



Wesley Wellington

75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 9 January 2022 Epiphany I

Haere mai ki tēnei Whare Karakia

Welcome to this House of Prayer



*“Going with
the flow”*

**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
9 January 2022 Epiphany I

Leader: **Philip Garside** Organ: **Colin Scarf**

Guitar: **Heather Garside**

Welcome & Introduction

Call to Worship

The Peace of God be with you

And also with you.

Travellers on the journey,

Rest awhile and reflect.

We release our burdens,

And gather with expectation.

Beware! God resides in this space.

Worship can change us.

We are aware – we come to meet with God.

Lighting the candles

Candles of light

we pray that the dark places of the world

will shine with the light of peace.

Candles of comfort

we pray that the distressed places of the world

will be comforted with the warmth of peace.

Candles of colour

we pray that the drab places of the world

will be energised with the vibrancy of peace.

Candles of selflessness, dying to give light, comfort and colour

we pray that the selfishness of the world

will be overcome with the loving of peace.

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 my 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 a dwelling.

Prayer of Approach

Blessed God, we come to this place
To be put in touch with your Spirit.

**We seek to sharpen our awareness
of your presence with us.**

Surprising God,

You meet us in ways we do not expect.

We ask for success,

You teach us acceptance.

We ask to be loved,

You ask us to love
We ask for ease,
You challenge us.
We ask for certainty,
You fill us with questions.
We expect to find you in piety,
And discover you can be found anywhere.
We expect you to use the best people,
Yet you often use the most unlikely folk
We are glad of this God,
Because our hope is that you will use us. Amen.

Time with the children

Hymn: **We turn to you, O God of every nation** (Adapted) [H&P 412]

1. We turn to you, O God of every nation,
Giver of life and origin of good;
Your love is at the heart of all creation,
Your hurt is people's broken fellowship.
2. We turn to you, that we may be forgiven,
For crucifying Christ on earth again;
We know that we have never wholly striven,
Forgetting self, to love the other one.
3. Free every heart from pride and self-reliance;
Our ways of thought inspire with simple grace;
Break down among us barriers of defiance;
Speak to the soul of all the human race.
4. On those who strive on earth for right relations
We pray the light of love from hour to hour.
Grant wisdom to the leaders of the nations,
The gift of carefulness to those in power.
5. Teach us, good Lord, to serve the need of others;
Help us to give and not to count the cost;
Unite us all, for we are born as family;
Defeat our Babel with your Pentecost.

Readings — From *The Message*

Luke 3:15-17

The interest of the people by now was building. They were all beginning to wonder, “Could this John be the Messiah?”

But John intervened: “I’m baptizing you here in the river. The main character in this drama, to whom I’m a mere stagehand, will ignite the kingdom life, a fire, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. He’s going to clean house—make a clean sweep of your lives. He’ll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he’ll put out with the trash to be burned.”

Matthew 2:1-12 *Scholars from the East*

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory—this was during Herod’s kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, “Where can we find and pay homage to the new-born King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signalled his birth. We’re on pilgrimage to worship him.”

When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

They told him, “Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly:

It’s you, Bethlehem, in Judah’s land,
no longer bringing up the rear.
From you will come the leader
who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel.”

Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, “Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I’ll join you at once in your worship.”

Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time! They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh. In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country.

Sermon: Going with the flow

Song: Dance with Us. [Words and Music: Philip Garside 2015]

1. When you are troubled
have no fear, have no fear.
Christ has a message
we want to share:
Refrain:
Come and dance with us, sing with us,
walk along our way.
Help us bring alive God's kingdom
on earth today.
2. Leave behind hatred,
turn away, seek the light.
Love one another
no need to fight:
3. Hear one another,
loving care, kindness shared.
Hearts and hands open,
world in our care:

Community Time

Sharing the Peace

Let's greet each other by standing and waving to each other from our pews saying: **"Peace be with you."**

Notices

Sharing Joys and Sorrows

Prayers of Intercession

To the bidding "...God in your mercy" would you please respond **"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

Blessing of Offering (said together)

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

**Creating God,
We pledge commitment to your continuing goodness
Some of us have more resources than others,
But we bring what we are able,
Bless what we bring,
Our money, our abilities, ourselves,
That all may be used in creating more goodness,
For our church, our community, and our world,
Keep us mindful all of these are loved by you. Amen.**

Hymn: Now thank we all our God [H&P 566(i)]

1. Now thank we all our God,
With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.
2. O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in his grace,

And guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all ills,
In this world and the next.

3. All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given;
The Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest Heaven;
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and Heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

Blessing / Sending Forth

Go with your strength renewed in God.

**We go confident that you are a good God,
We go confident that you are a loving God.**

Go invigorated by the power of the Holy Spirit,
Go to reflect love and goodness in all you do.

We commit to following the loving example of Jesus.

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**

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Liturgy for this service was sourced from:

A Celebration of Life, Meg Hartfield (PGPL 2017) adapted;

Lay Preaching Basics, Rosalie Sugrue (PGPL 2018); *Let Us Pray*, Janet Nelson (1999).

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

Thank you to the Manuao family for the refreshments.

Thank you Akesa Taungā for the lovely flowers.