



WESLEY WELLINGTON
75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 9th April 2023

EASTER DAY

*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 – Parish Combined Service of Holy Communion
EASTER SUNDAY – 9th APRIL 2023**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Simote Taunga
Organist: Colin Scarf**

PRAISE AND WORSHIP	<i>Tongan Youth</i>
WELCOME	<i>Tongan Youth</i>
PROCESSION OF SYMBOLS	
INTROIT	<i>Fijian Choir</i>
LIGHTING THE CANDLE	<i>Tongan Youth</i>

GATHERING WORDS – Rev Simote Taunga

Turn your eyes to the heavens. Turn your gaze to hope and life. For in hope and life, we find Jesus, the Risen Christ who shines in our midst with the light of heaven above.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is alive,
Moving among the living

Christ is risen,
Inviting us to rise in fullness of life,

Christ is calling,
Proclaiming life and hope for all.

OPENING PRAYER

Risen Christ, enter our worship and our hearts this day
as you live and move among us,

remind us to proclaim and live the life you offer.
Inspire us to walk as children of your resurrection,
each and every day. Amen

HYMN – ‘Christ the Lord is risen today’ (H&P 193)

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, *Alleluia!*
Earth and heaven in chorus say, *Alleluia!*
Rise your joys and triumphs high, *Alleluia!*
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, *Alleluia!*

2. Love’s redeeming work is done, *Alleluia!*
Fought the fight, the battle won, *Alleluia!*
Death in vain forbids him rise, *Alleluia!*
Christ has opened paradise, *Alleluia!*

3. Lives again our glorious King, *Alleluia!*
Where, O death, is now thy sting? *Alleluia!*
Once he died our souls to save, *Alleluia!*
Where’s thy victory, boasting grave? *Alleluia!*

4. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, *Alleluia!*
Praise to thee by both be given, *Alleluia!*
Thee we greet triumphant now, *Alleluia!*
Hail the Resurrection, thou, *Alleluia!*

5. King of glory, soul of bliss, *Alleluia!*
Everlasting life is this, *Alleluia!*
Thee to know, thy power to prove, *Alleluia!*
Thus to sing, and thus to love, *Alleluia!*

PRAYER – Rev Nicola Teague Grundy

Holy and loving God,
when we hide away in tombs of death,

lead us into life.
When we cower in our fears and regret,
encourage us with your grace,
that we might claim the life you offer.
Help us embrace your love
and live in your risen presence.
In hope and joy, we pray. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER - *in the language of your choice.*

10AM SINGING GROUP

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Samoan

Thank God because he's good,
because his love never quits.
Tell the world, Israel,
"His love never quits."
God's my strength, he's also my song,
and now he's my salvation.
Hear the shouts, hear the triumph songs
in the camp of the saved?
"The hand of God has turned the tide!
The hand of God is raised in victory!
The hand of God has turned the tide!"
I didn't die. I lived!
And now I'm telling the world what God did.
God tested me, he pushed me hard,
but he didn't hand me over to Death.
Swing wide the city gates—the righteous gates!
I'll walk right through and thank God!

This Temple Gate belongs to God,
so the victors can enter and praise.
Thank you for responding to me;
you've truly become my salvation!
The stone the masons discarded as flawed
is now the capstone!
This is God's work.
We rub our eyes—we can hardly believe it!
This is the very day God acted—
let's celebrate and be festive!

John 20:1-18

Fijian

Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone was moved away from the entrance. She ran at once to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, gasping for breath. “They took the Master from the tomb. We don't know where they've put him.”

Peter and the other disciple left immediately for the tomb. They ran, neck and neck. The other disciple got to the tomb first, outrunning Peter. Stooping to look in, he saw the pieces of linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in. Simon Peter arrived after him, entered the tomb, observed the linen cloths lying there, and the kerchief used to cover his head not lying with the linen cloths but separate, neatly folded by itself. Then the other disciple, the one who had gotten there first, went into the tomb, took one look at the evidence, and believed. No one yet knew from the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead. The disciples then went back home.

But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. As she wept, she knelt to look into the tomb and saw two angels sitting there, dressed in white, one at the head, the other at the foot of

where Jesus' body had been laid. They said to her, "Woman, why do you weep?"

"They took my Master," she said, "and I don't know where they put him." After she said this, she turned away and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn't recognize him.

Jesus spoke to her, "Woman, why do you weep? Who are you looking for?"

She, thinking that he was the gardener, said, "Sir, if you took him, tell me where you put him so I can care for him."

Jesus said, "Mary."

Turning to face him, she said in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" meaning "Teacher!"

Jesus said, "Don't cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go to my brothers and tell them, 'I ascend to my Father and your Father, my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went, telling the news to the disciples: "I saw the Master!" And she told them everything he said to her.

ANTHEM

Tongan choir

REFLECTION – Rev Simote Taunga

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in our Lord, Jesus Christ, the only son of God, Eternally begotten of the Father; true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was Incarnate of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary and become truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scripture; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION – Rev Utumau’u Pupulu

Praise and honour to you, Jesus Christ for you have triumphed gloriously.

We pray for your world:
for the welfare of all your people
and for your creation entrusted to our care;
for all in positions of authority;
for men and women in their daily work.
Roll away the stones of hatred and greed.
Transform us with your Spirit
of justice and righteousness,
that all your people may share
in the freedom of your risen life.
Risen God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for your worldwide church:
for our brothers and sisters in Christ
for the people of the churches in this city of Wellington
and for all who make renewal vows today.
Roll away the stones of discord and unbelief
Transform your church
with your spirit of wisdom and truth,
that we may be in the world
a witness to your risen life.
Risen God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the communities
in which we live and work:
For our families, our friends and all whom we love;
For the forgotten and undervalued people of society.
Roll away the stones of apathy and selfishness.
Risen God, in your mercy.
hear our prayer

We pray for all who suffer:
for the hungry and homeless,
the lonely and friendless;
for the sick and the sorrowing
and all who care for them.
Roll away the stones of pain and despair
Transform the lives of all who suffer
with your comfort and balm,
that they may share in the hope of your risen life.
Risen God, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We give you thanks for your faithful people of every age;
For Mary Magdalene, Peter, and John
and for all who have seen you and believed.
May we, following their example and yours,
cast off all that binds us in death.
Transform our lives by your risen power,
that we, with all your saints,
may come to share for ever
in the glory of your risen life.
Risen God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer. Amen

HYMN – ‘Christ is alive’ (H&P190)

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

Not throned above, remotely high,
Untouched, unmoved by human pains,
But daily, in the midst of life,
Our Saviour with the Father reigns.

In every insult, rift and war,
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Christ is alive! His Spirit burns
Through this and every future age
Till all creation lives and learns
His joy, his justice, love, and praise.

MINISTRY OF THE SACRAMENT

We many as we are, are one body in Christ.
If we do not love our brothers and sisters whom we have
seen, how can we love God whom we have not seen?

The peace of God be with you
And God's peace be with you.

EXCHANGE THE PEACE

Let us greet one another with signs of peace and joy.

OFFERTORY – Sokopeti Sina

Come and let yourselves be built, as living stones, into a
spiritual temple; become a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual
sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to offer which earth has given and human hands have made.

Blessed be God for ever.

THANKSGIVING

The Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise

With all your people in heaven and on earth we give you thanks for Jesus Christ, through whom all things were made; who in the fullness of time became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth; who in obedience suffered death on the cross, and was raised in triumph that we might have life. Therefore, we worship and praise your glorious name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took the bread and after giving thanks broke it and gave it to his disciples saying;

Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

Glory to you, Lord Christ:

Your death we proclaim;

Your resurrection we celebrate;

Your coming we await. Amen

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come Holy Spirit, that these gifts may be to us the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Bind us into one body, that we may grow into the fullness of Christ who is the head. **Amen.**

We come to your table, Lord, trusting not in our own righteousness but in your great mercy. We are not worthy even to gather the crumbs from under your table. But you are the same Lord, whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat this bread and drink this wine that Christ may evermore dwell in us and we in him.

BREAKING BREAD

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup of blessing for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

INVITATION

Come for all things are now ready. Draw near in faith and take this holy sacrament in remembrance that Christ died for you.

PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you with all our hearts for your mercy and grace. Grant us now and in the days to come a living hope in you; and as we serve you in the world, help us look and work for that day when at your name every knee shall bow and every tongue confess you Lord, to the glory of God. Amen.

HYMN – ‘Thine be the glory’ (H&P 212)

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won;
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
Let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.*

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
Life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.*

EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE

BLESSING

And the peace of God, which transcends all
Understanding, will guard your hearts and your
minds in Jesus Christ. And the blessing of the Almighty
God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, remain
With you always. Amen

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.**

MA TE MARIE. *(Sung unaccompanied)*

Ma te marie a te Atua
Tatou katoa e tiaki;
Mana ano e whakau
O tatou ngakau ki te pai

Ma te Atua Tamaiti ra
Ma te Wairua Tapu hoki
Ratou, Atua Kotahi nei.
Tatou katoa e whakapai.
Amine.