

## Beauty Eucharist

*This Eucharist was originally written around the idea of reclaiming and celebrating the darkness but is often the way we adapted it when we explored the theme of beauty looking at the idea of creation as being good and beautiful until humanity attempts to destroy beauty. It is through Christ's resurrection that beauty is restored and we are invited to share in the beauty of God's kin-dom.*

At the beginning  
of God's creating  
the earth was formless and void  
and a deep darkness  
covered the face of the deep  
velvety blackness  
impenetratable  
all encompassing  
darkness  
the waters of chaos  
swirled  
whirled and raged  
midnight storms  
unarticulated emotion  
unformed matter  
exploding, hurtling  
flung across the infinite expanse  
of time and space  
and with a newborn cry  
of shock and bewilderment  
a baby takes its first breath  
and it was beautiful.

At the beginning  
of God's creating,  
all the light  
of the entire universe,  
the size of a nutshell,  
is compressed  
contained  
raw energy,  
power, heat, light,  
the possibility,  
of endless imagination,  
stretching into eternity  
alluring,  
enticing  
demanding  
playful,  
as God opens the Pandora's box  
containing all of creation  
and destruction  
and with curiosity and imagination  
begins to play with possibility  
and it was beautiful.

At the beginning  
of God's creating  
in the half – light  
of the dawning of time  
the earth begins to stir  
awakening slowly  
from its slumber  
the kaleidoscope beginning to turn  
in the mists of time  
fog clearing  
in anticipation  
excitement  
wonder  
plants weave and reach for the sky,  
animals sniff the air  
birds take flight and soar  
and humanity's eyes  
begin to focus  
squabbles break out  
fighting over that which cannot be claimed  
contained or defined  
and it was not quite so beautiful.

At the beginning of God's creating  
all the light  
of the entire universe  
smashes into an infinite number  
of coloured pieces  
splatter-painting the stars  
across the canvas of the heavens  
amassing in the energy of the sun  
reflecting in the silvery light of the moon  
illuminating a cross on a lonely hillside  
ripping apart the very fabric  
of time and space  
the body of the universe  
the life blood of eternity  
as Jesus, breathes his last,  
This is my body,  
broken for you.  
This is my blood,  
poured out for you.  
Do this in memory of me.  
And beauty itself  
Is destroyed.

*[share bread and wine]*

In the beginning  
of God's creating  
as the sun rises

to the fullness of day  
the dark womb of the earth  
that contains both death and life  
gives birth to new life,  
to hope, to resurrection,  
the green blade rises  
the plants and vegetation  
take the light from the sun  
and photosynthesise  
converting light to food  
growing, inhabiting  
indwelling the earth  
the corn ripens  
bread is baked  
the grape swells  
wine is poured  
a huge banquet is set  
among the heavens  
as beauty re-awakes.

In the beginning  
of God's creating  
the spirit of God  
brooded over the waters  
I am the first and the last  
the beginning and the end  
the entire possibility of the universe  
contained in bread and wine  
body and blood  
and the kaleidoscope begins to turn  
in the mists of time  
fog clearing  
in anticipation  
excitement  
wonder  
as we are flung out  
across our communities  
to share the heavenly banquet  
in an infinitely beautiful,  
constantly creating world  
and it is beautiful  
very, very beautiful.

© Clare McBeath, and Tim Presswood 2006 (adapted 2009)