

Reformed Tastes

from around the world

I am a fifth generation New Zealander on both my mother and my father's side. My ancestors hail from Scotland and England, and there is talk in my family of my great-grandmothers "Spanish Blood." I am a person of European descent, and I am deeply rooted and established in the life and culture of the people of the South Pacific.

As an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, I am encouraged by my denomination's commitment to cultural expressions of faith. We are descendants of the Reformed tradition, and we are deeply rooted and established in the life of Christ. This is our turangawaiwai, our firm place to stand.

2015 marks 200 years of western missionary activity in our land and among our people. Together we are learning to celebrate how our God has been at work in our history. The following song captures our story:

Beneath the Southern Cross

By Malcolm Gordon and Cate Burton

From north and south, from east and west
beneath the Southern Cross we rest.
Found by One who came for all.
In this tale of spacious love we're born.

From the ends of the earth we will sing,
'God is here, the Kingdom of near.'
In the Land of the Long White Cloud,
Christ to dwell, Emmanuel.

This whenua on which we stand,
this holy ground made by God's hand,
marred and scarred, yet marked by grace.
Held and healed, in Christ we find our place.

From the ends of the earth we will sing...

God of nations at thy feet,
within the bonds of love we meet.
Strangers once now called as one.
Aotearoa, wake to greet this love!

From the ends of the earth we will sing...

Rev Cate Burton
Serving at St Peters in the City
Tauranga, New Zealand

