

## Traralgon - Gippsland Presbytery Workshop

### Stations for the Opening Space

The space began by playing Padraig O'Tuama's 'Opening Collect', then reading the following poem and showing Sigur Ros's 'Glosoli' filmclip.

People were then invited to move around to the stations, listed on the following pages.

They were drawn back by a change in music for a final blessing.

Opening poem:

At the edge of every map  
is a thick grey line  
in the absence of any sign  
there is a world beyond it,  
it's easy to believe  
that the line is a solid wall  
for us to butt up against  
and rest our weight on;  
to reinforce with concrete  
ideals and  
beliefs  
it's easy to forget that the  
centre of another's world  
lies there  
on its other side.  
is the gift of faith  
for you  
knowing where the edges of your map  
exist  
or stepping beyond them  
into another's world  
and life?

## Station 1

[cut out countries from a world map, placed on black card with spaces between the countries]

There are many in our world whose map is changing  
as we speak:

those who live in contested lands,  
whose geography is being shaped by armies and governments  
beyond their control,

those who live in countries  
ripped apart by floods  
earthquakes  
cyclones  
drought.

If you have a prayer

- peace  
life  
justice  
hope -

for those people  
and places,

write it into the space between countries...

## Station 2

[vials containing ripped up pages from a street directory, screwed up pages from the street directory on the ground]

There are many in our community  
who have left all they know -  
forced by circumstance and disaster -  
and who now navigate inhospitable maps of our own country's  
bureaucratic expectations and  
hostile territories.

The dreams that were their roadmap  
lie ripped and torn.

Here is a space to  
remember another's dream for them,  
and to pray for a different kind of world.

Take a vial with you  
if you can work for the hope  
that one day all will know home.

### Station 3

[altered map - photoshopped to have the names taken out, replaced with new key - stuck to thick foam board, flag pins, markers]

In faith, we navigate a different world:  
one where hope, promise and wonder  
are flavoured with God's love,  
and where regret, bewilderment and fear  
are touched by God's grace.

Write or draw those things that make the landscape of your life  
onto a flag:

the relationships that cause wonder or fear  
the decisions that bewilder or offer promise  
the places marked by hope or regret...

Place your prayer on the roadmap  
as marked by the key.

Let your story stand next to another's.

Hold faith for each other it is being shaped by God.

#### **Station 4**

[handmade book titled 'A book of faith', extra blank pages, pens, copies of excerpt from Roald Dahls 'Big Friendly Giant']

The world we live in is complicated  
and the future is unmapped territory:

an adventure of unimagined possibilities?  
a journey filled with unknown threats?

Is it fear or longing you take into the future?

Write or draw your prayer for tomorrow  
in the blank page at the end of the book.

Add another blank page behind it for the story still to come.

## Station 5

[copies of 1 Kings 19:1-8, bread, water, recording 'Readings from the Book of Exile' by Pádraig O'Tuama]

For all the stories of journeys in the bible  
we know nothing of the maps people travelled with.

journeys that would have taken days  
and crossed uncharted territory  
of land and mind  
are condensed in the space between  
a full stop  
and a capital letter.  
Elijah ran from Jezebel  
- a refugee in a strange land  
with a distant mountain to aim for  
and a landscape of fear and despair between.

And in this unmapped space  
he fought to make a path to survive

alone  
but for the company of unknown angels.

Have there been angels who have brought you bread  
when you find yourself despairing  
in the uncharted landscapes of faith?

Take some bread and eat it in thanks.

Are there spaces in your life where you need the food of the angels?

Drink some water and make your prayer.

## **Final blessing**

We leave today  
going into a future  
as yet unmapped  
take faith with you as you go;  
into the parts of your life not yet travelled by love  
into the parts of the world unexplored by grace.  
Let compassion and hope be the roads that you follow  
today and always  
amen.