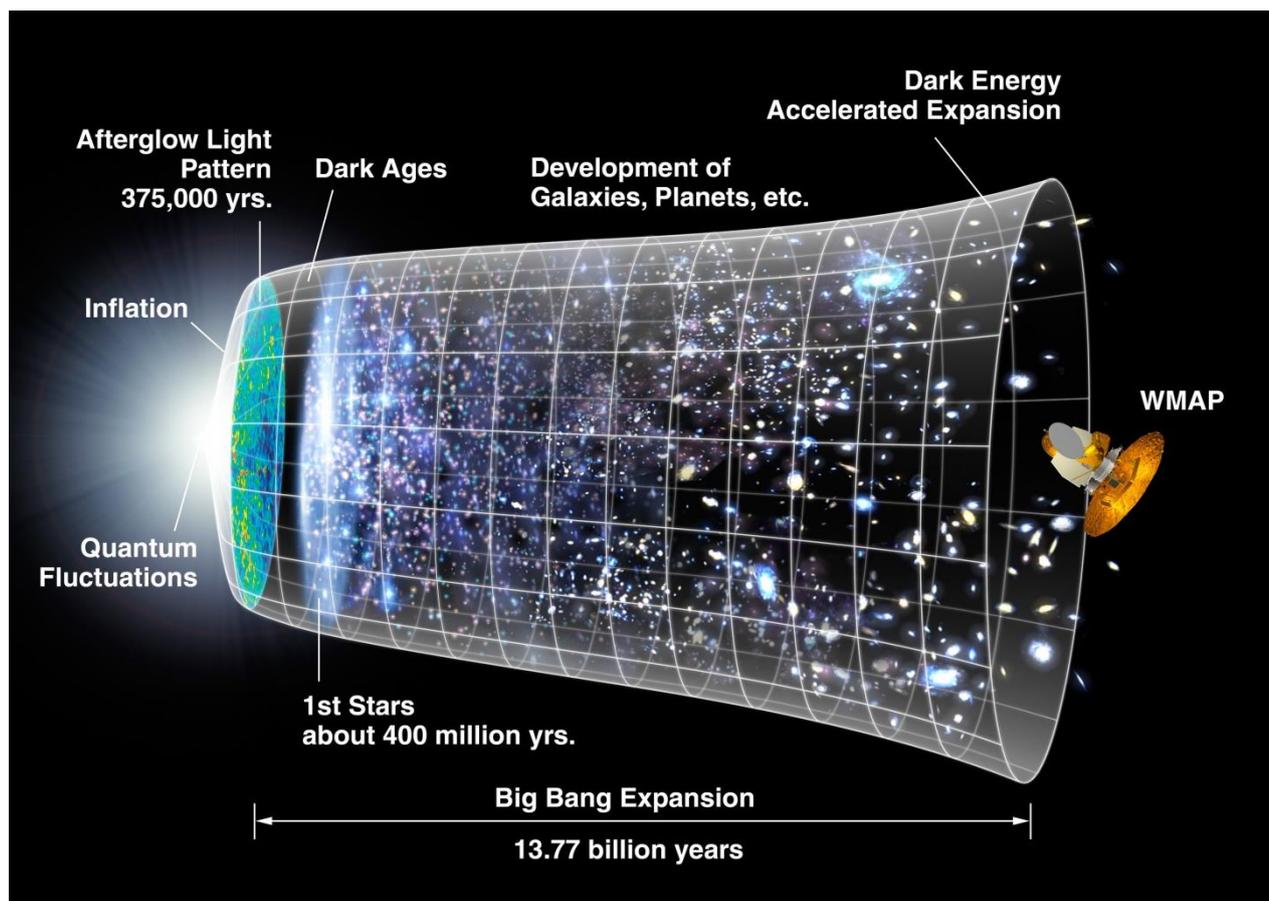


Eastwood Uniting Church

## Evolution Sunday

7 February, 2021

# Wow!



### An Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Wallumattagal people of the Dharug/Eora nation,  
the first inhabitants of this place.

We honour them for their custodianship of the land  
on which we gather today.

## MUSICAL PRELUDE

# We Gather in Praise of God

## CALL TO CELEBRATE

The grace and good humour of Christ Jesus  
be with you all.

***And also with you.***

When the universe began its long unfolding,

***God was God.***

When stars were finding their places,  
and planets their orbits,

***God was God.***

Let us worship God.

**HYMN**     Tune *Lucerna Laudoniae* TIS 137

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the beauty 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 of 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 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.

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## PRAYER IN HUMILITY & GRATITUDE

Each day declares your generosity  
and each night displays your glory,  
God in and through the Universes.

***O that we would continually praise your goodness,  
such wonderful gifts to children of Earth!***

We thank you  
for the skies above us,  
the 'mind-blowing' expanses of Universe  
and the billions of stars that tease our curiosity,  
each of which keep us humble.

***O that we would continually praise your goodness,  
such wonderful gifts to children of Earth!***

For all our forgettings of wonder and awe  
we seek your grace God within the universes.

***Amen.***

## **THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus be always with you.

***And also with you.***

We Listen for word of God

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S TIME** 'Did Earth wobble for you?'

**HYMN** 186 Tune *Praise, my soul* TiS 134

Stars and planets flung in orbit,  
galaxies that swirl through space,  
powers hid within the atom,  
cells that form an infant's face:  
these, O God, in silence praise you;  
by your wisdom they are made.

Skies adorned with sunset splendour,  
silent peaks in calm repose,  
golden fields awaiting harvest,  
foaming surf and fragrant rose:  
earth, it's bounty clothed with beauty,  
echoes all creation's praise

Life in wondrous, wild profusion,  
seed and fruit, each flower and tree,  
beast and fish and swarming insect,  
soaring bird, rejoicing, free:  
these, your creatures, join in chorus,  
praising you in wordless song.

Humankind, earth's deepest mystery,  
born of dust but touched by grace,  
torn apart by tongue and colour,  
yet a single, striving race:  
we, in whom you trace your image,  
add our words to nature's song.

Herman G. Steumppfle 1923-2007 © 1991 by The Hymn Society.  
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## WE SEND OUT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO PLAY AND LEARN

### FROM BIBLICAL WITNESSES

Listen for a faith expressed by the ancient Hebrews.

Psalm 104

This is the witness of God's People!

***Thanks be to God!***

Listen for words of faith in early Christian writings.

Colossians 1. 15-20

In this is found the word of God,

***words of life!***

***for us***

***and the world.***

### A CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

'Wow!'

## We Respond to God's Character of Grace

**HYMN** Tune *Northbrook* TiS 157

O Lord of every shining constellation  
that wheels in splendour through the midnight sky,  
grant us your Spirit's true illumination  
to read the secrets of your work on high.

You, Lord, have made the atom's hidden forces,  
your laws its mighty energies fulfil;  
teach us, to whom you give such rich resources,  
in all we use, to serve your holy will.

O life, awaking life in cell and tissue,  
from flower to bird, from beast to human brain,  
O help us trace, from birth to final issue,  
the sure unfolding of your ageless plan.

Great Lord of nature, shaping and renewing,  
who made us more than nature's heirs to be,  
help us to tread, with grace our souls enduring  
the road to life and immortality.

Albert Frederick Bayly © Oxford University Press. *Alt.* Used with Permission CCLI 65422

## COMPASSION AND COMMUNITY

### OUR PRAYERS OF HOPE AND LONGING

God in and through our wonder-filled Universe:

For the hungry who need a place shaped by bread and justice,  
***we make a place of welcome.***

For the hurt who need a place shaped by safety and patience,  
***we make a place of welcome.***

For the terrorised who need a place shaped by light and hope,  
***we make a place of welcome.***

For the displaced who need places shaped by memory & home,  
***we make a place of welcome.***

For the silenced who need a place shaped by voices and time,  
***we make a place of welcome.***

For the culprit who needs a place shaped by humanity & compassion,  
***we make a place of welcome.***

For the sick who need a place shaped by healing and care,  
***we make a place of welcome.***

For the follower who needs a place shaped by faith and dreams,  
***we make a place of welcome.***

For a faith that is shaped in the love of God,  
***we make a place of welcome.***

Inspire us with the all-embracing love of God;  
challenge us with the sacrificial love of Jesus;  
empower us with the transforming love of the Spirit;  
that we and all God's people may live and be free!  
***Amen.***

## THE PRAYER OF JESUS – A PARAPHRASE

Let us join our prayer  
to a contemporary paraphrase of the prayer of Christ Jesus.

***Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be.  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God,  
in whom is heaven:  
May the hallowing of your name  
echo through the universe,  
the way of your justice  
be followed by peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will  
be done by all created things!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope  
and come to earth.***

***With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.***

***For you reign in the glory and the power that is love,  
now and forever.***

***Amen.***

Jim Cotter 1988 alt. Used with permission

## **WE OFFER OUR GIFTS IN THANKFULNESS FOR GOD**

Let us offer our gifts  
as a sign of our commitment  
to Christ Jesus and our world.

Let us pray.

***O God,  
these gifts are our small signs  
that we are committed to your hopes for our world.  
Receive them now  
and bless them  
as they become part of your future.  
Amen.***

We Experience God as Love

## **AN INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

## GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts!

***We lift them to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

Indeed, we do lift our hearts before you, God,  
in a song of joy and thanksgiving.

So we say with people of all ages:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory  
Hosannah in the highest!***

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

***Hosanna in the highest!***

The prayer continues

## THE BREAD IS BROKEN

The bread we break,  
is a sharing in the Body of Christ!

The cup of blessing we take,  
is a sharing in the Blood of Christ!

## THE DISTRIBUTION

***We take our Leave to do God's Will***

Eternal God,  
you have most graciously  
received us,  
fed us,  
clothed  
and refreshed us.

We now go on in peace  
with you,  
with each other,  
and with all whom we meet.

*In the name of Christ! Amen.*

We Go Out to Serve God in Each Other

## BLESSING & COMMISSIONING

Love all Creation,  
the whole of it.  
Love every grain of sand,  
every leaf,  
every ray of God's light.

Love the animals.  
Love the plants.  
Love human being.  
Love everything

If you love everything  
you will perceive the divine mystery in things.  
And once you have perceived it,  
you will begin to comprehend it ceaselessly.  
More and more every day.

And you will at last  
come to love the whole world  
with an abiding universal love.

Fyodor Dostoyevsky alt.

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

Tune *Thornbury* TIS 456

The first day of creation is dawning in the soul,  
upon the deep God hovers where fear and chaos roll.  
The inward dark is parting. The seas make room for land.  
Great shorelines are emerging, a new world is at hand!

Yet God is recreating more than our inner world:  
look up beyond the planets where galaxies are swirled,  
look out and see how often surprising love is shown.  
Christ is at work reshaping both stars and hearts of stone.

All life in Christ is compassed by the transforming grace  
that spins new worlds and wonders in every time and place.  
O Twirler of the stardust, O Light no darkness rims,  
your new creation pulses with worship, praise and hymns.

Thomas Troeger, *Borrowed Light*. Used by Permission CCLI 65422

## MUSICAL POSTLUDE



Please recycle this liturgy for your own prayers and for the health of our environment