



Wesley Wellington
75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 10 July 2022 Pentecost 5

Haere mai ki tēnei Whare Karakia
Welcome to this House of Prayer



Walking the Justice Path

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

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

**10am Congregation
10 July 2022 Pentecost 5**

**Leader: Philip Garside.
Organist: Vivien Chiu. Guitar: Heather Garside**

Welcome & Introduction

Call to Worship

What do we bring to God?

Our minds, our bodies, our spirits, our selves.

Do we believe these gifts are good enough for the Divine?

God does not value perfection but rather diversity.

God does not want us to hide our true selves.

God asks us to bring who we really are to worship.

Even bring with us all of our faults and failings?

Yes, with all of our imperfections and foibles.

So we come at God's call,

ready to be loved anew. Alleluia! Amen.

Lighting the candles

As we light these candles, we say together:

**In a time of change and confusion,
we need a source of unwavering light.**

**In a time of transition and change,
we need a light to show us the way.**

**May the light of Christ
be this light for every one of us.
May it shine in our hearts all of our days. Amen.**

Opening Prayer

Surround us, O God, with your Spirit
in this time of gathering together.

**We have come to this place of sanctuary
in order to be renewed within ourselves,
and also to regain focus as a community.**

We have come for personal reasons,
needing to be uplifted within our souls
and seeking your assistance to help us face the challenges ahead.

**Yet we also come for communal reasons,
seeking strength for the journey
that we share together as your people.**

Loving God, give us the humility to be surprised by your presence
and the wisdom to be open to the insights of your people everywhere,
as we understand anew the mission and ministry to which we are called.

This we pray in your holy name. Amen.

Hymn: Here we stand among God's people HIOS 55 (Lyrics adapted)

1. Here we stand among God's people
giving thanks for all God's care,
and we gladly bring our offerings
to the common life we share.
There's a thread within God's story
that is ours alone to know,
and a vision of God's glory
that our lives are made to show.
2. When the gospel words are spoken,
when the bread and wine are blessed,
Jesus makes us more than welcome
at the table as his guests.
And as we go out to serve him
in our action, work and prayers,
he will send us where we're needed,
when he calls us we'll be there.

3. With the Word of God to guide us
we will learn our whole lives long;
with the Spirit here beside us
We'll be confident and strong
as we work for peace and justice
in our own appointed place,
and we'll stand among God's people
till we see God face to face.

Prayer of Approach

Our hearts long to feel your presence, to sense you near, O God.
Draw us closer to you, day by day.

**Our spirits long for your touch, O God.
Lead us, guide us, direct our paths that our words
and actions may be a reflection of your unending love.**

Loving God, when we rush, slow us down,
so we may listen and experience you
in a soothing touch and the whisper of your Spirit.

**When fear grips our hearts or slows our feet,
be the quiet voice of courage in our spirits.**

Draw closer to us when we feel so alone in our grief,
our despair, our pain, and our struggles.

**We long for your love and your warmth,
for you are our God, our Creator and our hope.**

**For this we give thanks,
through Christ, as we pray. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Hear now Words of Assurance:

Jesus taught us many things.
How to live, how to love, how to pray,
and how to challenge injustice.

But Jesus also taught us how to accept one another,
in all our brokenness,
and to be forgiving, even when it seems hard to do so.

**We are the blessed people who have known that grace!
We are forgiven. Hallelujah!**

Story time / Introducing the Theme

Song: Let there be peace on earth (Lyrics adapted)

1. Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with us:
Let there be peace on earth,
The peace that was meant to be.
With God always with us
Family all are we.
Let us walk together
In perfect harmony.
2. Let peace begin with us,
Let this be the moment now.
With every step we take,
Let this be our solemn vow:
To take each moment
and live each moment
In peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth
and let it begin with us.

Scripture Readings — The Message

Psalm 82

God calls the judges into his courtroom,
he puts all the judges in the dock.

“Enough! You’ve corrupted justice long enough,
you’ve let the wicked get away with murder.
You’re here to defend the defenceless,
to make sure that underdogs get a fair break;
Your job is to stand up for the powerless,
and prosecute all those who exploit them.”

Ignorant judges! Head-in-the-sand judges!
They haven't a clue to what's going on.
And now everything's falling apart,
the world's coming unglued.

"I appointed you judges, each one of you,
deputies of the High God,
But you've betrayed your commission
and now you're stripped of your rank, busted."

O God, give them what they've got coming!
You've got the whole world in your hands!

Luke 10:25-37 – Defining “Neighbour”

Just then a religion scholar stood up with a question to test Jesus. “Teacher, what do I need to do to get eternal life?”

He answered, “What’s written in God’s Law? How do you interpret it?”

He said, “That you love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence – and that you love your neighbour as well as you do yourself.”

“Good answer!” said Jesus. “Do it and you’ll live.”

Looking for a loophole, he asked, “And just how would you define ‘neighbour’?”

Jesus answered by telling a story. “There was once a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead. Luckily, a priest was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he angled across to the other side. Then a Levite religious man showed up; he also avoided the injured man.

“A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man’s condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill – I’ll pay you on my way back.’

“What do you think? Which of the three became a neighbour to the man attacked by robbers?”

“The one who treated him kindly,” the religion scholar responded.

Jesus said, “Go and do the same.”

Sermon: Walking the Justice Path

Song: Let Justice Roll Down Like a River AA85

Refrain:

Let justice roll down like a river,
let justice flow down to the sea;
let justice roll down like a river
let justice begin through me.

1. Justice for all who go hungry,
crying to God to be fed,
left in a world of abundance
to beg for a morsel of bread.
2. Justice for those who are homeless,
victims of war or of need,
trapped on the borders of nowhere,
lost in the canyons of greed.
3. Justice for all who are powerless,
yearning for freedom in vain,
plundered and robbed of their birth right,
silently bearing their pain.

Community Time

Sharing the Peace

Let's greet each other saying: **“God’s peace be with you.”**

Notices

Sharing Joys, Things we are Grateful for, Sorrows & Concerns

Prayers of Intercession

To the bidding in the first 4 sections of the prayer: “...Teach us to care...,” please sing the response below:

The musical notation is written on a single staff in 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 95. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: Dm, C, Dm, G, Dm, C, G. A double bar line with repeat dots is at the end. The lyrics are: Hap-py are we who have work to do, Come and help us serve the Lord.

To the bidding in the last section of prayer: ...God in your mercy, please respond with “**hear our prayer, Amen.**”

Lord’s Prayer [Sung] WOV 676

**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)

**Loving God, you have blessed our lives in so many ways.
You have been our strength every step of every day.
Now we offer you our lives, our all.
With every gift, you have blessed us,
so now our every gift we offer to you. Amen.**

Hymn: One more step along the world I go

1. One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go,
from the old things to the new,
keep me travelling along with you:

Refrain:

And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.

2. Round the corners of the world I turn,
more and more about the world I learn;
all the new things that I see
you'll be looking at along with me.
3. As I travel through the bad and good,
keep me travelling the way I should;
where I see no way to go
you'll be telling me the way, I know.
4. Give me courage when the world is rough,
keep me loving though the world is tough;
leap and sing in all I do,
keep me travelling along with you.
5. You are older than the world can be,
you are younger than the life in me;
ever old and ever new,
keep me travelling along with you.

Benediction

The world is waiting for a message of love and new life;
go and proclaim this message with all that you have.

We go, knowing that we are not alone. Amen!

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 adapted from:
Gathering Pentecost / 2022 (Year C) Prayers for Worship, United Church of Canada;
Let Us Pray, Janet Nelson 1999: & Philip Garside.

Cover Image: Pathway in forest. Plitvice lakes, Croatia
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