



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

**SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

*Haere mai ki tēnei Whare Karakia*  
*Welcome to this House of Prayer*



**Living God's Love – Acting for the common Good**

**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**  
**10<sup>TH</sup> September 2023**

**WELCOME AND SAFETY BRIEFING**

**GATHERING**

**LIGHTING THE CANDLE** (Kānara Whakamāmā)

We light this candle to remind us of the light of God's love,  
the warmth of God's welcome,  
and our faith in the ever presence of God,

*The candle is lit*

Together we say:

**Welcome to our place,**

**Welcome to worship,**

**Welcome in the name of our living God. Amen.**

**HYMN** (Himene) **'God of unexplored tomorrows'**

Words: Beverley Jones Music: Colin Gibson (FFS 27)

God of unexplored tomorrows,  
of today and yesterday,  
God of rock and flowing river,  
be our refuge, be our way.

Guardian rock above, before us,  
strong foundation where we build,  
landmark through the haze of doubting,  
shelter where our fears are stilled.

Be the cleansing, quenching water,  
irrigate, disturb and move,  
stir us from our easy shallows,  
current of refreshing love.

God of rock and flowing river  
now and ever with us stand,  
to transform our land of promise  
into each one's promised land.

## **PREPARATION**

We have come together to hear God's word,  
to baptise Rita Kumari in the faith,  
and to celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion.  
Let us therefore examine our lives,  
seeking God's grace that we may come in repentance and faith.

Hear these words of Jesus Christ –  
The first commandment is: Love the Lord your God  
with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind  
and with all your strength.

**Lord, we have not loved you  
with all our heart and soul and mind and strength.**

*Silence*

The second commandment is:  
Love your neighbour as yourself.

**Lord, we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves.**

Jesus also said:

I give you a new commandment: Love one another;  
As I have loved you, so you are to love one another.

**Lord, we have not loved one another  
As you have loved us.**

*Silence*

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

Hear the word of grace:

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just,

and will forgive our sins

and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Therefore, I declare to you, our sins are forgiven.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER (He Inoi O Te Ariki)**

**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.**

### **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

## **MINISTRY OF THE WORD** (Ngaa Paanui Karaipiture)

**Ephesians 4: 1-6** (The Message)

**Matthew 16: 24-28** (paraphrased by Nathan Nettleton)

## **REFLECTION** (He Whakaaroaro)

### **PRESENTATION OF RITA and VOWS**

*Rita comes forward accompanied by her sponsors.*

*Vows for membership*

*Rita gives her personal testimony*

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us affirm our faith.

**We believe**

**in God the creator,**

**who gives birth to all that is**

**with labour and sighing**

**and looks into the world with joy and love.**

**We believe**

**in Christ the reconciler,**

**who is earthed in our life**

**and enfleshed in its patterns of dying and rising,**

**who gives honour to our reality**

**and grace to our way.**

**We believe**

**in God the free Spirit,**

**who weeps with our grievings**

**in the depths of our darkness**

**and dances among us high on life's mountains-**

**the Spirit who finds us with newness and hope.  
We believe in the community of faith,  
which is born of our humanness,  
is nurtured in sharing  
and grows whole in our struggling  
and celebration  
as one people of God.**

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WATERS OF BAPTISM**

### **THE BAPTISM**

#### **HYMN (Himene) “Loving Spirit”**

Words: Shirley Murray; Music: Colin Gibson (AA 94ii)

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,  
you have chosen me to be,  
you have drawn me to your wonder,  
you have set your sign on me.

Like a mother, you enfold me,  
hold my life within your own,  
feed me with your very body,  
form me of your flesh and bone.

Like a father, you protect me,  
teach me the discerning eye,  
hoist me up upon your shoulder,  
let me see the world from high.

Friend and lover, in your closeness  
I am known and held and blessed:  
in your promise is my comfort,  
in your presence I may rest.

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,  
you have chosen me to be,  
you have drawn me to your wonder,  
you have set your sign on me.

## **COMMISSIONING FOR MINISTRY IN THE WORLD**

### **LAYING ON OF HANDS AND PRAYER**

*Rita's name is entered into the baptismal register.*

### **CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION**

People of this congregation,  
Love, encourage and support  
our sister in Christ,  
that she may continue to grow in grace  
and the knowledge and love of God.

**With God's help  
we will live out our baptism  
as a loving community in Christ:  
nurturing one another in faith,  
upholding one another in prayer  
and encouraging one another in service.**

### **PRAYER OF INTERCESSION (Ngaa Inoi mo te Whaanau)**

God you call us into a relationship with you  
through our relationships with one another.  
We cannot claim to love you God when  
We harbour bitterness against a sister.  
We cannot say we walk in your light when  
we stumble in the darkness of despising a brother.  
Help us to be too busy correcting our own faults  
to have time to criticise the failings of others.

God you call us to demonstrate your love  
through the love we have for one another.  
We cannot claim you to be the God of peace  
when we are in strife with other believers.  
We cannot say you are the God of harmony  
when we only respect disciples who are like us.  
Help us to see our differing perspectives as  
opportunities to grow in grace and knowledge.

God you call us to be a community of prayer  
in which our lives are offered daily to you  
in trust and joy.  
Help us to recognise all who are baptised  
as sisters and brothers in Christ.  
Through our openness to constant conversion  
may your Spirit assist our growth in faith.  
Enable us to see the form that  
holiness might take in our discipleship.  
Assist us to know ourselves, find ourselves and  
give ourselves in the spirit of Christ.

**We praise you for those who nurtured our faith;  
May we too find ways to share Good News in our day.  
Amen.**

## **PRESENTATION OF THE BAPTISM AND MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES**

### **HYMN 'Christ, let us come with you'**

Words: Shirley Murray; Music: Colin Gibson (AA 17)

Christ, let us come with you  
to the upper room  
where the feast is laid,  
to the bread and wine  
where our peace is made –  
Christ, let us come with you.



Teach us your serving love:  
to become as friends,  
to become as one  
that the world believe  
what your life has done –  
teach us your serving love.

Jesus, forgive us all  
that we use your name  
though we stand apart,  
we refuse your prayer  
to be one at heart –  
Jesus, forgive us all.

Christ of the open hands,  
you have brought us close  
to be loved and fed,  
you have touched our life,  
now you walk ahead –  
Christ, let us come with you.

**THE OFFERTORY** (Taatou Koha Ki Te Haahi)

*(We acknowledge offerings made by automatic payment and on-line banking)*

Let us offer our gifts and lives in this moment.

**God of new life, out of the abundance of our lives we offer these gifts to you. Through your blessing and our willingness to share, may these offerings become a source for hope and love in this church family, and in the community beyond us, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## COMMUNION

*“Agape” is the New Testament Greek word for “self-giving love”. In the Christian tradition Agape recalls the meals that Jesus shared with his disciples during his ministry, and the meals of table fellowship of the early church when they shared fellowship with the risen Christ and with one another and rejoiced in what God was doing in their midst.*

*We gather around the table in the sanctuary and share in this meal together.*

### **Agape meal**

#### **Words of Mission and Blessing**

*The candle is extinguished.*

In the prayers and the praise,  
In the words and the wonder:

**We are given enough joy to live each day.**

In the justice for the oppressed,  
In the unexpected generosity for the lost:

**We are given enough compassion  
to use in service each day.**

In the promises made to all,  
In the mercy offered to each:

**We are given enough grace to share each day.**

Christ goes before us into the day and the week ahead.

Let us go in peace, to love and serve in the world.

**In the Spirit of Christ. Amen!**

## 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**

## HOSPITALITY

– We extend a warm invitation to everyone to gather now for kai.

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Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:  
2004 Faith and Order Committee, Methodist Church of New Zealand  
Order of Service for Adult Baptism.  
Communion liturgy – Pilgrim Uniting Church, Adelaide  
**NZ Hymn Book Trust**, *Alleluia Aotearoa, Faith forever Singing*  
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<https://www.facebook.com/wesleywellington.methodistchurch.10am>