

# CHAPEL SERVICE

9 AUGUST 2006

Music – Goreki Symphony

Reading: Psalm 137: 1-6 - Craig

## **Introduction - Craig**

We gather today  
reminded of a people in exile  
captive in Babylon  
strangers in a strange land  
dispossessed and depressed  
a people for whom  
the heart-songs of faith ring hollow  
a people for whom  
home is a distant memory  
freedom a faint longing  
and faith a last resort

We are reminded of a people  
twisted by anger  
hungry for revenge  
even upon the babies  
people senseless with rage

We gather here today  
to hear the prophet's cry

not a word of comfort  
but a trumpet call  
summoned to a place  
of unbearable holiness  
a thundering sky  
an apocalypse of holy presence

We gather today in the place  
where heaven and earth collide  
where God's patience grows thin  
sweeping away injustice and oppression  
exposing hypocrisy and deceit  
uprooting powers that exploit and destroy  
around us and within us  
an inferno of love and judgement  
at the limit of God's mercy  
turning body to bone  
and flesh to ash

We are Pentecost people  
and at times  
the weave of creation  
seems unravelled by the Creator herself  
a Spirit-dance of chaos  
of ecstasy and exorcism  
that returns dust to dust  
leaving only the elemental -  
earth, wind and fire

Dry bones  
We are called today to a lament -  
to acknowledge the brokenness of ourselves,  
of the church, of our world  
to name our own sense of homelessness, our exile  
to recognise our discontent, even our rage  
at the state of the church  
and the state of the world -  
a world filling with exiles  
we are asked  
to confront our silence in the face of such evil

We are invited today  
to recognise and lay aside  
those things that we cling to  
ahead of our allegiance to Christ  
however good they may seem

Might these bones yet live?  
might we pass through the fire  
and be renewed  
might the wind and fire of the spirit  
reduce us and reshape us?

Today we are called to incinerate  
any easy way to goodness and holiness  
any safe way to security and peace  
any cheap way to nourishment and fullness  
and return to the place where,  
without trust in the One

who creates and saves us,  
all indeed might as well be ashes and dust

so that perhaps,  
just perhaps  
a new creation might be born

Let us worship!

### **INVOCATION**

(readers to have stanzas marked on their orders of service)

Come Spirit:  
infuse our being,  
filling our parched throats  
with rainbow voices.

Come Spirit:  
crowd our living  
with your words of heaven,  
and songs of grace.

Come Spirit:  
invade our space  
with your righteous anger  
and heaven's holy fury.

Come Spirit:  
flood our conversations  
with your rumours of justice  
and the laughter of God.

Come Spirit:  
infect our creeds,  
uncreasing your promises  
with the poetry of faith.

Come Spirit:  
embrace our vision  
with the casting of love  
over the pattern of our dreams.

Come, Holy Spirit, come

(Roddy Hamilton)

**Song** – “Holy, Holy, Holy Lord”

**Scripture Reading: Lee**  
Ezekiel 1:1, 4-7, 22, 26-28

In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the exiles by the river Chebar, the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God

As I looked, a stormy wind came out of the north: a great cloud with brightness around it and fire flashing forth continually, and in the middle of the fire, something like gleaming amber. In the middle of it was something like four living creatures. This was their appearance: they were of human form. 6 Each had four faces, and each of them had four wings.

Over the heads of the living creatures there was something like a dome, shining like crystal, spread out above their heads

And above the dome over their heads there was something like a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was something that seemed like a human form. Upward from what appeared like the loins I saw something like gleaming amber, something that looked like fire enclosed all around; and downward from what looked like the loins I saw something that looked like fire, and there was a splendor all around. Like the bow in a cloud on a rainy day, such was the appearance of the splendor all around. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD.

When I saw it, I fell on my face...

## **Song – “Holy, Holy, Holy Lord”**

### **Craig**

Today we experience the Word  
You are invited to enter the prophet’s story  
to hear Ezekiel’s call and remember your own  
to see Ezekiel’s visions and seek your own  
and to be infused and inflamed by the wind and fire  
of the Spirit

### **Scripture Reading: Lee**

Ezekiel 37: 1-6

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

### **Craig**

You are invited to visit these four prayer stations (in any order)  
to hear and respond to the word  
to offer your prayers of praise, confession, and intercession

When you have visited the prayer stations,  
you are invited to walk along the prayer labyrinth towards the Pentecost fire where we will celebrate Eucharist

May our faith, hope and call be rekindled  
and each of us be ignited by the Spirit’s presence.

May this Pentecost fire  
first be for us  
an apocalypse  
a refining  
a burial  
so that it can become for us  
and for our world  
an annunciation of joy  
a revival of faith  
a birthing of hope

God of yesterday, today and tomorrow  
Circle us with fire this day  
Circle us with fire

## **PRAYER STATIONS – LABYRINTH WALK**

(we will need to take the bread and wine with us – it's a circular offertory!)

### **COMMUNION**

#### **Lee**

Christ calls and gathers us here, one and all

We come to this place

as people with a longing -

seeking consolation and community

We come to this place

as those who have heard a call -

and seek clarity and conviction

We come to this place

as people on a journey -

seeking sustenance and surety

We come willing to lose life

in order to find it

While some seek certain signs

we see the Crucified One

While some seek certain knowledge

we see the Christ, Living Word

in our midst, in our lives

#### **Craig**

Hear again these words from Yahweh, as spoken to the prophet Ezekiel:

I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them; I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, so that they may follow my statutes and keep my ordinances and obey them. Then they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

#### **Lee**

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**And also with you**

(Share the Peace in the circle)

Christ our Lord invites you to this meal

this is bread for the journey

a meal for unexpected guests

and a feast for the world

Here, Christ meets you

and calls you God's own

Let us pray

God of mystery and wonder

surprise us and the world again this day

as you did

in Mary's womb

in an upper room

at the empty tomb

Surprise us again  
as you did  
when Ezekiel dreamed  
of chariots of fire  
and when Joel's visions  
burst aflame at Pentecost  
Make yourself known to us  
in this place of your Creation  
in this breaking of the bread  
in this circle of community  
and in the wind and heat of the Spirit's presence  
here and now  
Amen

## **NARRATIVE OF THE INSTITUTION**

Hear the words of institution of this sacrament  
as recorded by the apostle Paul:

For I received from the Lord  
what I also delivered to you,  
that the Lord Jesus,  
on the night when he was betrayed,  
took bread,  
and when he had given thanks,  
he broke it and said:  
This is my body which is for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way also the cup,  
after supper, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
for the remembrance of me.

For as often as you eat this bread  
and drink the cup,  
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

And so according to our Saviour's command,  
we set this bread and this cup apart  
for the holy supper to which he calls us,  
and we come to God with our prayers of  
thanksgiving.

## **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 our thanks and praise**

God of Life

You who create, save and sustain the Cosmos  
We stand in awe of your boundless goodness and  
grace

Since time before time began  
You have brooded over your creation  
giving birth and suckling life  
You crafted us in your own image  
inviting us to live in harmony with your world  
and in the communion of your embrace

Ever and always you invite us to live in your grace  
When our ears are deaf to your word  
You send prophets with disturbing truths  
When our hearts are cold to your love  
You send samaritans with reckless compassion  
When our eyes are blind to your purpose  
You stir our sleep with visions of promise  
When our lips are stuttering or silent  
You give us fresh songs and new voice

As you sent Jesus to live and walk among us  
to share our joys and suffer our sorrows  
to live our life and die our death  
so the risen Christ is present now  
in him heaven and earth become one  
for all eternity

For all you are and all you give  
we offer our adoration and praise

Please say after me  
(do the following as a call and response – one line  
at a time)

**Christ has died**

**Christ is risen**

**Christ will come again**

### **NARRATIVE OF INSTITUTION**

On the night in which Jesus gave himself up to  
death,  
he took bread, gave you thanks,  
broke it and said:  
This is my body which is given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

When the meal was ended, he lifted the cup,  
and again giving you thanks,  
gave it to his friends and said:  
This cup is the new covenant  
sealed by my blood.  
Do this, whenever you drink it,  
for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and this cup  
we do as our Saviour commands:  
we celebrate the redemption he has won for us.

By your Word and Holy Spirit,  
bless these gifts that we may truly share  
Christ's body and blood,  
and become, by grace, his body given  
for the sake of the world.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

The bread we break  
is a sharing in the body of Christ

The cup we take  
is a sharing in the blood of Christ

The gifts of God for the people of God

### **THE COMMUNION**

Receive this holy sacrament  
of the body and blood of Christ  
and feed in him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

(I suggest that we serve the bread around the  
circle, and then take 2 cups for intinction around the  
circle)

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

(led by Lee.....)

### **AFFIRMATION – Lee & Craig alternately with response**

May our words be just,  
**and echo with heaven.**

May our touch be in love,  
**and graced with mercy.**

May our silence be deep,  
**and hold all pain.**

May our acts be kind,  
**and proclaim a blessing.**

May our faith be true,  
**and revel in each moment.**

May our ways be grace-filled,  
**and shape a holy beauty.**

May our journeying be untiring,  
**and pursue justice.**

May our dreams be restless,  
**and filled with spirit.**

May our living be yours,  
**and bless the world.**

May all we do  
**turn us always towards heaven.**

(Roddy Hamilton)

### **SENDING OUT - Craig**

As you go from this place,

Know that God  
is with you and within you

Know that God  
calls you and claims you

Know that God  
renews you and refreshes you

Know that God  
sends you and surrounds you

Amen.