

Memorial Service
commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the
Mt. Erebus Air Accident



28th November 2004 - Scott Base, Antarctica

We fell.
Yet we were loved and we are lifted.
We froze.
Yet we were loved and we are warm.
We broke apart.
Yet we are here and we are whole.

Extract from Erebus Voices by Bill Manhire.

Hymn: *O God our help in ages past*

1.
O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home;

2.
beneath the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

5.
O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

3.
Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting Thou art God,
to endless years the same.

4.
A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Text: Isaac Watts

Blessing: Father Ron Bennett, Roman Catholic Chaplain at the Chapel of the Snow

Introduction: The Very Reverend Peter Beck
Dean of Christchurch

Greetings:

- Paul Hargreaves, Chairman of Antarctica New Zealand.
- A message from Mrs Margaret Broad who lost loved ones on Mt Erebus, and a brief statement in remembrance of Air New Zealand crew and colleagues, read by Emma Reid, Communications Manager of Antarctica New Zealand.

Sentence for the Day:

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
I will fear no evil:
For you are with me,
Your rod and your staff are my comfort**
[Psalm 23.4]

Hymn: *God comes to us as one unheard*

1.
God comes to us as one unheard
in silences profound,
or marvels of a symphony,
sublimity of sound.

2.
God comes to us as one unseen
in beauties of the earth;
a sea-gull's flight, a sunset sky,
the miracle of birth.

3.
God comes to us as one unknown
to share our joys, our pain;
that presence felt, the gift of grace
our peace and hope sustain.

4.
God comes to us at every hour
when strength and faith are weak;
the smiles of friends, encircling arms,
of reassurance speak.

5.
God comes in unexpected ways
surprising us with joy,
reminding that the light of love
no darkness can destroy.

6.
Teach us, O God, to recognise
your spirit everywhere;
make us aware, responsive, keen
your love for all to share.

*Text: Jocelyn Marshall
Music: Crimond, AMNS 426*

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Erebus Antarctic Memorial, courtesy of Peter Brookman, Antarctica New Zealand Pictorial
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A Time of Remembrance:

- Hon. Phil Goff, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
- Dave Bresnahan, (National Science Foundation Representative at the time of the crash).
- A poem by Bill Manhire read by Sir Edmund Hillary:

EREBUS VOICES

The Mountain

I am here beside my brother, Terror.
I am the place of human error.

I am beauty and cloud, and I am sorrow;
I am tears which you will weep tomorrow.

I am the sky and the exhausting gale.
I am the place of ice. I am the debris trail.

I am as far as you can see.
I am the place of memory.

And I am still a hand, a fingertip, a ring.
I am what there is no forgetting.

I am the one with truly broken heart.
I watched them fall, and freeze, and break apart.

The Dead

We fell.

Yet we were loved and we are lifted.

We froze.

Yet we were loved and we are warm.

We broke apart.

Yet we are here and we are whole.

‘Music for the commemoration of the Erebus Disaster’

by Christopher Cree Brown

The Prayers:

Dean Peter Beck

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed by thy Name,
they kingdom come,
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them
that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen**

The Commendation: Dean Peter Beck

As we remember those who died on the slopes of Mt Erebus 25 years ago today, I pray the prayer of blessing that we prayed at the crash site earlier this morning as we sprinkled water gifted by Ngai Tahu from Aoraki Mount Cook:

E te Atua to matou Kaihaka

God our Creator

Nau te kaitiaki nui o ka takata katoa
No reira, ka whakamaumahara matou ki a
ratou
No Ka Hau e Wha
I mate ai i ruka i tenei mauka
I rua tekau ma rima tau ki mua.

You are the guardian of all peoples.
Therefore, we remember before you all
those
From the Four corners of the Earth
Who passed away on this mountain
Twenty-five years ago.

Kua mauria ka wai e matou
Mai i te Mauka Aoraki
Hei tohu maumahara, hei tohu aroha.
Kia tiaho tou maramataka
ki ruka ki a ratou ma, a,
Ma tou atawhai ano matou e tiaki
i roto i to matou pouritaka.

We have brought water
From Aoraki / Mount Cook
As a symbol of remembrance and of love.
Let your light shine
upon them all, and
By your grace, continue your loving care
for us who still grieve.

May Aoraki's water of blessing refresh your souls.
May the grace of Antarctica's stillness be yours,
The grace of its beauty and vastness be yours,
To enlighten your dreams
To open your spirit to eternity
Until the angels of light awaken you. **Amen**

[Adapted from a prayer by Philip Newell]