



WESLEY WELLINGTON
75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 16th October 2022
Pentecost 19

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

Leader: Rev Nicola Teague Grundy

Organist: Vivien Chiu

Welcoming you today is Hugh Laurenson.

Welcome to today's service. A special welcome to visitors. We hope you will enjoy worshipping with us this morning and will join us again.

WELCOME AND SAFETY BRIEFING

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Creating God, by your Word you bring all things into being.

Speak, for all the universe listens.

In Christ you have spoken your love to us.

Speak, for your people are listening.

Holy Spirit, your Word unfolds in us, and gives light.

Speak in us, for we are listening.

HYMN 'Here to celebrate God's loving' [HioS 58]

Here to celebrate God's loving,
in this moment called to share,
partners in love's gracious purpose,
God invites us all to care.

*Hang out the hallelujahs
hang out a loud amen,
love is God's final word in Christ,
a love that knows no end.*

Here to celebrate God's working,
there's a task for everyone;
none is greater, none is smaller:
just love's service to be done.

Here to celebrate God's welcome,
finding Christ in me and you;
for the world and for each other
doing what our Lord would do.

Here to celebrate God's goodness,
here to listen, here to pray;
sent from worship into service,
called to live Christ's loving way.

Colin Gibson

LIGHTING THE CANDLE

We take a flame and light our candle ...

The candle is lit

We light this candle in solidarity with those who have not the freedom to express their concern or celebration for fear of discrimination or condemnation.

In all our joys and in all our concerns, may we be ever mindful of the presentness of the sacred among us, and to see the new possibilities of the now.

OPENING PRAYER

Patient God,
you persevere in your care for us,
in spite of our lack of persistence,
lack of praying at all times.
Merge our inner spirits
With your will.
Teach us again and again
to pray always
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.
Amen.

PSALM 119: 97-104 [Cloudy Meditation]

STORY TIME - God's new covenant with God's people – written on hearts, not stone.

HYMN: 'God, of the Bible' [FFS 25]

God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,
hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,
you are our centre, daylight or darkness,
freedom or prison, you are our home.

*Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.*

*Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.*

God in our struggles, God in our hunger,
suffering with us, taking our part,
still you empower us, mothering Spirit,
feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.

Those without status, treated as nothing,
you have made royal, gifted with rights,
chosen as partners, midwives of justice,
birthing new systems, lighting new lights.

Not by your finger, not by your anger
will our world order change in a day,
but by your people, fearless and faithful,
small paper lanterns, lighting the way.

Hope we must carry, shining and certain
through all our turmoil, terror and loss,
bonding us gladly, one to the other,
till our world changes, facing the Cross.

Shirley Murray

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

To the bidding

Lord have mercy, *respond with:* **Lord have mercy.**

Christ have mercy, *respond with:* **Christ have mercy.**

MINISTRY OF THE WORD – *Readings led by Leatuavao Family from NRSVUE*

May we open ourselves to the seeds of wisdom
that lie dormant in these readings.

**And may our minds be fertile soil
in which they may grow strong and true.**

Jeremiah 31: 27-34

Individual Retribution

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the LORD. In those days they shall no longer say:

“The parents have eaten sour grapes,
and the children’s teeth are set on edge.”

But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of the one who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge.

A New Covenant

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the

least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Luke 18: 1-8 – Parable of the Widow and the Unjust Judge

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my accuser.’ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’ ” And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

REFLECTION

A CELEBRATION OF FAITH

In response to the word reflected on, let us join together in a celebration of faith.

(Stand if you are able)

God of all living, we have seen your presence
In the rhythm and surprise of our years.

You have accompanied us through all that is past.

We are thankful.

We recognise your closeness in this day.

You challenge and encourage us in each act and decision.

We seek to be courageous.

Now we look to you in the promises
Which stretch before us.

**You meet us with hope and call us to freedom
to live as your new people.
We commit ourselves again, to live as people of faith.**

HYMN: God, you hear our weary praying

God, you hear our weary praying,
and you know that we lose heart.

All around we see the suffering
of a world that's torn apart.

We see leaders of the nations
filled with arrogance and greed.

We see friends and family hurting,
facing overwhelming need.

God, we cannot help but wonder:

Do our prayers do any good?

Do they change the nations' leaders?

Do they change our neighbourhood?

Why do loved ones keep on suffering
when they're in our constant prayer?

Do you hear the cries we're offering?

Are you listening? Are you there?

Then you teach us of this woman:

She was widowed; she was poor.

"Grant me justice!" she kept calling
at an unjust judge's door.

Though that judge respected no one,
he was no match for her cries.

He responded to her pleading,
granting justice, changing lives.

How much more is your compassion!

God, you're just and good and fair.

May we lift to you our sorrows

and the burdens that we bear.
May we pray, for you reign o'er us!
May we ask — for you are kind!
May we trust that you will help us
in your goodness, in your time.

Carolyn Winfrey

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 Joys, Things we are grateful for, Sorrows and concerns

Prayers of Intercession

God of justice,
You have called your prophets throughout the ages
to persist in proclamation
in the face of callousness,
and to be resilient in faith
confronting stupidity:

We pray for those
Who have refused to be silent before injustice;
Who have been repeatedly turned away but are not discouraged;
Whose outrageous faith has caused the mighty to tremble;
Whose stubborn humour gives their allies heart.
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of God"
as the waters cover the sea.

We pray for those whose efforts in the cause of justice
have left them damaged or bitter;
who are repudiated by those they struggle for;

who have lost all hope of remedy,
and whose voice is not heard.
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of God”
as the waters cover the sea.”

We pray for those
who have the power to do good and will not;
who attend to no voice but their own;
who dismiss the causes of oppression,
and ignore the plight of the powerless.
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of God”
as the waters cover the sea.”

LORD’S PRAYER

E tō mātou Matua i te rangi
Kia tapu tou Ingoa
Kia tae mai tou rangatira-tanga.
Kia meatia tau e pai ai
ki runga i te whenua,
kia rite ano ki to te rangi.
Homai ki a mātou aianeī
he taro mā mātou mo tēnei ra.
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 whaka-waia;
Engari whaka-orangia mātou, i te kino:
Nou hoki te rangatira-tanga,
te kaha,
me te kororia,
Ake, ake, ake.
Āmine.

Offering

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

Blessing of Offering (said together)

Gracious God, we give you these gifts as symbols of our lives. Receive them with love, bless them with grace, and use them according to your will. Help us to listen for your voice, to hear your cry for justice, to discern your Word, and to humbly follow, for the sake of the healing of the world, in the name and the Spirit of Christ. Amen.

HYMN: 'These hills' [FFS 63]

These hills where the hawk flies lonely,
beaches where the long surf rolls,
mountains where the snows meet heaven,
these are our care.

Pastures where the sheep graze calmly,
Orchards where the apples grow,
Gardens where the roses cluster,
these are our prayer.

Forests where the tree ferns tower,
rivers running strong and clear,
oceans where the great whales wander,
these are our care.

Race meeting race as equals,
justice for age-old wrong,
worth of every man and woman,
these are our prayer.

Cities where the young roam restless,
lives brought to deep despair,
homeless and powerless people,
these are our care.

Places where the Words is spoken,
hands held in serving love,
faiths of our many cultures,
these are our prayer.

All that the old world gave us,
all that the new world brings,
language, ideas and customs,
these are our care.

Life finding joy and value,
faith seeking truth and light,
God heard and seen in all things,
this be our prayer.

Colin Gibson

PARTING WORDS

Time has now come for us to leave this sacred place.
As we do, may we embrace the challenges of our lives and our world ...

The candle is extinguished

We receive fragments of holiness, glimpses of eternity,
brief moments of insight.

**Let us gather them up
For the precious gifts that they are and,
Renewed by their grace,
Move boldly into the unknown.**

Go now in peace, and celebrate
the presentness of God in your lives.

Grace (*said 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**

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Liturgy for this service was sourced from:

Sarah Agnew, Pray the Story "*Cloudy meditation*" – <https://praythestory.blogspot.com>

Ruth C Duck and Maren C Tirabassi, "*Touch Holiness*" Resources for Worship

Janet Morley "*All Desires Known*" 3rd edition

Image: "*Plant inside rock stone*" www.publicdomainpictures.net

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Acknowledgement:

We thank Wendy Conwell and Betty Knight for our refreshments today.

We also thank Joy Grove for the floral decorations.

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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>