



Wesley Wellington

75 Taranaki Street


www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 10 October 2021

Pentecost 20

Haere mai ki tēnei Whare Karakia

Welcome to this House of Prayer



10am Congregation Service

10am 10 October 2021

In the Church
75 Taranaki Street
Wellington

“Dimensions of the Kingdom”

**We are a multi-racial Christian community:
Methodist in affiliation - Ecumenical in intention
Diverse in theology - Inclusive in outreach.**

**Kia ora koutou kātoa—Talofa Lava
Malo e lelei—Bula Vinaka
Greetings to you all!**

Order of Service

Wesley Methodist Church 75 Taranaki Street
10am Congregation

10 October 2021 Pentecost 20

Leader: Philip Garside.

Organist: Colin Scarf. Guitar: Heather Garside

Welcome, Introduction & Safety Briefing

Call to Worship

We are called: **Called to gather in this holy place**

We are called: **Called as people of God**

We are called: **Called to a time of rest from our labours and troubles**

We are called: **Called to rejoice in word and song**

We are called: **Called to have our hearts uplifted by your Holy Spirit**

We are called: **Called to worship you, O God. Amen.**

Lighting the Candles

As we light these candles:

Kindle a flame within our hearts, O God

and let your *light* shine through

Kindle a flame within our hearts, O God

and let your *justice* shine through

Kindle a flame within our hearts, O God

and let your *hope* shine through

Kindle a flame within our hearts, O God

and let your *peace* shine through

Kindle a flame within our hearts, O God

and let your *love* shine through. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Gentle yet powerful,
You are such a gracious Host,
Lord God of all creation,
You are here in this place now;
we stand here to worship you,
your Spirit is here with us,

Speak to us this hour
so that we might become makers of your peace
in our homes, communities and the whole world.
In your gentleness guide us.

Amen.

Philomena Nziramasanga (2015)

Hymn: God who sets us on a journey. Words: Joy Dine. Tune: Hyfrydol

1. God who sets us on a journey
to discover, dream and grow,
lead us as you led your people
in the desert long ago;
journey inward, journey outward,
stir the spirit, stretch the mind,
love for God and self and neighbour
marks the way that Christ defined.
2. Exploration brings new insights,
changes, choices we must face;
give us wisdom in deciding,
mindful always of your grace;
should we stumble, lose our bearings,
find it hard to know what's right,
we regain our true direction
focused on the Jesus light.
3. End our longing for the old days,
grant the vision that we lack –
once we've started on this journey
there can be no turning back;
let us travel light, discarding
excess baggage from our past,
cherish only what's essential,
choosing treasure that will last.
4. When we set up camp and settle
to avoid love's risk and pain,
you disturb complacent comfort,
pull the tent pegs up again;
keep us travelling in the knowledge
you are always at our side;
give us courage for the journey,
Christ our goal and Christ our guide.

Prayer of Approach

Ever-Abundant God, we open our hearts to you this day,
and offer these truths:

Today we live in the fear that encompasses us.

Today we live with the prejudice that is right in front of us.

Today we live with the ignorance that dwells within us.

Today we live with the doubt that holds us back.

**Help us, we pray, that we will find courage in unlikely places,
discover the world with new and gracious understandings,
move to those places where love is needed,
and have faith that you are with us.**

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Friends hear the good news that God listens to our prayers,
understands our concerns, and holds us close
in this time of confession and truth telling.
Know today that we have been given the grace and the courage
to go into the world and spread this good news. **Amen.**

Time with children / Introducing the Theme

Hymn: There's a wideness in God's mercy (With Heather on guitar)

Words: Frederick W Faber 1854 (adapted) Music: Jonathan Berkahn.

Refrain:

There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in His justice
which is more than liberty.

1. There's a welcome for the sinner,
and more graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Saviour;
there is healing in His blood.
There is nowhere that our sorrows
Are more keenly felt than Heaven;
There is nowhere that our failings
have such kindly judgement given.

Refrain:

2. But we make his love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we lose the tender Shepherd
in the judge up on the throne;
for the love of God is broader
than the measure of our mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

Refrain

Reading: Mark 10:17-31

The Message by Eugene Peterson

To Enter God's Kingdom

As he went out into the street, a man came running up, greeted him with great reverence, and asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to get eternal life?" Jesus said, "Why are you calling me good? No one is good, only God. You know the commandments: Don't murder, don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't lie, don't cheat, honour your father and mother."

He said, "Teacher, I have – from my youth – kept them all!"

Jesus looked him hard in the eye – and loved him! He said, "There's one thing left: Go sell whatever you own and give it to the poor. All your wealth will then be heavenly wealth. And come follow me."

The man's face clouded over. This was the last thing he expected to hear, and he walked off with a heavy heart. He was holding on tight to a lot of things, and not about to let go.

Looking at his disciples, Jesus said, "Do you have any idea how difficult it is for people who 'have it all' to enter God's kingdom?" The disciples couldn't believe what they were hearing, but Jesus kept on: "You can't imagine how difficult. I'd say it's easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye than for the rich to get into God's kingdom."

That got their attention. "Then who has any chance at all?" they asked.

Jesus was blunt: "No chance at all if you think you can pull it off by yourself. Ev'ry chance in the world if you let God do it."

Peter tried another angle: "We left everything and followed you."

Jesus said, "Mark my words, no one who sacrifices house, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, land – whatever – because of me and the Message will lose out. They'll get it all back, but multiplied many times in homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and land – but also in troubles. And then the bonus of eternal life! This is once again the Great Reversal: Many who are first will end up last, and the last first."

Sermon: Dimensions of the Kingdom

Hymn: Who is moving through the silence

Song by John Weir and Ian Render AA 157

1. Who is moving through the silence
Gentle as the summer rain?
Who is standing in the doorway
Knocking, asking to come in?
2. Father, you have sent your Spirit
To console your little ones
You have sent your Son to find us
And to lead us safely home.
3. Father, I have seen your Kingdom
In the streets of little towns
In the shadows of the city
When we gather in your name
4. Father, I have seen your Kingdom
in the eyes of those who love.
In the mercy of your people
I have seen your Kingdom come.
5. Who is moving through the silence,
gentle as the summer rain?
Who is standing in the doorway,
knocking, asking to come in?

Community Time

Sharing the Peace

Let's greet each other by standing and waving to each other from our pews saying: "**Peace be with you.**"

Notices

Sharing Joys and Sorrows

Prayers of Intercession

To the bidding "... Refine our thoughts, strengthen our wills," would you please respond "... **Guide us in your Way.**"

Lord's Prayer [Sung]

**Our Father in heaven
holy be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Do not put us to the test,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

Offering

(We also acknowledge offerings made by automatic payment and online banking)

Blessing of Offering (said together)

**They seem so little, and the world is so big and so overwhelming
right now, yet we offer these gifts to you, O God.
Take what we offer and bless it for your mission of love.
In a world of conflict and pandemic, may these gifts,
and we ourselves, become agents of change and transformation,
in Jesus' name of self-giving love. Amen**

Hymn: Deep in the Human Heart. Words: Bill Wallace. Tune: Diademata

1. Deep in the human heart
 The fires of justice burn;
 With visions of a world renewed
 Through radical concern.
 As Christians we are called
 To set the captives free,
 To overthrow the evil powers
 And end hypocrisy.

2. This is our task today,
To build a world of peace;
A world of justice, freedom, truth,
Where kindness will increase;
A world from hunger freed,
A world where people share,
Where every person is of worth
And no-one lives in fear.

3. Taking the step of faith,
We leave the past behind
And move into the future's world
With open heart and mind.
By grace we work with Christ,
As one community,
To bring new hope and fuller life
To all humanity.

Benediction

Go from here to be the people of God:
go in the knowledge and love of God
to tell the good news of a new covenant.

**With God in our hearts,
we will live Christ's reign of peace and justice.**

The Grace (Said together)

**The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen**

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Liturgy for this service was sourced from: Gathering 2021 United Church of Canada; Philomena Nziramasanga; 10am Worship Team 2015, Philip Garside.

Recommended reading:

William Placher, **Mark: Belief, a Theological Commentary on the Bible.**
Westminster John Knox Press (2010).

Visit the 10am Facebook Page to keep up-to-date with
our congregation's services and news:

<https://www.facebook.com/wesleywellington.methodistchurch.10am>