



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

Sunday 10th December 2023
2nd Sunday of Advent

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

SUNDAY – 10th December 2023

Worship Leader: Rev. Nicola Teague Grundy
3 Wise Woman Drama: Presented by Drama Christi

WELCOME & SAFETY BRIEFING

GATHERING (Emi mai ki taua karakia)

The people who walk in darkness will see a great light – a light that will shine on all who live in the land where death casts its shadow...For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. And the government will rest on his shoulders. These will be his royal titles: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:2 & 6)

ENTRY TO WORSHIP

WORDS OF BEGINNING - PREPARE THE WAY

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
“Prepare the way of our God.”

**We hear God’s voice and so we come
to proclaim God’s justice for all.**

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
“Prepare the way of our God.”

**We hear God’s voice and so we come
to announce peace to all our neighbours.**

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
“Prepare the way of our God.”

**We hear God’s voice and so we come
To live out God’s unconditional love.**

You cry out to us, O God,
calling us to come to you.

**Open our ears to hear your voice of love
that we might experience your unending grace
As we are gathered here today.**

**Open our ears to hear your voice of justice
that we might boldly work to realise your peace
throughout all creation.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES (Kānara Whakamāmā)

Last Sunday the first Advent candle was lit,
the candle of tumanako – hope.

We light it again remembering the hope,
which will always be brought to birth
in, through, and among, all creation.

First candle is lit

The second Advent candle is the candle of Rangimarie - peace.
In the stillness of our worship here we light it,
watching it burn and glow.

Second candle is lit

And we affirm that we are a people of God
willing to walk and live in partnership
with all who seek to be people of peace.

HYMN (Himene) O come, O come, Emmanuel

Words: Susan Wickham; Tune H&P 85

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and fill our lives, all dark and fear dispel,
as once an exiled Israel you found,
redeemed, restored and set on holy ground.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to us and in our hearts will dwell.

O come, O light of Christ, so bright and clear
and lift our spirits by your advent here.
In all who gather, show us your face,
that we may know the warmth of your embrace.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us and in our hearts will dwell.

O come, O Wisdom, mind and heart divine,
help us restore a world we've let decline.
Enlighten us; your way we would know
and show us where new seeds of hope to sow.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us and in our hearts will dwell.

O Advent God of hope, joy, love and peace,
in you we pray our sad divisions cease.
Bind us as one, a people of grace,
for at your table each one has a place.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us and in our hearts will dwell.

PRAYER - SHALOM

We celebrate the dream of peace:
Not only the absence of conflict,
but the presence of true compassion
and community;

We celebrate the dream of justice:
Not only appropriate consequence,
but radical, inclusive dignity
and equality;

We celebrate the dream of goodness:
Not only an end to corruption and evil,
but the nurture of extravagant integrity
and love;

We celebrate the dream of salvation:
Not only life beyond the grave,
but present wholeness
and restoration for all;

Here and now, O God, we, your people,
give you thanks and praise
for the dream, and the reality,
of Shalom.

SO WHAT'S THE STORY ...?

Brief reflection as an introduction to the reading and 3 wise woman

MINISTRY OF THE WORD (Ngā Pānui Karaipiture)

Paraphrased reading of Isaiah 40: 1-11

By Nathan Nettleton

Your God gives the order:

“Comfort my people.
Comfort them.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
cry out and tell her that she has served her time;
tell her that she has paid her penalty;
that she has given the pound of flesh, and then some,
due for the crimes she committed.”

A voice cries out:

“Get the road through the wilderness ready.
The LORD is coming! Clear the track!
Straighten out the road through the desert,
so that it is ready for our God.

Fill the potholes, bridge the valleys,
cut through the mountains to level the grade.
Where the going is rough, smooth it out;
lay a new surface over the old corrugations.

Then the LORD will come,
radiant in glory.
Everyone on earth will see it together,
we have the LORD's word on it."

A voice says, "Make the announcement!"
And I replied, "What announcement?"

"Announce that people are as fickle as the weather;
all of them, about as constant as a cut flower.

The weather does one thing one day, and another the next;
one breath from the LORD and flowers fade and wilt.
No kidding, all people are as fickle as that.

The weather sweeps through and is gone;
the flower fades and is tossed out;
but every word our God says
stands rock solid for all time.

Take a stand where the whole of God's city will hear you,
and broadcast the message everyone has been waiting for.
You are the bearer of good news for God's people,
so open your mouth and don't hold back;
there's nothing to be scared of; just go for it!
Broadcast it through all the cities in the land,
saying, 'Here is your God!'

Look, the Lord GOD comes with a show of strength,
arms punching the air in triumph.
The Lord carries the spoils of victory,
the rewards of a job well done.

Like a farmer hand-rearing the lambs,
the LORD will gather us in loving arms,
cuddle us close,
and gently lead us where we need to go.

3 WISE WOMAN

Written by Mary Hoffman and Lynne Russell

Adapted by Daphne Pilaar

Presented by Drama Christi and members of the 10am congregation

HYMN (Himene) Signs of Hope

Words: William Livingstone Wallace; Tune Caswall WoV 263

Signs of hope in nature
Come like godwits' flight
Raising with cicadas
Songs within the night.

Flaking bark of Matai,
Fuchsia's bursting buds,
Point to Summer flow'rings
Set within God's love.

When Pohutukawa
Tinges green with red,
Fire will soon envelop
All its verdant head.

Signs of hope in people
Flash from lively eyes:
Warmth and tears and touching
Help new hope arise.

So Christ comes in Advent
Healing broken dreams

Bathing all our sorrows,
Binding Earth's extremes.

“Come into the sunlight,
Where you all belong;
Share Christ's feast of caring,
Sing the Gospel song.”

“Justice for Earth's peoples,
Peace for one and all,
Oneness in God's loving!”
Sounds the Advent call.

OFFERING (Tātou Koha ki Te Hāhi)

This is the time where we make our love visible through the giving of offerings – our money, our time, our gifts of food. Let us give with cheerful hearts.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, this is our offering to you and to your Church. It's our way of saying yes to you and to what you are saying to us; it's a sign of our gratitude for the world around us, and the life within us.

We offer ourselves now in service to you, for in Christ you have revealed your love for us all. We thank you for your goodness to us, in giving meaning to our lives, and purpose to our living.

As Christmas approaches help us, to be calm and expectant, to enjoy this time of preparing. In this season of giving and receiving, enable us by your grace to receive and give your love. Amen.

COMMUNITY TIME

Sharing the peace

Let us offer the peace to each other saying:

The peace of God is here to stay.

Notices - Sharing Joys and Sorrows

HYMN Come now, Lord Jesus

Words: Shirley Murray; Tune: Zulu melody [AA 23(ii)]

Come now, Lord Jesus,
enter our Christmas,
be to us no stranger
in this new-made manger.

Come, small and human,
born of a woman,
yet a Son much greater
of our own Creator.

Come, cold and crying,
comfort denying,
no place to receive you,
few yet to believe you.

Come poor and simple,
our flesh your temple,
in your body feeling
hurt as well as healing.

Come gift and token,
bread to be broken –
star and sign still point you,
myrrh will yet anoint you.

PRAYER FOR OTHERS (Ngā Inoi Mō te Whānau)

Where there seems to be no way

to end the conflict and violence in our time,
we pray that you would teach us, O Christ,
to prepare the way;

Where we can see no way
to provide for the needs of all people,
we pray that you would show us, O Christ,
how to prepare the way;

Where we can find no way
to work together for justice,
we pray that you would change us, O Christ,
until we prepare the way;

Where we are unable to believe in a way
to live simply, responsibly and mindfully,
we pray that you would inspire us, O Christ,
to faith that prepares the way;

In a world where we are tempted
to see so many of our challenges as dead-ends,
we pray for a new vision, a new heart and a new commitment
to prepare the way for your reign,
your grace,
your shalom
and for the liberation, justice and peace that you bring.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (*Te Karakia o Te Atua*)

PARTING WORDS (*Ngā Inoi Whakamutunga*)

As we leave this place,
and scatter back out into the world,
may the God of hope –
who loves us and gave himself for us –

fill us with all joy and peace
as we trust in Him,
today and throughout the coming week,
so that in believing,
we may abound in hope,
through the love of Jesus Christ,
and the power of the Holy Spirit.

GRACE

**Kia tau ki a tātou katoa,
te atawhai o to tātou Ariki o Ihu Karaiti,
me te aroha o te Atua,
me te whiwhinga tahitanga
ki te Wairua Tapu. Amine**

