



WESLEY WELLINGTON  
**75 Taranaki Street**  
[www.wesleychurch.org.nz](http://www.wesleychurch.org.nz)

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022**  
**Advent 3 - Joy**

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



**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!**

**Order of Service - 10am Congregation  
Wesley Methodist Church 75 Taranaki Street  
11<sup>th</sup> December 2022 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Welcome to today's service. A special welcome to all visitors. Your presence enriches our gathering and contributes to the creative evolution of community.

**WELCOME AND SAFETY BRIEFING**

**GATHERING**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – 'Joy'**

Today is the Advent of joy. We light this candle for the joy of the earth, the oceans, the skies, and all that lives.

**We live in a world that takes more from the earth than it gives.**

We light this candle as our commitment to the joy of living in respect with creation.

**We are the caretakers of this earth, our home.**

We light this candle in celebration of Jesus, the Light of the World.

*The third candle is lit.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**     *(From Psalm 146: 5-10)*

Sing to God, all you people

Sing to God in joy!

Happy are we who depend on God,

the creator of all the earth,

the One who lifts up those who are bowed down.

**Our hearts yearn for the Anointed One,  
the One through whom all life will flourish.**

**Let us worship God, the giver of joy.**

**HYMN**     **'Advent Carol'** [*Tune: O Little Town of Bethlehem*]

Lord, give us HOPE this advent time,  
that we may not despair  
with tragedies and grief and pain  
and sadness everywhere.  
As we await Christ's coming  
to live upon this earth,  
may we find HOPE as we begin  
to celebrate his birth.

Lord, give us PEACE this advent time,  
that we may know as friend  
those of another culture, creed;  
that wars may have an end.  
As we await Christ's coming  
to live upon this earth,  
may we find PEACE as we begin  
to celebrate his birth.

Lord give us JOY this advent time,  
that we may share your light  
throughout our whole community  
and make our small world bright.  
As we await Christ's coming  
to live upon this earth,  
may we find JOY as we begin  
to celebrate his birth.

Jan Chamberlain *Tune: WOV 240*

**OPENING PRAYER**

## STORY TIME – ARE WE THERE YET?

### PRAYER OF AWARENESS

God, you invite us to come to you rejoicing.  
Rejoicing that your kingdom is near  
Rejoicing that your promise is true  
Rejoicing that here, you welcome us,  
children of the living God, co-creators with you in the world.

We rejoice that you welcome us as we are,  
with all our faults and failings, with all our unrealised potential.  
Your embrace is wide enough to encompass all.

And it is from that place of love and welcome, O God,  
that we pray for .....

God, bring forth gentleness in us along with kindness in all that we  
do.

May we live as those who know that the Lord is near,  
Rejoicing in all Your goodness, living your abundant life.

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your  
gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.*

*(Philippians 4: 4-5)*

### HYMN “O come, O come, Immanuel” [STF 180]

O come, O come, Immanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel.*

O come, O come, O Lord of might  
who to your tribes, on Sinai's height  
in ancient times did give the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel.*

O come, O Rod of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave:

O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery:

O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer  
our spirits by your advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight:

## **MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

### **Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 35: 1-10 [The Message]**

Wilderness and desert will sing joyously,  
the badlands will celebrate and flower—  
Like the crocus in spring, bursting into blossom,  
a symphony of song and color.  
Mountain glories of Lebanon—a gift.  
Awesome Carmel, stunning Sharon—gifts.  
GOD's resplendent glory, fully on display.  
GOD awesome, GOD majestic.

Energize the limp hands,  
strengthen the rubbery knees.  
Tell fearful souls,  
“Courage! Take heart!  
GOD is here, right here,  
on his way to put things right  
And redress all wrongs.  
He’s on his way! He’ll save you!”

Blind eyes will be opened,  
deaf ears unstopped,  
Lame men and women will leap like deer,  
the voiceless break into song.  
Springs of water will burst out in the wilderness,  
streams flow in the desert.  
Hot sands will become a cool oasis,  
thirsty ground a splashing fountain.  
Even lowly jackals will have water to drink,  
and barren grasslands flourish richly.

There will be a highway  
called the Holy Road.  
No one rude or rebellious  
is permitted on this road.  
It’s for GOD’s people exclusively—  
impossible to get lost on this road.  
Not even fools can get lost on it.  
No lions on this road,  
no dangerous wild animals—  
Nothing and no one dangerous or threatening.  
Only the redeemed will walk on it.  
The people GOD has ransomed  
will come back on this road.  
They’ll sing as they make their way home to Zion,  
unfading halos of joy encircling their heads,  
Welcomed home with gifts of joy and gladness  
as all sorrows and sighs scurry into the night.

## Christian Scripture: Matthew 11: 2-11 [The Message]

John was in prison when he heard what Christ was doing. So John sent some of his followers <sup>3</sup> to ask Jesus, “Are you the one we should be looking for? Or must we wait for someone else?”

<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, “Go and tell John what you have heard and seen. <sup>5</sup> The blind are now able to see, and the lame can walk. People with leprosy<sup>[a]</sup> are being healed, and the deaf can hear. The dead are raised to life, and the poor are hearing the good news. <sup>6</sup> God will bless everyone who doesn't reject me because of what I do.”

<sup>7</sup> As John's followers were going away, Jesus spoke to the crowds about John:

What sort of person did you go out into the desert to see? Was he like tall grass blown about by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What kind of man did you go out to see? Was he someone dressed in fine clothes? People who dress like that live in the king's palace. <sup>9</sup> What did you really go out to see? Was he a prophet? He certainly was. I tell you that he was more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> In the Scriptures God says about him, “I am sending my messenger ahead to get things ready for you.” <sup>11</sup> I tell you no one ever born on this earth is greater than John the Baptist. But whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John.

## REFLECTION

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In response to the word reflected on, let us stand and share an affirmation of faith...

We believe in Creativity God,  
**from whose heart flows forth healing  
enough for the pain of the world and our pain.**

We believe in Jesus the Companion,  
**who saw into the souls, minds and bodies  
of people like us and reached out in healing touch,  
gathering in the wounded ones  
in love beyond the commonplace.**

We believe in the Spirit Holy who breathes  
**warmth into the cold places,  
touches with living fire the deathliness in our life  
and remembers with grief, all the hurts  
which we dare not name.**

**HYMN      ‘In the Desert Lands, A Shout’**

In the desert lands, a shout  
breaks the silence, ringing out:  
“Build a road! Prepare the way!  
Christ must travel here today.

“Smooth the rugged rough terrain;  
shrink the mountain to a plain;  
raise the driest river bed:  
Here the feet of Christ must tread.”

In the wilderness of life,  
With its tragedy and strife,  
Obstacles of many kinds,  
Christ would enter hearts and minds.

We are heralds of the Lord.  
Ours it is to heed the word:  
“Break new ground. Map out a way.  
Christ will walk our streets today.”

Words © Norman J Goreham

Tune: *Roughhills*: original composition © John Piggins



## OFFERING AND DEDICATION

*(We acknowledge offerings made by automatic payment and on-line banking)*

In response to the promise of abundant life,  
God calls us to share our resources with those in need.  
In that spirit of generosity, let us offer our gifts.

**Loving God, we give thanks for the visions and dreams that you share with your people. We offer these gifts in response to your abundant blessings and ask that you use them and the commitment they represent to share your good news with all the world. Amen.**

## COMMUNITY TIME

Let us take a moment to celebrate each other.

### **Sharing the Peace**

Let's greet each other saying: **"God's peace be with you."**

Notices

Sharing our joys and concerns

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer is an act of hope:  
hope for inspiration  
hope for communion with one another  
hope for consolation and renewal.

We enter a time of prayer  
to collect our hopes for ourselves, for others, for our world.

These are those for whom we hope today:

*Pray in silence*

Add your prayers to ours, Holy Spirit,  
stretch our wisdom and expand our hope.  
Wait with us as we seek to understand  
our part in the wellbeing of those who wait for love.  
Watch over them as they hope for a world that cares enough to act  
with new justice and fresh compassion.  
Give to us here an energy and passion for good change  
and a faithfulness so that we never give up,  
even when we cannot see the way ahead.  
Grant to us a spirit of adventure, Loving God,  
as we talk together towards our dreams of a better world.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**E tō mātou Matua i te rangi  
Kia tapu tōu Ingoa.  
Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.  
Kia meatia tāu e pai ai  
ki runga ki te whenua,  
kia rite anō ki to te rangi.  
Homai ki a mātou āiane  
he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.  
Murua o mātou hara,  
Me mātou hoki e muru nei  
i o te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.  
Aua hoki mātou e kawea kia whakawaia;  
Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:  
Nou hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha,  
me te kōroria,  
Ake ake ake.  
Āmine.**

## **HYMN     'Joy to the World'**

Joy to the world!  
The Lord is come;  
let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven  
and nature sing

Joy to the world!  
The Saviour reigns;  
let men their song employ;  
while fields and floods,  
rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy

He rules the world  
with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders,  
and wonders of his love

Isaac Watts

## **PARTING WORDS**

Worship is now ended.  
Go in hope.  
Go in peace.  
Go in joy.  
Go in love.

Be Blessed!  
In the name of God who forgives.  
In the name of God, who loves.  
In the name of God who daily calls us to action,  
In God's life-sustaining, liberating  
and transforming grace.  
Amen.

**Grace** (*we say the grace together*)

**Kia tau ki a tātou katoa,  
te atawhai o to tātou Ariki o Ihu Karaiti,  
me te aroha o te Atua,  
me te whiwhinga tahitanga  
ki te Wairua Tapu. Amine**

\* \* \* \* \*

Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:  
The Church of Scotland, <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>  
Gathering: Resources for worship – The United Church of Canada  
Dorothy McRae McMahon, *The Glory of Blood, Sweat and Tears. Liturgies for living  
and dying*

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Visit the parish website; <https://wesleychurch.org.nz/>  
Or the 10am Facebook Page to keep up-to-date with services and news:  
<https://www.facebook.com/wesleywellington.methodistchurch.10am>