



Diakonia Prayer Letter February 2018 from New Zealand.

On behalf of the Methodist Deacons of NZ, we send greetings for the New Year.

In New Zealand there are a number of well known authors and Joy Cowley DCNZM; OBE, is one of our foremost spiritual writers who describes herself as *a spiritual being on a human journey*. As a great-grandmother she has also written many children's books.

I often use Joy's poems and reflections as resources for worship leading, and was delighted to know she received NZ top award in the recent New Years honours, that of Order of New Zealand.

Honest to Goodness is a book of personal reflections on the Mass, and I have permission to share a couple with you. May you be blessed as you reflect and pray on these words over the next month.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

The song of the angels at Jesus' birth
is the song to His presence within us,
reminding us that we are all,
men and women alike,
pregnant with God

Glory, honour, splendour, radiant light ,
these words ring like bells to praise
the shining of God in all creation.
From snow-capped mountains ranges
to the tiny butterfly in summer grasses,
God inhabits this beautiful world,
Word made flesh, divine spark in clay.

Do you not see this, friends?
Then look with the eyes of your hearts
at the people standing near you,
and hear the angels singing.
for the presence of Christ in each of us.

Our Lord's Prayer:

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say;

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

When the hills are wrapped in morning mist
and the air we breathe is sweet with birdsong,
the windows of our mind are flung open
to receive the gift of a new day.

O God, hallowed be thy name.

When the sun sets fire to the sea
and waves tumble over each other
in a hurry of foam, to wash our feet,
and gulls float like scraps of white paper
against all the blueness, our hearts soar
with wonder and gratitude.

O God, hallowed be the name. Amen

Reflection by Joy Cowley in her book Honest to Goodness; published by Pleroma Press 2015

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Te Hāhi Weteriana O Aotearoa .- Methodist Church of NZ (DANZA) (DAP)