



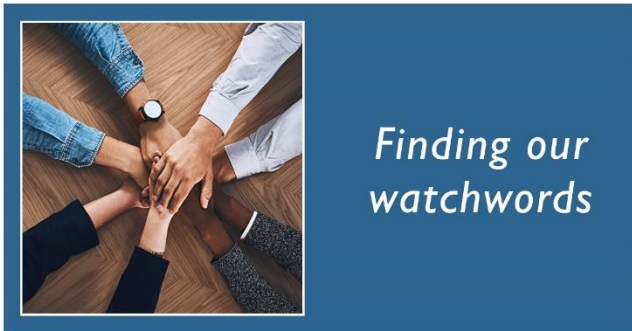
Wesley Wellington

75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 11 June 2023

Pentecost 2

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

Wesley Methodist Church 75 Taranaki Street
10am Congregation

11 June 2023 Pentecost 2

Leader: Philip Garside. Organist: Colin Scarf.

Guitar: Heather Garside

Welcome, Introduction & Safety Briefing

Call to Worship: Loving God Hear Us

Loving God hear us,
when in praise we speak of you,
in our words take pleasure,
**for you alone we worship God
unto you our prayers ascend.**

Redeemer God hear us,
when we come in prayer to you,
of our words take notice,
**for you alone can save us God,
upon you we must depend.**

Compassionate God encourage us,
when our hearts cry out to you,
in our words hear our distress,
**for you alone supply the faith
to overcome our fears.**

Merciful God be with us,
when we seek to understand
show your holy ways to us,
**for you alone can school us God
on the wonders of your grace.**

Gracious God be with us,
when we come together
bless all those gathered here,
**for you alone can form us God
into the church of our living Lord. Amen.**

Lighting the Candle for Healing

Sorrow and sickness afflicts our world.

We light the candle praying for healing.

Despair and destruction afflicts our world.

We light the candle praying for healing.

Injury and injustice afflicts our world.

We light the candle praying for healing.

Crisis and conflict afflicts our world.

We light the candle praying for healing.

We are heart-broken over the suffering in the world.

We light the candle praying for healing. Amen.

Hymn: Master Speak Thy Servant Heareth H&P 535 (i)

Words: FR Havergal (1836-1879). Music: Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

1. Master speak! Thy servant heareth,
Waiting for Thy gracious word,
Longing for Thy voice that cheereth;
Master, let it now be heard.
I am listening, Lord, for Thee;
What hast Thou to say to me?
2. Speak to me by name, O Master
Let me know it is to me;
Speak, that I may follow faster,
With a step more firm and free,
Where the shepherd leads the flock
In the shadow of the rock.

3. Master speak! Though least and lowest,
Let me not unheard depart;
Master, speak! for O thou knowest,
All the yearning of my heart.
Knowest all its truest need;
Speak, and make me blest indeed.

4. Master, speak; and make me ready,
When thy voice is truly heard,
With obedience glad and steady,
Still to follow every word.
I am listening, Lord, for Thee;
Master, speak! O speak to me!

Prayer of Approach: We Were Designed to Worship

We were designed to worship.

If we don't worship you God we will worship something else.
We'll pursue fame and fortune and then discover that wealth provides many possessions but does not bring happiness, and fame means our names and faces are so well known that we have to imprison ourselves in order to have privacy.

We were designed to worship.

If we don't worship you God we will worship something else.
We'll pursue a great love affair or a great career and discover relationships can become fraught and being fragile don't last, for our deepest desires cannot be met by another person, while the careers we pursue just consume the hours of our lives.

We were designed to worship.

If we don't worship you God we will worship something else.
We'll elevate the importance of our own intellect and discover that we are not nearly as clever as we imagine ourselves to be.
We'll try to create for ourselves a world where you don't exist and instead of exalting humanity we'll make humanity insignificant.

We were designed to worship.

God you don't need our worship, but we need to worship you.
For when we worship the creation instead of the Creator

we end up diminishing ourselves and undervaluing creation,
and we are without excuse for since the cosmic big bang
your power and divinity has been evident from what came to exist.

We were designed to worship.

God even when we commit ourselves to worshipping you alone,
we are sometimes guilty of worshipping things other than you.
We seek your forgiveness, asking you to restore us and
remind us of your design in designing us to worship you. Amen.

Words of Assurance

God's love is forever and extends to the heavens.
We are forgiven and beloved children of God.
Let this love and the Spirit continue to move and guide us.
May we be shining lights in this world. Amen.

Time with children / Introducing the Theme

Hymn: Tell Out my Soul H&P 86.

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-). Music: Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)

1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.
2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age to same;
his holy Name - the Lord, the Mighty One.
3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

Readings

Genesis 12:1-9 [New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition]

The Call of Abram

12 Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”^[a]

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak^[b] of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of the LORD. ⁹And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.



Romans 4:13-25 [The Message]

¹³⁻¹⁵That famous promise God gave Abraham—that he and his children would possess the earth—was not given because of something Abraham did or would do. It was based on God’s decision to put everything together for him, which Abraham then entered when he believed. If those who get what God gives them only get it by doing everything they are told to do and filling out all the right forms properly signed, that eliminates personal trust completely and turns the promise into an ironclad *contract!* That’s not a holy promise; that’s a business deal. A contract drawn up by a hard-nosed lawyer and with plenty of fine print only makes sure that you will never be able to collect. But if there is no contract in the first place, simply a *promise*—and God’s promise at that—you can’t break it.

¹⁶This is why the fulfilment of God’s promise depends entirely on trusting God and his way, and then simply embracing him and what he does. God’s promise arrives as pure gift. That’s the only way everyone can be sure to get in on it,

those who keep the religious traditions *and* those who have never heard of them. For Abraham is father of us all. He is not our racial father—that’s reading the story backward. He is our *faith* father.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ We call Abraham “father” not because he got God’s attention by living like a saint, but because God made something out of Abraham when he was a nobody. Isn’t that what we’ve always read in Scripture, God saying to Abraham, “I set you up as father of many peoples”? Abraham was first named “father” and then *became* a father because he dared to trust God to do what only God could do: raise the dead to life, with a word make something out of nothing. When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway, deciding to live not on the basis of what he saw he *couldn’t* do but on what God said he *would* do. And so he was made father of a multitude of peoples. God himself said to him, “You’re going to have a big family, Abraham!”

¹⁹⁻²⁵ Abraham didn’t focus on his own impotence and say, “It’s hopeless. This hundred-year-old body could never father a child.” Nor did he survey Sarah’s decades of infertility and give up. He didn’t tiptoe around God’s promise asking cautiously sceptical questions. He plunged into the promise and came up strong, ready for God, sure that God would make good on what he had said. That’s why it is said, “Abraham was declared fit before God by trusting God to set him right.” But it’s not just Abraham; it’s also us! The same thing gets said about us when we embrace and believe the One who brought Jesus to life when the conditions were equally hopeless. The sacrificed Jesus made us fit for God, set us *right with God*.

Sermon: *Finding our watchwords*

Song: Like a River Glorious

Words: FR Havergal (1836-1879). Music: James Mountain (1844-1933)

Arrangement: Heather and Philip Garside 2010.

1. Like a river glorious, is God’s perfect peace,
Over all victorious, in its bright increase;
Perfect, yet it floweth, fuller every day,
Perfect, yet it groweth, deeper all the way.

Refrain:

Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest
Finding, as He promised, perfect peace and rest.

2. Hidden in the hollow of His blessed hand,
Never foe can follow, never traitor stand;
Not a surge of worry, not a shade of care,
Not a blast of hurry touch the spirit there.

3. Every joy or trial falleth from above,
Traced upon our dial by the Sun of Love;
We may trust Him fully all for us to do.
They who trust Him wholly find Him wholly true.

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

At the end of each stanza we will respond by singing:
"Living God's love, acting for the common good."

Living God's Love

Text: 10am Leaders Group

Tune: Philip & Heather Garside

$\text{♩} = 100$

Liv-ing God's love, act - ing for the com-mon good.

Liv-ing God's love, act-ing for the com-mon good.

Living in a Pain filled World (Intercession)

Sovereign God we live in a pain filled world;
a suffering world where
bombs fall and innocent children die;
a suffering world where
a murderous person
shoots peaceful people at prayer;
a suffering world where
a new disease sweeps round the world
causing distress and killing the vulnerable.

Sung response:

“Living God’s love, acting for the common good.” x 2

Sovereign God, we live in a pain filled world,
so help us elect leaders of compassion
who don’t retaliate bombings by dropping more bombs.
Help us create communities of welcoming people
who embrace not exclude folk
of different faiths and traditions.
Help us become a knowledgeable people
able to limit the spread of panic and pandemics.

Sung response:

Sovereign God we live in a pain filled world,
but we have the hope that comes from knowing
that you are faithful and always with us.
Giving us strength in times of testing
and never letting us be tested beyond our endurance.
Giving us hope in troubling times
and never letting us fall into despair.
Giving us joy even when sorrow threatens to rob us of laughter
and filling us with your light when the world seems very dark.

Sung response:

Sovereign God, we live in a pain filled world.
Be with the people in war torn regions of this world.
Protect them and bring them the peace they crave.
Be with the people persecuted because of their race or religion.
Protect them and bring them the peace they crave.

Be with the people suffering from or living in fear of illness.
Protect them and bring them the peace they crave.
Sovereign God, hear our prayer for this pain filled world. Amen.

Sung response:

Lord's Prayer [Sung] With One Voice 676

**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)

God, we are committed to living our lives for you,
giving of our time and talents for you,
giving of our substance to you.
May these offerings we give to you
further the mission you have us do.
We thank you for all you give to us.
Bless the little we give back to you. Amen.

Hymn: Ye Servants of God H&P 278(ii)

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88). Music: CHH Parry (1848-1918)

1. Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
And publish abroad his wonderful name;
The name all-victorious of Jesus extol;
His kingdom is glorious and rules over all.
2. God ruleth on high, almighty to save;
And still he is nigh, his presence we have;
the great congregation his triumph shall sing,
Ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.
3. 'Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!'
Let all cry aloud, and honour the Son;
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
Fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.
4. Then let us adore and give him his right:
All glory and power, all wisdom and might,
All honour and blessing, with angels above
And thanks never-ceasing, and infinite love.

Blessing

God bless you with courageous faith.
Faith that moves the mountains in your lives.
Faith that crosses the Red Seas in your lives.
Faith that enables you to go forth and face
the challenges of life confidently, knowing you will prevail.
God bless you with a strongly convicted faith. Amen.

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:
Prayers for Southern People by Joy Kingsbury-Aitken; PGPL (2023).

Cover photo of hands:

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Book mentioned in sermon: *When Church Stops Working: A Future for Your Congregation Beyond More Money, Programs, and Innovation*. By Andrew Root. Brazos Press (2023)

To keep up-to-date with services and news, visit the parish website:

<https://wesleychurch.org.nz/>

Or the 10am Congregation's Facebook Page:

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