



Wesley Wellington

75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 13 February 2022 Epiphany 6

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
13 February 2022 Epiphany 6**

Leaders:
Rev Nicola Teague Grundy

Organ: **Colin Scarf**

Welcome, Introduction & Safety briefing **Alan**

Call to Worship

The chorus of suns and planets announce
the beginning of a new day.

**Each morning births new possibilities
and beckons fresh challenges.**

The laughter of oceans and the wailing of winds
reflect the human condition.

**Each week declares we are in the world
and determines we are of the world.**

Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life.
Come as you are.

All are welcome here.

Lighting the Candles

As we light our candles this morning
let us listen to the life of our city,
may we sense God's Presence in
its murmuring rhythms
its working and walking and talking
its colours and faces and longings.

The candle is lit

We light this candle to honour our past,
to endorse our present
to symbolise our future
and to remind us of the warmth of God's love.

Hymn: The Universe in God

1. All creation sings a story
Of great splendours to declare.
When we contemplate its beauty
We are called forth into prayer.
We, enchanted, stand in silence;
God discovered everywhere.
2. When we stumble on new knowledge,
When new insights help us grow,
We are quick to re-discover
Just how much we do not know.
But the Universe smiles gently,
As our theories come and go.
3. Outer space and inner being
Both have secrets they conceal.
Galaxies so grimly awesome,
Deep emotions that we feel –
All in God are judged as sacred;
It is God they all reveal.
4. Ageless mysteries still excite us;
Time and space we must explore.
God the 'Presence' and 'Surrounding',
God the ever wondrous 'More'
Is not found by science labours,
But in praise when we adore.

Words: George Stuart Tune: Praise my soul

Opening Prayer

Lord we hear your words.
You entreat us to trust you.
We read these words in scripture.
You tell us this message repeatedly.
Yet trust comes slowly to us.
We are hesitant.
We are cautious.
We are worried.
Let us find our strength in depending on you.
You are the source of life.
Let us lean on you.
Let us grow beside you.
Let us flourish.
When worries come, as they too often do these days,
Let us call out to you and let us acknowledge you.
Guide us in our worship today.
Guide us in our understandings.
Guide us in our acknowledgement that you
walk alongside us in our worries.
Amen.

Prayer of Approach and Confession

Most wonderful God,
please encourage us to love our true selves.
To cherish that deep soul
which is poor, meek, hungry, sorrowful, often persecuted,
and which yearns for communion with you.
**Set us free to reach for you with a joyful worship
which overflows with wonderment and love.**

God our Friend,
we know that we are greatly loved,
and invited by Christ into a holy and holistic way of life ...
**But in the world around us, and within our own being,
there is displayed many fractured relationships,
hopes, and promises.**

The dislocations of sin have turned what was meant to be paradise into a jungle where the survival of the strongest, greediest, most arrogant and ruthless, becomes the law by which most people live. God healer of souls and healer of communities, have mercy upon your fractured world, and upon each of us, as we come seeking forgiveness and renovation.
By the searching grace of Christ Jesus, expose and heal us all.

(Silence)

Words of Assurance:

My friends, believe the Gospel.
Allow it to embrace you, fill you, and release you.
Christ Jesus came into the world to save us.
Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ
and you shall be healed and liberated.
Thanks be to God.

Story Time

Bible reading: Luke 6: 17-26 *The Message*

Joy

“You’re Blessed”

Coming down off the mountain with them, he stood on a plain surrounded by disciples, and was soon joined by a huge congregation from all over Judea and Jerusalem, even from the seaside towns of Tyre and Sidon. They had come both to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. Those disturbed by evil spirits were healed. Everyone was trying to touch him—so much energy surging from him, so many people healed! Then he spoke:
You’re blessed when you’ve lost it all.
God’s kingdom is there for the finding.
You’re blessed when you’re ravenously hungry.
Then you’re ready for the Messianic meal.
You’re blessed when the tears flow freely.
Joy comes with the morning.

“Count yourself blessed every time someone cuts you down or throws you out, every time someone smears or blackens your name to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and that that person is uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens - skip like a lamb, if you like! - for even though they don’t like it, I do . . . and all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company; my preachers and witnesses have always been treated like this.

“Give Away Your Life”

But it’s trouble ahead if you think you have it made.

What you have is all you’ll ever get.

And it’s trouble ahead if you’re satisfied with yourself.

Your *self* will not satisfy you for long.

And it’s trouble ahead if you think life’s all fun and games.

There’s suffering to be met, and you’re going to meet it.

“There’s trouble ahead when you live only for the approval of others, saying what flatters them, doing what indulges them. Popularity contests are not truth contests - look how many scoundrel preachers were approved by your ancestors! Your task is to be true, not popular.

Reflection

Hymn: I sing the grace of God within you

1. I sing the grace of God within you,
I know that grace within my soul;
And when we honour God in each other
We bring together one gracious whole.
2. I sing the love of Christ within you,
I know that love within my soul;
And when we honour Christ in each other
We come together, one loving whole.
3. I sing the Spirit’s life within you,
I know that life within my soul;
And when we honour life in each other,
The Spirit forms one living whole.

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Community Time

Sharing the Peace

Let us take a moment to celebrate each other.

May a heart of peace rest with you. **And also with you.**

Notices

Sharing Joys and Sorrows

Prayers of Intercession

To the bidding: "...God, in your mercy," please respond with:
"hear our prayer."

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

(Please leave your offering in the bag provided at the back of the church after the service. We also acknowledge offerings made by automatic payment and online banking.)

Blessing of Offering

As we offer our gifts,

We join Christ in blessing those who are poor,

Those who are hungry,
Those who weep.

Let us rejoice in the opportunity to bless others as Christ has blessed us.

Ministry of the Sacrament

We, many as we are, are one body in Christ.
If we do not love our brothers and sisters whom we have seen,
how can we love God whom we have not seen?
The peace of God be with you.
And God's peace be with you.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord is here.
God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

With all your people in heaven and on earth
we give you thanks for Jesus Christ,
through whom all things were made;
who in the fullness of time became flesh
and lived among us, full of grace and truth;
who in obedience suffered death on the cross,
and was raised in triumph that we might have life.
Therefore, we worship and praise your glorious name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

All glory and thanksgiving to you, living God,
creator and sustainer of the universe;
you gave us your beloved Son Jesus Christ
who, on the night he was betrayed, took bread
and after giving thanks broke it
and gave it to his disciples saying,
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this to remember me.”
In the same way he took the cup after supper and said,
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”

**Glory to you, Lord Christ:
your death we proclaim;
your resurrection we celebrate;
your coming we await. Amen.**

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit,
that these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the bread
of life and the cup of salvation. Bind us into one body, that we may
grow into the fullness of Christ who is the head.
Amen.

**We come to your table, Lord, trusting not in our own
righteousness but in your great mercy. We are not worthy
even to gather the crumbs from under the table. But you are
the same Lord, whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant
us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat this bread and drink
this wine that Christ may evermore dwell in us we in
him. Amen.**

Hymn: Now to your table spread

- 1 Now to your table spread
we come, each one in faith
that you alone provide the words of life or death:
in wine and bread,
in promised food
we find your loving heart, O God.
- 2 Hands of the world stretch out
your mystery to touch
in longing to believe a truth beyond our reach,
to sing in joy,
to cry in grief,
to know your meaning for our life.
- 3 Here is our common wealth
in sharing what is good,
as though all humankind around one table stood,
this bread to break,
this wine to taste:
one people in the name of Christ.

Breaking of the Bread

After a pause, break the bread and say:

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

Pours the wine, takes the cup and say:

The wine which we pour is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Silence is kept for a time,

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Communion

In eating and drinking together we remember that Christ died for us. Feed on him in your hearts with thanksgiving.

Prayer after communion

May we who have remembered Jesus, who have shared in a fore-taste of a world where everyone has a place at the table be inspired by what we have shared in.

Lord Jesus Christ,

We thank you with all our heart for your mercy and grace.

Grant us now and in the days to come a living hope in you;

and as we serve you in the world,

help us look and work for that day

when at your name every knee shall bow

and every tongue confess you Lord,

to the glory of God. Amen

HYMN: Now as we go

1. Now as we go, kind Spirit keep us,
in all we see, Christ be our focus,
in all we do, his story shape us,
that we may grow to God's good purpose.
2. Now as we go, sister, and brother,
give us good care one of the other,
more hope to share, more strength to gather,
more life to know in faith together.

Words: Shirley Murray, Tune: Colin Gibson AA99

Parting Words

If, here, you have found freedom,
take it with you into the world.

If you have found comfort,
go and share it with others.

If you have dreamed dreams,
help one another, that they may come true.

If you have known love and unity,
give some back to a bruised and hurting world.

Words of Blessing

Now may the blessings of life be upon us,
and upon this gathered people.
May the memories we gather here give us hope for the future.
May the love that we share
bring strength and joy to our hearts,
and the peace of this community be with us
until we meet again.
Amen. May it be so.

**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: Rex E Hunt; BrucePrewer.com,
Let Us Pray, Janet Nelson 1999;
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<https://www.facebook.com/wesleywellington.methodistchurch.10am>

Please join us in the foyer for refreshments following the service.
Thank you to the Heger family for the refreshments.
Thank you Jima Naikatini for the lovely flowers.