

ORDER OF SERVICE

Leader: Myra Tautau (Lay Preacher)

Organist: Vivien Chiu

Welcoming you today is Philippa Conway,
Welcome to today's service. A special welcome to visitors. Visitor packs are available for your information. We hope you will enjoy worshipping with us this morning and will join us again.

WELCOMING, NOTICES & SAFETY BRIEFING

Phillippa Conway

LIGHTING OF CANDLE

Tauamiti Heger

INTROIT (*Please stand*)

ALL

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me

Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me

Fill me, mould me, make me, use me

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Please remain standing*)

Centering words

You are far more talented than you give yourself credit for. Be faithful in what you have been given, and God will bless you with more. But be unfaithful in what you have been given, and God will take it away. May we, who are asked to give an accounting of our talents, be found faithful.

Call to worship

Leader: We have come this day to worship and pray,

ALL: We have come this day to meditate on God's teachings,

Leader: Gathered as one family of Christ,

ALL: We come together in love and in unity, to fellowship with one another

Leader: God is present in our lives

ALL: God is present in this place

Leader: We are called to honesty in what we do

ALL: We are called to be good stewards

Leader: We are called to live our faith in action

ALL: We are called to honor God and be a blessing to others

Leader: May we hear the word read and proclaimed

**ALL: May we listen to where Jesus leads us to be.
Amen and amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Holy Spirit, be with us in our worship this day. Draw us ever closer to you, that we may become one. Draw us ever closer to your word, that we may be wise. Draw us ever closer to your world, that we may serve and love, as you guide us to do. In your holy name, we pray.

ALL: Amen

HYMN: Praise My Soul the King of Heaven

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven.
To His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like thee His praise should sing?
Praise Him, praise Him,
praise Him, praise Him,
Praise the everlasting King.

2. Praise Him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress.
Praise Him, still the same forever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise Him, praise Him,
praise Him, praise Him,
Glorious in His faithfulness.

4. Father-like He tends and spares us;

Well our feeble frame He Knows.
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise Him, praise Him,
praise Him, praise Him,
Widely as His mercy flows.

5. Angels in the height, adore Him;
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Praise Him, praise Him,
praise Him, praise Him,
Praise with us the God of grace.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE:

Prayer of yearning

ALL: For we are weary in body and tired in soul, as we strive to live faithfully as children of light – children who are wise in the ways of your kingdom.

Too often, we neglect the talents you give us, And act less shrewdly with your true riches - than the unscrupulous do - with the dishonest wealth of this world.

As you search our hearts and ways, May we be found faithful in a little,

That you entrust us to be faithful in much.

Amen. (Sing 'The Lord's Prayer')

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST:

Leader: When we offer supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving for others, we discover Christ's peace-a peace that passes all understanding. Let us share signs of this peace with one another.

CHILDREN'S TIME:

Story

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD:

Joy Grove

Luke 16: 1 – 13 (NIV)

Jesus told his disciples “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management because you cannot be manager any longer.’” The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg. I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’” So, he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied. The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’ Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’ ‘A thousand bushels^[b] of wheat,’ he replied. He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’” The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So, if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own? No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Response to the Word

ALL: God has made us stewards of true riches that we may live and work tirelessly as children of light. May we be found faithful in what we have received, that God will bless us abundantly, as we work to bring the kingdom of God into our midst.

SERMON

‘ Be faithful stewards of true riches’

HYMN:

Blow through the valleys and sing in the rimu;

O Spirit of God fill the earth:

guide us to truth that you give in your power,

O Spirit of God our new birth.

1. The world sets its heart on the value of money,
and thinks it can buy all the treasures we need;
but God measures worth by a new kind of poverty,
founded on Jesus, the servant we heed.

Blow through the valleys ...

2. Let mercy enfold us and justice be real,
our races in partnership live in this land.
The God of the whenua binds us together,
by leading us on to hold each other's hand.

Blow through the valleys ...

3. O Spirit of God take our love, take our aroha,
stir us to faith and to courage for you;
that Jesus the prophet will guide us in leadership,
bringing the Spirit of hope to renew.

Blow through the valleys ...

Bill Bennett

OFFERTORY: (We also acknowledge offerings made by automatic payment
and online banking)

Offering Prayer

ALL: Source of every good gift, you call us to be wise with the true riches of your kingdom. May this offering show such wisdom, that having being found faithful in a little, you will trust us to be faithful in much. We offer you these gifts in gratitude for your love, that they may bring healing and light to those who need your balm of Gilead. Amen.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Hugh Laurenson

Merciful God, your faithfulness to your people is everlasting, and you answer your people when they cry to you: receive our prayers for your world and your church.

Response: receive our prayers

God our Creator, you entrust to our care the treasures of the earth: help us to be wise and faithful stewards, that we may preserve its riches for future generations and share justly, with all people, the bounty you provide. We pray for those who enjoy too little of the earth's resources:

for the hungry, the homeless, and the refugee;

for those who have no security, dignity or peace.

Hear the cries of your poor people, o God, and, in your mercy,

Response: receive our prayers

God our Redeemer, you entrust to our care the treasure of your gospel: help us to be true and faithful stewards of your word, that we may be witnesses to your love and proclaim your good news in all the world.

We pray for those who have not experienced your saving grace:

for those who are held in the power of sin and guilt.

for those who do not know your forgiveness and love.

Hear the cries of your poor people, O God, and, in your mercy,

Response: receive our prayers

God our Companion, you entrust to our care the treasure of human relationships: help us to be loyal and faithful to the families and friends you give to us, that we may live in love for one another and together create a community of care.

We pray for those who do not know the joy of companionship:
for those who are alone or estranged from families and friend
for those who are unnoticed, unwanted, unloved.

Hear the cries of your poor people, O God, and, in your mercy,

Response: receive our prayers

God our Comforter, you entrust to our care the treasure of your little ones:
help us to be compassionate and faithful in our care for those who suffer,
and in our times of weakness help us to accept the care of others.

We pray for those in need if consolation, comfort and hope:

for those who love in fear, anxiety or despair;

for the sad and the sorrowing, the sick and the dying.

Hear the cries of your poor people, O God, and, in your mercy,

Response: receive our prayers

God, our beginning and our end: help us to serve you faithfully in all that
you entrust to us, that, when we come to the end of our earthly days, we
may be found worthy to receive your heavenly treasure and enter into the
joy of your eternal presence.

We remember your good and faithful servants of every age:

those who have kept the faith in times of persecution;

those who have built up the community of faith in this place.

With the saints on earth and the saints in glory, we raise our prayers to
you.

Hear the cries of your poor people, O God, and, in your mercy,

Response: receive our prayers

HYMN: Amazing Grace

1. Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved

How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

3.Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come
This grace that brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home

4.When we've been here ten thousand years
Bright, shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun

Extinguishing the candles

Elisara Osana

Sending Forth:

Benediction

Be faithful in a little, that you may also be found faithful in much.
Be faithful in much, that you may be entrusted with the true riches that
come from above.

Go to be faithful children of light, and come to know the grace, hope, and
peace of the one who is truly faithful.

THE GRACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the
Holy Spirit be with us all. AMEN.

Liturgy, readings and prayers for this service were sourced from: Scifres. Mary and Beu. B.J., 2022, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022; Abingdon Press, Nashville, USA. Intercessory Prayers from: Nelson. Janet, 1999, Let Us Pray; HarperCollinsReligious, Australia.

*Acknowledgement: We thank the Garside family for refreshment today.
We also acknowledge the Fijian women for the floral decorations.*

