



Wesley Wellington
75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 20 March 2022
LENT 3

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
20TH March 2022**

Leader:
Rev Nicola Teague Grundy
Organ: **Colin Scarf**

Welcome, Introduction & Safety briefing

Call to Worship

Nicola A great teacher (Dietrich Bonhoeffer) once said, “When Jesus Christ calls us, he bids us come and die”. We are the people who have responded to this call.

Left **Through Christ, we want to die to the fears that keep us from loving.**

Right **Through Christ, we want to die to the stubbornness that keeps us from sharing our gifts.**

Left **Through Christ, we want to die to seeking our own success and salvation in disregard for the good of all God’s children.**

Right **This is God’s promise, that if we die with Christ, we will also rise with Christ.**

All **God be praised for the glorious promise of new life in Christ. Alleluia!
Amen.**

Lighting the Candles

We light our candles as a sign that God loves each one of us.
As a candle burns it gives warmth and light,
So, we are reminded to live
a warm, truthful, loving and hopeful life.

Hymn: “Come down, O Love divine” [H&P 281]

1. Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.
2. O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.
3. Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.
4. And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till he become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Bianco da Siena tr by R F Littedale

Opening Prayer

Our Lord and God,
on this third Sunday of Lent
we are reminded of second chances.
We have an opportunity to turn to you.
It's a change direction situation.
Let us hear your call to us today.
Guide us in the path we should take.
Prompt us to compassion for people who are suffering.
Prompt us to be active for justice in our world.
Show us how to be all-loving and generous.
Let us see your glory at work in our world.
Be with us in our suffering.
Be with us in our sorrow.
Be with us in our hardship.
Come alongside us in our pain.
Open our eyes to the needs around us.
Open our eyes to fresh learnings and understandings.
Be with us today.
Amen.

Story Time

Hymn **When I needed a neighbour were you there? [WoV558]**

When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?

Chorus And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?

I was cold, I was naked, were you there, were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?

When I needed a shelter, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a shelter, were you there?

When I needed a healer, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a healer, were you there?

Wherever you travel I'll be there, I'll be there,
Wherever you travel I'll be there.

Sydney Carter

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Where in the world do fig trees grow,
but grow no fruit to share?
In the gardens of our good intentions,
stifled by our inaction.
Where in the world do fig trees grow,
but grow no fruit to share?
In the chapels where our prayers and songs
fill the air, but there remain.
Where in the world do fig trees grow,
but grow no fruit to share?
In pre-election rhetoric designed to win
votes, but not to change a thing.
Where in the world do fig trees grow,
but grow no fruit to share?
Here, they grow, around and within us,
fig trees with no fruit to share:
Forgive us, though we make poor use
of the good soil you provide.
Dig around and feed our roots,
help us to grow again.
Turn around, Jesus calls,

and I will restore, renew.
Hear this promise,
receive this grace:
God will enrich our growing,
take heart, and be at peace. Amen.

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 aianei
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.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Reading Luke 13: 1—9 [CEV]

Turn Back to God

About this same time Jesus was told that Pilate had given orders for some people from Galilee to be killed while they were offering sacrifices. Jesus replied:

Do you think that these people were worse sinners than every one else in Galilee just because of what happened to them? Not at all! But you can be sure that if you don't turn back to God, every one of you will also be killed. What about those eighteen people who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them? Do you think they were worse than everyone else in Jerusalem? Not at all! But you can be sure that if you don't turn back to God, every one of you will also die.

A Story about a Fig Tree

A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard. One day he went out to pick some figs, but he didn't find any. So he said to the gardener, "For three years I have come looking for figs on this tree, and I haven't found any yet. Chop it down! Why should it take up space?"

The gardener answered, "Master, leave it for another year. I'll dig around it and put some manure on it to make it grow. Maybe it will have figs on it next year. If it doesn't, you can have it cut down."

Reflection

Silence for personal reflection

Hymn – “There’s a wideness in God’s mercy” [HioS 135]

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.
there's no place where human sorrows
are more deeply felt than heaven;
there's no place where human failings
have such kindly judgements given.

2. For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make that love too narrow
by the limits of our own;
and we magnify God's strictness
with a zeal Love will not own.

3. There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that endless world of bliss.
If our love were but more simple,
we would trust the living Word;
and our lives would fill with gladness
in the joy of Christ our Lord.

Words: F W Faber (altered by Colin Gibson).

Music: Colin Gibson.

Community Time

Sharing the Peace

May a heart of peace rest with you.

And also, with you.

Notices

Sharing Joys and Sorrows

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

We worship you God through our gifts and our lives. May they be used to nourish lives with grace and mercy. May the fruit of your Spirit be evident in all we do and say as followers of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of Concern

Make our lives, good loving Lord,
through Jesus our true Vine,
living branches of faith, hope, and love
so that the existence of others may be enriched
and our own lives grow mature with the fruits of Jesus Christ.

For our brothers and sisters
in all their diverse needs,
we pray.
Where people have forgotten how to laugh,
touch them with your joy.
Where they have lost the art of mercy,
graft compassion and forgiveness within them.
Where they neglect to share bread, medicine,
trust and friendship,
stir new growth of love within them.

Lord,
our true Vine,
abide in us
that we may abide in you.

Holy Friend, healer and liberator,
We lift up before you those people who are this very moment
suffering from accident, disease, their own mistakes,
or the cruelty of others.
Please have mercy on our race, O God.

**Forgive our human iniquities
and heal our many diseases**

At this moment many fellow human beings are crying out
Against the cruelty of war, of being held in captivity of
being displaced:

Ordinary citizens forced to flee, hostages – adults and children,
prisoners of war,

political detainees, mistakenly convicted.

Please have mercy on our race, O God.

**Forgive our human iniquities
and heal our many diseases**

At this moment many of our fellow humans
are suffering physical and

mental abuse: Battered wives and children,

others beaten up by robbers,

tortured for information,

verbally abused and denigrated,

left with untended wounds,

threatened with the injury of loved ones,

sexually molested or slowly killed.

Please have mercy on our race, O God.

**Forgive our human iniquities
and heal our many diseases.**

At this moment there are people who are traumatised
by sudden injury:

Victims of highways, soldiers wounded in battle,
civilians bombed or terrorised;

Those maimed by the carelessness of others,
and some who for personal thrills
have taken big risks and lost.

Please have mercy on our race, O God.

**Forgive our human iniquities
and heal our many diseases**

Holy Friend, help your church to do whatever we can to lessen the multiple sufferings of humanity. Encourage each of us to rest our own pain and grief in your infinite mercy, and to not cease from righteous anger, prayer and appropriate action while injustice and neglect exist anywhere on this planet.

Please have mercy on our church, O God.

Through Jesus Christ our Saviour, Amen.

Hymn: “God of all power, and truth, and grace” [H&P 726]

1. God of all power, and truth, and grace,
which shall from age to age endure,
whose word, when heaven and earth shall pass,
remains and stands for ever sure;
2. That I your mercy may proclaim,
that all the world your truth may see,
hallow your great and glorious name,
and perfect holiness in me.
3. Give me a new, a perfect heart,
free from all doubt and fear at last;
the mind which was in Christ impart,
and let my spirit hold you fast.
4. O that I now, from sin released,
your word may to the utmost prove,
enter into the promised rest,
the Canaan of your perfect love.
5. Now let me gain perfection's height
now let me into nothing fall,
be less than nothing in your sight,
and fell that Christ is all in all.

Charles Wesley

Blessing

Go into this week
brimming over with the grace of God,
nourished by the love of Jesus Christ,
implanted with the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

The 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 tahithanga
ki te Wairua Tapu. Amine**

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Liturgy for this service was sourced from: *Worship Words – Uniting Church of Australia, Bread for the Journey Resources for Worship, Australian Prayers and Psalms.*

Cover image:

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God's Hand, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**,
a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

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Visit the 10am Facebook Page to keep up-to-date with services and news:

<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 Joy Grove for the lovely flowers.