



Wesley Wellington

75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 11 September 2022
Pentecost 14 — Creation 2

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



“Creation Dance — There is Room for All”

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
Sunday 11 September 2022
Pentecost 14 — Creation 2

Leader: Philip Garside.
Organist: Colin Scarf.

Welcome & Introduction

Call to Worship — *Creation Dance, Joy Cowley*

In the beginning, God the dancer, danced the dance of love,
filling up the emptiness, of waiting with her rhythm.
She danced out the universe, twirled the stars and planets,
held light and dark in either hand and clapped them into wisdom.

**And everything moved in a circle of love,
a circle of love, a circle of love.**

**And everything moved in a circle of love,
and God saw that it was good.**

Then God danced the mountains up and trod the seas deep down.
She creased the land for rivers, made rivers to hug the land.
Everywhere her footsteps went, the earth broke into green,
flax and fern and tree and vine, dancing to the rhythm of love.

**And everything moved in a circle of love,
a circle of love, a circle of love.**

**And everything moved in a circle of love,
and God saw that it was good.**

When the earth was filled with the music of every kind of creature,
God danced two people into being and named them woman and man.
She sang to them, “My children join me in creation.
Come be my partners dancing the dance of love.”

**And everything moved in a circle of love,
a circle of love, a circle of love.**

**And everything moved in a circle of love,
and God saw that it was good.**

Lighting the candles

As we light these candles, we say together:

**Spirit lights, clear and bright
Ephemeral symbols, flickering flames.
Our eyes are drawn to you,
Our hearts are warmed by you,
You are always with us. Amen.**

Opening Prayer

**Loving Creator,
we gather here today in awe of all your wonders of this world.
Your grace is endless
and touches every corner of this universe.
You are an amazing God.
You nurture our bodies and souls.
You create life and call us back to dust where we came from.
It is in you and through you that we are granted life.
Fill us with your love and guide us to live
harmoniously with one another and with all of
your creation on this beautiful planet. Amen.**

Hymn: Immortal, invisible, God only wise. (H&P 9. Tune: St Denio)

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great Name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might—
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish—but nought changeth thee.

4. Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render: O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

5. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great Name we praise.

Prayer of Approach – *The Darkness of Our Doubts*

Lord, when the darkness of our doubts
robs us of the light of your promises;

**when our focus on what we cannot do prevents us
from seeing what you can do through us;**

when our vision becomes clouded with prejudices
so that we cannot see that we are being more
judgemental than conciliatory;

**when we say what should not be said
and fail to say what needs to be said;**

when we leave undone that which we should do
and do that which we should not;

**when we forget about the commitments we have made;
when our faith becomes feeble and our courage fails;**

when we find it hard to trust and difficult to obey;
Lord forgive us. Give us hope...

[silence]

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 blest people who have known that grace!

We are forgiven. Hallelujah!

Story time / Introducing the Theme

Song: There is room. *Words and Music: Jonathan Berkahn 2012.*

1. Everyone is welcome, everyone is called,
everyone's invited to the table of the Lord.
Everyone's forgiven, everyone is free,
everyone's accepted at the table of the Lord.

Refrain:

There is room, there is room, there is always room!
There is room, there is room, there is always room!
There is room, there is room, there is always always room
There is room around this table for us all.

2. Everyone is wanted, everyone is known,
everyone is cared for at the table of the Lord.
Everyone is noticed, everyone is heard,
everyone is counted at the table of the Lord.
3. Everyone is broken, everyone is weak,
everyone is hungry at the table of the Lord.
Everyone is nurtured, everyone is fed,
everyone is strengthened at the table of the Lord.

Readings: From *The Message* by Eugene Peterson

I Timothy 1:12-20

I'm so grateful to Christ Jesus for making me adequate to do this work. He went out on a limb, you know, in trusting me with this ministry. The only credentials I brought to it were violence and witch hunts and arrogance. But I was treated mercifully because I didn't know what I was doing – didn't know Who I was doing it against! Grace mixed with faith and love poured over me and into me. And all because of Jesus.

Here's a word you can take to heart and depend on: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. I'm proof – Public Sinner Number One – of someone who could never have made it apart from sheer mercy.

And now he shows me off – evidence of his endless patience – to those who are right on the edge of trusting him forever.

Deep honour and bright glory to the King of All Time –
One God, Immortal, Invisible, ever and always. Oh, yes!

I'm passing this work on to you, my son Timothy. The prophetic word that was directed to you prepared us for this. All those prayers are coming together now so you will do this well, fearless in your struggle, keeping a firm grip on your faith and on yourself. After all, this is a fight we're in.

There are some, you know, who by relaxing their grip and thinking anything goes have made a thorough mess of their faith. Hymenaeus and Alexander are two of them. I let them wander off to Satan to be taught a lesson or two about not blaspheming.

Luke 15: 1-10

The Story of the Lost Sheep

By this time a lot of men and women of questionable reputation were hanging around Jesus, listening intently. The Pharisees and religion scholars were not pleased, not at all pleased. They growled, "He takes in sinners and eats meals with them, treating them like old friends." Their grumbling triggered this story.

"Suppose one of you had a hundred sheep and lost one. Wouldn't you leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the lost one until you found it? When found, you can be sure you would put it across your shoulders, rejoicing, and when you got home call in your friends and neighbours, saying, 'Celebrate with me! I've found my lost sheep!' Count on it – there's more joy in heaven over one sinner's rescued life than over ninety-nine good people in no need of rescue.

The Story of the Lost Coin

"Or imagine a woman who has ten coins and loses one. Won't she light a lamp and scour the house, looking in every nook and cranny until she finds it? And when she finds it you can be sure she'll call her friends and

neighbours: ‘Celebrate with me! I found my lost coin!’ Count on it – that’s the kind of party God’s angels throw every time one lost soul turns to God.”

Sermon: *Creation Dance — There is Room for All*

Hymn: Song of Peace (Words: Lloyd Stone Tune: Finlandia)

1. This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine,
This is my home, the country where my heart is,
Here my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
2. My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine;
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.

Community Time

Sharing the Peace

Let’s greet each other saying: **“Peace be with you.”**

Notices

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

Prayers of Intercession

To the bidding: “...God of mercy,” please respond with: **“hear our prayer”**

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)

**God our companion,
the generous giver of good gifts,
receive from us our gifts of love
presented to you for our fellow pilgrims –
for those travelling like us with you
on this adventure called life;
and for those travelling like us
but unaware of your presence.
Bless these offerings that through them
good may result and you may be honoured. Amen.**

Hymn: O God, Each Day You Bless Us.

(Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (2004). Tune *Ellacombe*)

1. O God, each day you bless us with gifts of your shalom:
You give us peace and justice, you welcome lost ones home.
You care for your creation and set your people free;
You offer us salvation and build community.
2. You make us sons and daughters baptised and reconciled!
You show us: Each peacemaker is blest as your own child.
You fill us at your table with strength for each new day;
Then Spirit-filled we're able to live your peaceful way.
3. We'll worship, pray, and study, to learn new skills for peace;
We'll work as one strong body so justice will increase.
We'll build new global friendships, seek peace in every land,
Protect the earth you gave us and give with outstretched hand.

Benediction

Go on from here and forward into this new week,
trusting in the love of God to guide and support you.

Open your hearts to God's presence and your lives to God's purpose,
living each day with hope and thanksgiving. 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 sourced from:
Gathering Pentecost 2 2022 United Church of Canada; *Let Us Pray*, Janet Nelson 1999; *Prayers for Southern Seasons* Joy Kingsbury-Aitken 2019;
Philip Garside.

Cover Image: Photograph of Dance Day at Te Papa
by Alexander Garside — Garside Imaging

To keep up-to-date with services and news, visit the parish website:
<https://wesleychurch.org.nz/>

Or the 10am Congregation's Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/wesleywellington.methodistchurch.10am>