



Wesley Wellington

75 Taranaki Street

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Morning Worship — Epiphany 6

Sunday 12 February 2023

Kia ora Koutou Katoa__Talofa Lava

Malo e lelei__Bula Vinaka

Greetings to you all!

**Haere
mai ki
tenei
Whare
Karakia**



**Welcome
to this
House
of
Prayer**

Theme: LET US BEGIN BUILDING

We are a multi-racial Christian community:
Methodist in affiliation- Ecumenical in intention
Diverse in theology- Inclusive in outreach.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Leader: *Niko Bower*

Organist: *Vivien Chiu*

Welcome to today's service.

*A special welcome to visitors. We hope you enjoy worshipping
with us this morning and will join us again.*

WELCOME & Safety Briefing

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 119: vs 1- 11

Leader Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens;
Praise him in the heights above.

**All Praise him, all his angels;
Praise him, all his heavenly hosts.**

Leader Praise him, sun and moon;
Praise him, all you shining stars.

**All Praise him, you highest heavens
And you waters above the skies.**

Leader Let them praise the name of the LORD,
For at his command they were created,

**All And he established them for ever and ever—
He issued a decree that will never pass away.**

Leader Praise the LORD from the earth,
You great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

All Lightning and hail, snow and clouds,

Stormy winds that do his bidding,

Leader You mountains and all hills,
Fruit trees and all cedars,

All **Wild animals and all cattle,
Small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations.**

CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN Praise to the Lord,

the Almighty, the King of Creation

WOV 28

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation; all ye who hear, brothers and sisters draw near, praise him in glad adoration.
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth, shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth: hast thou not seen how thy heart's longing's have been granted in what he ordaineth?
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee: surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee: ponder anew what the Almighty can do who with his love doth befriend thee.
4. Praise to the Lord, who when darkness of sin is abounding, who, when the godless do triumph, all virtue confounding sheddeth his light, chaseth the horrors of night, saints with his mercy surrounding.
5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him! Let the amen sound from his people again: gladly for ay we adore him.

PRAYER- Nehemiah 1 (followed by the Lords prayer)

Lord we thank you for your unconditional love. O Lord, our God, you are worthy of all our praise. You are the God who never fails to keep his promises. We beg you, Yahweh, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and loving kindness with those who love Him and keep His commandments:

Let Your ear now be attentive, and Your eyes open, that You may listen to the prayer of Your servant,

We pray before You at this time, for your children. While we confess our sins which we have sinned against You. We have dealt very corruptly against you, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes,

Let Your ear now be attentive, and Your eyes open, that You may listen to the prayer of Your servant,

“Remember, we beg You, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you trespass, I will scatter you among the peoples; but if you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though your outcasts were in the uttermost part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and will bring them to the place that I have chosen, to cause My name to dwell there.

Let Your ear now be attentive, and Your eyes open, that You may listen to the prayer of Your servant

“Now these are Your servants and Your people, whom You have redeemed by Your great power, and by Your strong hand.

Lord, we beg You, let Your ear be attentive now to the prayer of Your servants, who delight to fear Your name; and please prosper Your servants today and grant us mercy.

We ask that your Holy Spirit would be at work, opening our ears to hear and our hearts to receive your word. May we be transformed into your likeness. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil,

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

CHILDRENS TIME

HYMN O Praise Ye The Lord

WOV 83

1. O praise ye the Lord! Praise him upon earth, in tuneful accord, ye sons of new birth; praise him who hath brought you his grace from above, praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.
2. O praise ye the Lord, all things that give sound; each jubilant chord re-echo around; loud organs, his glory forth tell in deep tone, and sweet harp, the story of what he hath done.
3. O praise ye the Lord, thanksgiving and song to him be outpoured all ages along; for long in creation, for heaven restored, for grace of salvation., O praise ye the Lord.

*Henry Williams
Baker 1821-77 based*

NOTICES & OFFERING Prayer

Gracious God, we bring our gifts, an offering of thanksgiving; bless these gifts and our lives that they may be an offering to the world and all that we do give you praise. Amen.

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READING:

Nehemiah 4: 1 – 23

When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, 'What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble – burned as they are?' Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, 'What they are building – even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!' Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. ⁵ Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of ^{f(b)} the builders. So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart. But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat. Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, 'The strength of the labourers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.' Also our enemies said, 'Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work.' Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, 'Wherever you turn, they will attack us.' Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows. After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, 'Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.' When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our work. From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armour.

The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me. Then I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, 'The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!' So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out. At that time I also said to the people, 'Let every man and his helper stay inside Jerusalem at night, so that they can serve us as guards by night and as workers by day.' Neither I nor my brothers nor my men nor the guards with me took off our clothes; each had his weapon, even when he went for water.

1st Peter 2: 1-9

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. The living Stone and a chosen people

As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says: 'See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.' Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,' and, 'A stone that causes people to stumble

and a rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they disobey the message – which is also what they were destined for. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

HYMN

Just as I am, without one plea

WOV 497

1. Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

2. Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot;
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

3. Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt;
Fightings within, and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I
come!

4. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind;
Yes, all I need, in Thee to find, Lamb
of God, I come, I come!

5. Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve Because
Thy promise I believe, Lamb of God, I come, I
come!

6. Just as I am, Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O
Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

REFLECTION

LET US BEGIN BUILDING

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Holy and righteous God, hear the prayers we bring for your people and answer when we call on you.

We pray for all in this community, for those with whom we share our lives, for our families, our friends and for ourselves.

When our sisters and brothers are hungry and cold, when we are dishonest or selfish in our dealings with others, put a new spirit within us, that we may walk in your way of love. Holy God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need, for the heart-broken and the grief-stricken, for the sick, the dying and all who care for them.

When our brothers and sisters are lonely for companionship and love, when we push the frail and vulnerable to the edges of society, put a new spirit within us, that we may care for one another.

Holy God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the peoples of the world, for those who live in degradation and despair, for the oppressed and the dispossessed.

When our brothers and sisters live in poverty because of other's greed, when we play a part in the oppression of others, put a new spirit within us, that we may follow your path of justice. Holy God, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for your worldwide church, for the World Council of Churches, for the churches of this land and for all who serve you in this place. When our brothers and sisters cannot eat together at your table, when our words or actions prevent your gospel being heard, put a new spirit within us, that we may faithfully proclaim your word. Holy God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer. Amen.

~ written by Janet Nelson,: Let us Pray

HYMN

I sing the mighty power of God

H&P 334

1. I sing the Almighty power of God. That made the mountains rise.
That spread the flowing seas abroad.
And built the lofty skies.
2. I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at his command.

And all the starts obey.

3. I sing the goodness of the Lord,
That filled the earth with food;
He formed the creatures with his word, And then
pronounced the good.
4. Lord, how thy wonders are displayed Where'er I turn
mine eye, If I survey the ground I tread, Or gaze upon
the sky!
5. God's hand is my perpetual guard, He guides me with
his eye; Why should I then forget the Lord.
Whose love is ever nigh?

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE BENEDICTION

Go, confident in the knowledge of God's steadfast love for you, assured of the healing touch of Jesus upon you and emboldened by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit within you.

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



*Please join us for refreshments in the New Hall after this service.
Thank you for the refreshments*