



Wesley Wellington

**75 Taranaki Street**  
[www.wesleychurch.org.nz](http://www.wesleychurch.org.nz)

**Sunday 8 May 2022 Easter 4**

*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 St  
8 May 2022 Easter 4**

**Leader: Philip Garside.  
Organist: Colin Scarf. Guitar: Heather Garside**

**Welcome & Introduction**

**Call to Worship** *Based on Psalm 23*

God is our Shepherd; we shall not want.

**God leads us to green pastures and living waters.**

God restores our souls and teaches us right from wrong.

**Even though we face shadowed days, and scary hours**

We will fear no evil, for God is with us.

**God's rule and God's guidance comfort us.**

God sets a table for us in the middle of our bad times.

**And God anoints us with joy and comfort, and our lives overflow.**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us always,

**for we will always live in the presence of God. Amen.**

**Opening Prayer**

O Holy One,

we rejoice in your resurrection and ascension.

Lord Jesus, you departed our world.

We are here, yet where are you?

We seek you, longing to feel your loving presence.

How shall we carry on without you near?

So, we pause to listen and to pay attention

for the quiet whisper of the Holy Spirit,

nudging us closer to you.

We pause to realize we are not alone,

that you continue to lead us onward,

showing us how to create

the kingdom of God on earth.

As your sons and daughters, we pray. **Amen.**

## Lighting the candles

As we light these candles, we say together:

**Light of lights beholden  
we from days of olden  
sang this song  
for to understand  
that peace upon this planet  
was pledged to come.**

**Each to other, sister, brother,  
born for life and song,  
look towards the light and carry on:  
let the simple heart and hope among us  
keep our family strong. Amen.**

## Hymn: Creating God, You Speak a Word

*Music: Thomas Tallis (Tallis' Canon); Words: Norman J Goreham*

1. Creating God, you speak a word  
and light and life spring into birth;  
and, when to action you are stirred,  
your love and justice flood the earth.
2. Then may we walk in gospel light!  
The Christ's abundant life be ours!  
And, acting justly, doing right,  
we'll love you, Lord, with all our powers!

## Prayer of Approach

O God, even though Jesus taught us what it means to welcome, and you have shown us a beautiful and beloved community where there is room for all, sometimes we create our own closed communities.

Sometimes, we exclude others because of who they are or what they believe.

*[Silence]*

Sometimes, we think that our way is a better way than other ways. *[Silence]*

Sometimes, we don't want to find things in common with those we don't know.

*[Silence]*

Sometimes, we become so comfortable in our lives that we don't want to risk feeling uncomfortable as we welcome others.

*[Silence]*

Sometimes, we do not welcome one another as you have welcomed us.

Sometimes, we do not love as you showed us how to love.

*[Silence]*

Be mindful of us, God.

## Words of Assurance

Hear the good news!  
We are in Christ, just as Christ is in us.  
We are the body of Christ,  
and thus already we are forgiven people.  
We are given new opportunities to become more fully  
the body of Christ each day.  
Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

## Story time / Introducing the Theme

### Song: **We are moving.**

*Words & Music: Bill Wallace. Arrangement: Heather Garside*

1. We are moving, we are moving,  
On the pilgrim path of Jesus,  
From our pride to being humble,  
From enclosed to being open,  
On the living path of Jesus.
2. We are loving, we are loving,  
Loving in the way of Jesus,  
From condemning to affirming,  
From rejecting to embracing,  
In the loving way of Jesus.
3. We are weaving, we are weaving,  
Weaving many sacred patterns,  
In a whole that's now emerging,  
To embrace creative crafting,  
Of a fabric with new patterns.
4. We are changing, we are changing,  
To embrace the Way of Jesus,  
From consuming to conserving,  
From competing to supporting,  
In the Way of life with Jesus.

### **Bible Readings:** From *The Message* by Eugene Peterson

#### **Acts 9:36-43**

Down the road a way in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha, "Gazelle" in our language. She was well-known for doing good and helping out. During the time Peter was in the area she became sick and died. Her friends prepared her body for burial and put her in a cool room.

Some of the disciples had heard that Peter was visiting in nearby Lydda and sent two men to ask if he would be so kind as to come over. Peter got right up and went with them. They took him into the room where Tabitha's body was laid out. Her old friends, most of them widows, were in the room mourning. They showed Peter pieces of clothing the Gazelle had made while she was with them. Peter put the widows all out of the room. He knelt and prayed. Then he spoke directly to the body: "Tabitha, get up."

She opened her eyes. When she saw Peter, she sat up. He took her hand and helped her up. Then he called in the believers and widows, and presented her to them alive.

When this became known all over Joppa, many put their trust in the Master. Peter stayed on a long time in Joppa as a guest of Simon the Tanner.

### **John 10:22-30**

They were celebrating Hanukkah just then in Jerusalem. It was winter. Jesus was strolling in the Temple across Solomon's Porch. The Jews, circling him, said, "How long are you going to keep us guessing? If you're the Messiah, tell us straight out."

Jesus answered, "I told you, but you don't believe. Everything I have done has been authorized by my Father, actions that speak louder than words. You don't believe because you're not my sheep. My sheep recognize my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them real and eternal life. They are protected from the Destroyer for good. No one can steal them from out of my hand. The Father who put them under my care is so much greater than the Destroyer and Thief. No one could ever get them away from him. I and the Father are one heart and mind."

### **Contemporary reading**

"Society operates on a linear system of 'extract' and then 'make it' and then 'throw it out.' It is not the way God designed the world. Creation is circular. We have to get off that linear treadmill and start doing it differently."

*Anna Baird in Awahi Mau Awahi Atu – forthcoming PGPL 2022*

### **Sermon: God's Love Has No End**

#### **Song: Travelin' Shoes**

Traditional / Maria Muldaur. (Arr. Philip & Heather Garside)

1. Well, love come a knockin' on that sinner's door  
Said "Old sinner, are you ready to go?"  
He said, "No, no, no, no, no, no  
Because I ain't got on my travelin' shoes...  
Ain't done my duty, sayin'...  
No, no, no, Oh Lordy, no, no, no  
Because I ain't got on my travelin' shoes."

2. Well, love come a knockin' on that liar's door  
Said "Old liar, are you ready to go?"  
He said, "No, no, no, no, no, no  
Because I ain't got on my travelin' shoes...  
Ain't done my duty, sayin'...  
No, no, no, Oh Lordy, no, no, no  
Because I ain't got on my travelin' shoes."
  
3. Well, love come a knockin' on that gambler's door  
Said "Old gambler, are you ready to go?"  
He said, "No, no, no, no, no, no  
Because I ain't got on my travelin' shoes...  
Ain't done my duty, sayin'...  
No, no, no, Oh Lordy, no, no, no  
Because I ain't got on my travelin' shoes."
  
4. Well, love come a knockin' on the Christians' door  
Said "Now Christians, are you ready to go?"  
They said, "Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes  
Because we just got on our travelin' shoes...  
"We've done our duties, sayin'...  
yes, yes, yes, Oh Lordy, yes, yes, yes, yes,  
Because we just got on our travelin' shoes..."  
They said, "Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes  
Because we just got on our travelin' shoes...  
"We've done our duties, sayin'...  
yes, yes, yes, Oh Lordy, yes, yes, yes, yes,  
Because we just got on our travelin' shoes..."

## **Community Time**

### **Sharing the Peace**

Let's greet each other saying: **"Peace be with you."**

### **Notices**

### **Sharing Joys, Things we are Grateful for, Sorrows & Concerns**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

To the bidding: "...Loving God 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)

**For the blessing of this and all our days, we thank you, Gracious God. Accept, we pray, not just this money but also our lives freely offered in gratitude for all you have done for us. Use all that we offer in this place of worship and wherever you might take us in service of your love. Amen.**

### **Hymn: Loving God of Aotearoa**

Words: Philip Garside. Music: G. Holst

1. Loving God of Aotearoa,  
hear now our call to you,  
We have gathered in your presence,  
to celebrate anew!  
We have come from many places,  
speaking, thinking differently,  
But in you we are united,  
one whole, strong family.  
*Refrain:*  
Let us heed your call to service  
and follow lovingly,  
May we be compassionate people,  
alive in you and free.
2. Scripture tells of faithful people,  
who spread your light and love.  
Now inspire, lead, direct us,  
so we can be like them.  
May the Way that Christ has taught us,  
and the power of your Word,  
Set a fire burning in us,  
for justice and for love.

3. Rimu tall, with tui singing,  
proclaim your majesty,  
You who care for all creation,  
will always care for me.  
Matariki's spirit guide us,  
rise within us all the year.  
Help us live and speak forgiveness,  
your people want to hear.

### **Benediction**

We go forth as a people eager to  
make a difference in the world wherever we go.

**In all that we do, we proclaim our thanks to God,  
who gives us new life.**

### **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**

\* \* \* \* \*

Liturgy for this service was sourced from: *Gathering Lent / Easter 2022*  
*United Church of Canada; Let Us Pray, Janet Nelson 1999.*

Cover Image: Infinity Planet. Ecology and environment conservation concept

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with our congregation's services and news:

**<https://www.facebook.com/wesleywellington.methodistchurch.10am>**

You can also find lots of information on the 10am webpages on the Parish website:

**<https://www.wesleychurch.org.nz/index.php/our-congregations/10am-congregation/10am-events>**

Please join us in the foyer for refreshments following the service.

Thank you to Wendy Conwell for the refreshments.

Thank you Akesa Taungā for the lovely flowers.