



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

Sunday 27th March 2022

BAPTISM - JACOB JAMES TEVITA HENDERSON

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
27TH March 2022

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

Welcome and Safety briefing

Introit Jesus stand among us

1. Jesus, stand among us
 at the meeting of our lives;
 be the full agreement
 in the meeting of our eyes.

2. O Jesus, we love you,
 and so we gather here;
 join our hearts in unity
 and take away all fear.

3. As to you we gather
 From so many different lands
 Christ the life between us
 In the joining of our hands.

5. O Jesus, we love you,
 and so we gather here;
 join our hearts in unity
 and take away all fear.

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Welcome and Gathering

*Haere mai ki te karakia, he koa ana mātou
kua haere mai koe ki kōnei.*

Malo e leilei, Talofa lava, nisa bulla Vinaka, tena koutou katoa
Welcome to this place in whatever way you are present. No matter
where you are from, no matter who you are, you are welcome here.

This morning we gather to celebrate the richness and diversity of life.
Listen to the breathing around you – are you taking in life?
We don't want to end up simply having visited this world.
To the lost and alone – don't give up hope.
We are at home with our God.

Call to Worship

In the name of God,
who created us,
who holds us and the whole world in divine embrace
In the name of the Son
who came into the world,
who reconciles us with God.
In the name of the Holy Spirit
who fills us with eternal life,
who links us with all Christians
and incites us to peace,
we come together to offer our thanks and praise.

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: Lord of all being [H&P 11]

1. Lord of all being, throned afar,
thy glory flames from sun and star;
centre and soul of every sphere,
yet to each loving heart how near.
2. Sun of our life, thy quickening ray
sheds on our path the glow of day;
star of our hope, thy softened light
cheers the long watches of the night.

3. Lord of all life, below, above,
whose light is truth, whose warmth is love,
before thy ever-blazing throne
we ask no lustre of our own.
4. Grant us your truth to make us free,
and kindling hearts that burn for thee,
till all your living altars claim
one holy light, one heavenly flame.

Oliver Wendell Holmes

Baptism of Jacob James Tevita Henderson

Leader: Once when people brought their babies to Jesus to be blessed, the disciples wanted to send them away, but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs”.

Luke 18: 15-17

Gertie and Jeremy, we are glad you have brought
Jacob James Tevita Henderson to be baptised today.

Baptism is God’s gift to us. It is God who takes the initiative; God chooses us. Long before we can understand or respond, God knows and loves each one of us and wants to be known and loved by us.

Baptism marks and celebrates the gracious, transforming work of God within us, not just in the moment of baptism itself but throughout the whole of life.

From the very beginning of the Christian community, people have been received into the church through baptism. Children belong in the community of faith which is centred on Jesus Christ. Through baptism they become members of the church, God’s covenant people, and are united with Christians of every time and place.

Human life is marked by brokenness but forgiveness and new

life in Christ are available to all who are open to receive them. Little children do not understand this yet, but their parents and the church together affirm their faith in God and promise to nurture them in this faith, so that as members of the Body of Christ they may learn to love and serve God all their life. Let us affirm the faith declared in our baptism:

All Stand

We are not alone – we live in God’s world.

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the church:
to celebrate God’s presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus,
crucified and risen,
our judge and our Hope.**

**In life, in death,
in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

**We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

Please be seated

Gertie, Jeremy and their family come forward with Jacob James Tevita Henderson

Leader: Gertie and Jeremy, what do you ask of the Church?

Parents: **We ask that Jacob James Tevita Henderson be baptised.**

Statement of intent by Gertie and Jeremy

Leader: Gertie and Jeremy, you have acknowledged with us your faith in God. Do you now entrust Jacob James Tevita Henderson to God's loving embrace?

Parents: **We do.**

Leader: Will you share in worship and the life of the church, so that Jacob James will always know he belongs within it?

Parents: **We will.**

Leader: Will you make your home a place where Christ is honoured and where Jacob James may grow in love and faith?

Parents: **We will, with God's help.**

Leader: Will you by your example encourage Jacob James to share in the celebration of Holy Communion and the service of God in the world, and to come to the confirmation of his baptism?

Parents: **We will, with God's help.**

Promise of the Jacob James Tevita Henderson's Family

Leader: As the close family will you lovingly guide Jacob James and give your support to his Gertie and Jeremy, so that Jacob James may grow in Christian faith?

Family: **We will, with God's help.**

Congregation stands

Promise of the Congregation

Leader: As members of Christ's universal church you are about to receive Jacob James Tevita Henderson into membership. Will you surround Jacob James and his family with love, nurture and encourage him in the faith, and with God's help make this a place where all may grow in the knowledge

and love of Christ?

**People: We will. With great joy we welcome
Jacob James Tevita Henderson into the church.**

Congregation sits

The Baptism

Leader: Flowing water is the central symbol of baptism.
It is a sign of life and growth, of freshness and delight,
of cleansing and new beginnings,
of God's Holy Spirit poured out
on those who belong to Christ.

Water is poured into the font by the Parish Steward.

Leader: Eternal God,
we thank you for the gift of water.
When nothing existed by chaos,
you swept across the waters of creation
and brought forth life;
when you saw your people as slaves in Egypt,
you led them to freedom through the sea;
across the river Jordan you led Israel
to the land you promised.
In the fullness of time you sent Jesus,
Nurtured in the waters of a womb;
in the Jordan he was baptised by John
and anointed by your Spirit;
at the well in Samaria he offered the gift of living water;
his followers are called to share the baptism
of his death and resurrection
and to make disciples of all nations.

By the power of your Holy Spirit,
Bless this water and Jacob James who is baptised in it,
That he may be born of water and the Spirit,
be raised to new life in Christ
and strengthened to serve you in the world.

To you be all honour and glory,
now and for ever. Amen.

Congregation stands (invite children to gather around the font)

Jacob James Tevita Henderson
I baptise you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Jacob James Tevita Henderson, from this day on
the sign of the cross is upon you.
Remember always that you are a child of God.

Through the water of birth
You were brought into the world.
Through the waters of baptism
You have been brought into the church.

A candle is presented (by a child of the parish and Parish Steward)

Leader: Jacob James Tevita Henderson
walk in the way of Christ.
Shine with the light of Christ.

The grace of Christ attend you;
the love of God surround you;
the Holy Spirit keep you,
this day and for ever. Amen.

Congregation sits

The presbyter with children of the parish take Jacob James around the congregation.

Leader: Let us pray:
We thank you, loving God, for the miracle of birth,
for the gift of children and the richness
that family life can bring.
Bless Jacob James Tevita Henderson and his family.
Give to Gertie and Jeremy the faith and wisdom
to fulfil their responsibility.

**People: We remember with gratitude
our own baptism.
Help us to live lives
worthy of his high calling.**

Leader: May your Spirit continually be at work in us so
that we may be channels of love and peace.
Amen.

*Jacob James Tevita Henderson's name is entered in the baptismal register. The
baptismal certificate is presented by the Parish Steward.*

The parents and family members return to their seat

Hymn: A pei se vaitafe [SMHB 19]

Hymn sung at the baptisms of Jacob's mother and aunties and uncles.

1. A pei se vaitafe
Le ffilemu
Pe Lutia nei i Le Sou
I Le Olaga Nei
Ou te Molimau Pea
E lelei, E Lelei Le Ali'i

*E Lelei (E Lelei)
E Lelei (E Lelei)
E Lelei, E Lelei Le Ali'i*

2. E fia foai le olaga nei
Ma lona malosi lelei
la fai ma taulaga
la viia ai
Le Alii alofa lenei

*Refrain
E Lelei (E Lelei)
E Lelei (E Lelei)
E Lelei, E Lelei Le Ali'i*

Ministry of the Word

Reading: Luke 15: 1-3, 11 - 32

By this time a lot of men and women of questionable reputation were hanging around Jesus, listening intently. The Pharisees and religion scholars were not pleased, not at all pleased. They growled, “He takes in sinners and eats meals with them, treating them like old friends.” Their grumbling triggered this story.

Then he said, “There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, ‘Father, I want right now what’s coming to me.’”

“So the father divided the property between them. It wasn’t long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to feel it. He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corn-cobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any.

“That brought him to his senses. He said, ‘All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I’m going back to my father. I’ll say to him, Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.’ He got right up and went home to his father.

“When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech: ‘Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son ever again.’

“But the father wasn’t listening. He was calling to the servants, ‘Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a prize-winning heifer and roast it. We’re going to feast! We’re going to have a wonderful time! My son is here - given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!’ And they began to have a wonderful time.

“All this time his older son was out in the field. When the day’s work was done he came in. As he approached the house, he heard the music and dancing. Calling over one of the houseboys, he asked what was going on. He told him, ‘Your brother came home. Your father has ordered a feast - barbecued beef! - because he has him home safe and sound.’

“The older brother stomped off in an angry sulk and refused to join in. His father came out and tried to talk to him, but he wouldn’t listen. The son said, ‘Look how many years I’ve stayed here serving you, never giving you one moment of grief, but have you ever thrown a party for me and my friends? Then this son of yours who has thrown away your money on whores shows up and you go all out with a feast!’

“His father said, ‘Son, you don’t understand. You’re with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours—but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. This brother of yours was dead, and he’s alive! He was lost, and he’s found!’”

Reflection

Personal reflection

Hymn “How much am I worth” [HioS 63]

1. How much am I worth? What’s the value in me?
Do I count if I stand or I fall?
If I’m weak or I’m strong, if I win or I lose,
am I someone, or no one at all?

*I am worth everything, everything, everything,
I am worth everything in the eyes of God;
you are worth everything, everything, everything,
we are worth everything in the eyes of God.*

2. I am that bird that dropped to the ground
the tiniest bird of them all,
and nobody knew, and nobody cared,
but our Father, who cares for us all.

3. I am that stone that fell from a ring
that was precious beyond all compare;
and they hunted the house, till they cried out with joy,
when they saw it, still gleaming down there.
4. I am that child who felt lost and afraid,
when she saw just how far she had roamed;
but they scoured the hills till they found her again,
and rejoicing, they brought her safe home.
5. How much am I worth? Do I matter at all?
when I'm thinking it through I may see
that I'm worth all the love of the Son of God,
who laid down his life just for me.

Colin Gibson

Community Time

Sharing the Peace

May a heart of peace rest with you.

And also, with you.

Notices - Sharing Joys and Sorrows

Happy birthday to you
And to Jesus be true
May the Lord bless and keep you
Happy birthday to you!

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

Holy One,
Just as you show us the ways
in which you wish us to live,
May you show us how to use our gifts

of service and money
to seek those who are lost,
to bring sight to the blind
and to welcome those
who are misguided in thinking
that they are beyond your love and forgiveness.
So be it. Amen

Prayers for ourselves and others

Some of the best known words...
Some of the most comforting words...
We have heard stories
of being lost and being found.
We have rejoiced at stories
of being lost and being welcomed safely home.
We have reflected upon stories
of being those who were lost
as well as being those who were left behind.
As we think of these familiar parables once more,
We take time to think about ourselves
and all across our world who need to know
of your generous mercy
and unconditional love.
God of love,
You never cease to extend your divine embrace to us
when we turn to you.
Give us grace and understanding
to recognise the distress of others.
We pray for all who are in dark places
be it through their own choices,
the misguidance of others, or by force.
May all know that nothing can separate us
from your love.

A silence is kept

Lord, hear our prayer. 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 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.**

Hymn: Beauty for Brokenness [TiS 690]

1. Beauty for brokenness,
hope for despair,
Lord, in the suffering,
this is our prayer.
Bread for the children,
justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset
your kingdom increase.

Refrain

God of the poor,
friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray;
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain.
Come change our love
from a spark to a flame.

2. Shelter for fragile lives,
cures for their ills,
work for the craftsmen,
trade for their skills;
land for the dispossessed,
rights for the weak;
voices to plead the cause
of those who can't speak.

3. Refuge from cruel wars,
havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary,
freedoms to share,
peace to the killing-fields,
scorched earth to green;
Christ for the bitterness,
his cross for the pain.

4. Rest for the ravaged earth,
oceans and streams,
plundered and poisoned,
our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness,
carelessness, greed;
make us content with
the things that we need.

5. Lighten our darkness,
breathe on this flame
until your justice burns
brightly again;
until the nations
learn of your ways,
seek your salvation
and bring you their praise.

Graham Kendrick

Parting Words

Love is never confined to this holy place,
love is found in ordinary and surprising places.
May we face our challenges with courage
and with hopefulness and grace
trusting this community to travel with us.
We name this day as the gift it is, and rejoice in its possibilities. Amen.

May grace flow freely in our life together
May love take us on a journey of compassion
May faith grant us courage to explore new possibilities.
Amen.

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: Methodist Church of New Zealand service of Baptism, Worship Words – Uniting Church of Australia,

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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 Leatuavao family for the refreshments.

Thank you ??? for the lovely flowers.