



Wesley Wellington

75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 13 November 2022
Pentecost 23

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!

**10am Congregation
Sunday 13 November 2022
Pentecost 13**

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

Welcome & Introduction

Call to Worship (said together)

Come in, find a space for rest in this sacred space.
Come with your fears, your anxiety, your trepidation.
Come knowing that this space is safe.

We leave our cares at the altar.

We find comfort in community.

God knows your weariness. God feels your fatigue.
Rest now. There is no battle to be fought here,
no argument to be won.
Just a place where the Spirit holds you in her care.

**May the Spirit's arms wrap around us
so that we can rest and breathe again.**

This is a sacred space, made sacred by generations of
tears, laughter, silence, and song.

This is a thin space, a holy space

We recognize it. We soak it in.

We remember that we helped make it like this.

With your heart at peace,
open yourself now to the presence of God,
the one we gather to worship, the one who guides us forward.

**This is our sacred space within a community
that brings out our most beautiful selves.**

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,
Ever present, bringing hope. Amen.**

Opening Prayer

Creator, you know us deeply.
Your fingerprints are on our hearts.
Every time we move, we have you to thank for our being.
Come to us in this sanctuary,
continue creating us in your image,
so that we might create a world
that reflects your desire for understanding, peace, and divine love.
We hold those moments of grace
as the tonic to heal our hurts and the suffering we cause others.
When we divide, we know that your Spirit reconciles.
When we entrench, we know that your Spirit opens us.
Forgive us when we fail to see the error
of our actions and when we fail to challenge the systems that oppress.
Nurture us back to your way. Amen.

Hymn: Awake, awake to love and work. H&P 631. Tune: Sheltered Dale

1. Awake, awake to love and work!
The lark is in the sky;
The fields are wet with diamond dew;
The worlds awake to cry
Their blessings on the Lord of life,
As He goes meekly by.
2. Come, let thy voice be one with theirs,
Shout with their shout of praise;
See how the giant sun soars up,

Great lord of years and days!
So let the love of Jesus come
And set thy soul ablaze.

3. To give and give, and give again,
What God hath given thee;
To spend thyself nor count the cost;
To serve right gloriously
The God who gave all worlds that are,
And all that are to be.

Prayer of Approach

Creator God, we contemplate the vastness of your creation.
We seek to grasp infinity and eternity,
but our humanness restricts our vision,
our imagination our understanding
and we, in awe, simply are left to wonder.

**We are one people, on one planet,
in one universe, in the infinite kingdom of you.**

Nurturing God, the blessings of this home,
this earth, are overwhelming.
Nature satisfies hunger, both for food and for beauty.
Gratitude abounds and we thank you.

**Our home is here, on this side of the spirit journey.
Nature is your reflection and our teacher.**

Devoted Parent, we turn to our neighbours,
our siblings on this planet Earth,
and discover hearts that reflect our own confusion,
our own faith, our own mistrust, and our own passion
– and we know we are not alone.

**Blessed by you, we are part of each other
and each of us is a part of you.
We journey together in your light and thank you for love.**

Eternal Spirit, we are indeed your people,
coming from and returning to you.
Yet we discover that you are at our side all along.
**Though we are the blessed, we bless your name and
celebrate your presence through all time and space.
Creator, Christ, and Spirit,
we proclaim your way, honour your truth,
and journey in your light. Amen.**

Story time / Introducing the Theme

Song: In the Presence of Your People. AA 70.

1. In the presence of your people
I will praise your name;
for alone you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
Let us celebrate your goodness
and your steadfast love.
May your name be exalted
here on earth and in heaven above.
2. Lai-lai-lai ...

Readings: From *The Message* by Eugene Peterson

Luke 21:5-19: Watch Out for Doomsday Deceivers

One day people were standing around talking about the Temple, remarking how beautiful it was, the splendour of its stonework and memorial gifts. Jesus said, “All this you’re admiring so much—the time is coming when every stone in that building will end up in a heap of rubble.”

They asked him, “Teacher, when is this going to happen? What clue will we get that it’s about to take place?”

He said, “Watch out for the doomsday deceivers. Many leaders are going to show up with forged identities claiming, ‘I’m the One,’ or,

‘The end is near.’ Don’t fall for any of that. When you hear of wars and uprisings, keep your head and don’t panic. This is routine history and no sign of the end.”

He went on, “Nation will fight nation and ruler fight ruler, over and over. Huge earthquakes will occur in various places. There will be famines. You’ll think at times that the very sky is falling.

“But before any of this happens, they’ll arrest you, hunt you down, and drag you to court and jail. It will go from bad to worse, dog-eat-dog, everyone at your throat because you carry my name. You’ll end up on the witness stand, called to testify. Make up your mind right now not to worry about it. I’ll give you the words and wisdom that will reduce all your accusers to stammers and stutters.

“You’ll even be turned in by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends. Some of you will be killed. There’s no telling who will hate you because of me. Even so, every detail of your body and soul—even the hairs of your head!—is in my care; nothing of you will be lost. Staying with it—that’s what is required. Stay with it to the end. You won’t be sorry; you’ll be saved.

Isaiah 65:17-25: New Heavens and a New Earth

“Pay close attention now:

 I’m creating new heavens and a new earth.

All the earlier troubles, chaos, and pain
 are things of the past, to be forgotten.

Look ahead with joy.

 Anticipate what I’m creating:

I’ll create Jerusalem as sheer joy,
 create my people as pure delight.

I’ll take joy in Jerusalem,
 take delight in my people:

No more sounds of weeping in the city,
 no cries of anguish;

No more babies dying in the cradle,
 or old people who don’t enjoy a full lifetime;

One-hundredth birthdays will be considered normal—
anything less will seem like a cheat.
They'll build houses
and move in.
They'll plant fields
and eat what they grow.
No more building a house
that some outsider takes over,
No more planting fields
that some enemy confiscates,
For my people will be as long-lived as trees,
my chosen ones will have satisfaction in their work.
They won't work and have nothing come of it,
they won't have children snatched out from under them.
For they themselves are plantings blessed by GOD,
with their children and grandchildren likewise GOD-blessed.
Before they call out, I'll answer.
Before they've finished speaking, I'll have heard.
Wolf and lamb will graze the same meadow,
lion and ox eat straw from the same trough,
but snakes—they'll get a diet of dirt!
Neither animal nor human will hurt or kill
anywhere on my Holy Mountain," says GOD.

Sermon: *Restoring the Balance*

Hymn: Psalm 19 Words & Music: Rosemary Russell (2009)

1. Not a word is said, yet the heavens shout!
Not a song is sung yet the skies give praise!
Throughout all the world to the ends of the earth
Creation shows God's hand.

Refrain

May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart
give great joy to you Lord,
As the words of your law and the love of your heart
give great joy to me
O Lord my Rock, you are my Redeemer
O Lord my Rock, on you I will stand.

2. Not a soul is lost who follows your laws.
Not a heart stays sad who loves your Word
Throughout all the world to the ends of the earth
Your law is right and true.

3. Not a fault is hidden that you do not see,
Nor an error made that's unknown to you
Throughout all the world to the ends of the earth
Your mercy up-holds me.

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 "...Holy God, you can make all things new, in your 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)

**Multiply our efforts by your grace, God of love,
so that the needs of a hurting and lonely planet
may be met and all will know that they are cared for;
each creature, each ocean, the sky, and the land,
and people everywhere will know
that they are a valued and a beloved part of your creation.
Strengthen us as we give and receive
within your community of love and mutual support. Amen.**

Hymn: We turn to you, O God of every nation H&P412. Tune: Intercessor

1. We turn to you, O God of every nation,
Giver of life and origin of good;
Your love is at the heart of all creation,
Your hurt is people's broken unity.
2. We turn to you, that we may be forgiven
for crucifying Christ on earth again.
We know that we have never wholly striven
Forgetting self to love the other one.
3. Free every heart from pride and self-reliance,
Our ways of thought inspire with simple grace;
Break down among us barriers of defiance,
Speak to the soul of all the human race.

4. On all who rise on earth for right relations,
We pray the light of love from hour to hour.
Grant wisdom to the leaders of the nations,
the gift of carefulness to those in power.
5. Teach us, good Lord, to serve the need of others,
help us to give and not to count the cost.
Unite us all to live as sisters, brothers,
defeat our Babel with your Pentecost!

Benediction

Go into the world noticing the love of God by noticing others,
sharing the love of God by sharing with others,
responding to the love of God by loving others,
for the sake of Christ Jesus. 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; Philip Garside.

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>