



Wesley Wellington

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

**Sunday 12 November 2023**

**Pentecost 23**

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



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

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  
10am Congregation**

**Sunday 12 November 2023**

**Pentecost 23**

**Leader & Guitar: Philip Garside    Organist: Colin Scarf**

**Welcome & Introduction**

**Call to Worship**

May God be with you,  
**And also with you.**

We come from differing places and differing spaces;  
**We come because you have called us.**

We come knowing you are in all spaces and in all places;  
**We come confident that you care for each of us.**

We come knowing you can be seen in all our faces;  
**We come to worship the God of grace. Amen.**

**Lighting the candle**

**Illuminating God,  
your radical love enters the world like a new dawn.  
Break into our lives with the radiance of a single candle flame.  
Point us toward the light of healing and wholeness.  
In the name of the Light of the World, we pray. Amen.**

**Opening Prayer**

**It is in knowing that we can find ourselves in loving community that we  
come to this sanctuary, O God.  
It is in the sharing of prayer and in upholding one another through difficult  
times that we feel called to be here.  
It is in singing together that our spirits are uplifted.  
It is in reflecting together that we discern how best to serve you and one  
another.**

**It is in summoning your name that we are healed from our wounds and our weariness.**

**Gather us close to you so that we may feel the warmth and the comfort we seek and the deep love you have for us. Amen.**

**Hymn: God of our every day.** AA 52 Words: Shirley Murray. Music: Colin Gibson.

1. God of our every day,  
friend who will walk our way,  
light who can change the focus of our seeing,  
capture our heart and mind,  
be in the work we find,  
till all we do becomes your mode of being.
2. Speak to our spirit's void,  
hands that are unemployed,  
lives that are lived without a true direction;  
gifts that are hid, unearthen,  
lift us to know our worth,  
that in ourselves we see your own reflection.
3. Shine through our winter's gray,  
break through depression's day,  
live through the little deaths we die in growing,  
meaning for whom we grope,  
home of our strongest hope,  
your power and peace through all creation flowing.

### **Prayer of Approach & Words of Assurance**

God of blessings,

**We are thankful that we are not alone,  
that we have been placed in community.**

We are thankful that we live in your world;  
**A world skewed towards good and not evil;**

a world which rates compassion higher than complacency;  
**a world where love is cherished and creatively expressed.**

Confront and stir us from dullness of perception;  
forgive our lack of response to your Spirit.

**Sharpen our awareness of holy ground;  
Prompt us to turn aside and see wonders.**

Forgive us if we have made your world less loving  
and help us live life as your daughters and sons,  
actively engaged in life's wonders and concerns.

**Forgive us for times when we have over-reacted,  
and for times when we have lagged in zeal.**

Encourage us to speak the truth we know  
and to act in love wherever love is needed.

**Enable us to live in your strength and power,  
liberated for the possibilities of the future. Amen.**

*Words of Assurance*

You are safe in God's love and grace.  
We are forgiven and born anew every time we  
pray. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**Introducing the Theme / Story Time**

**Song: Love Grow Within Us.** Words and Music: Philip Garside (2014)

1. Wherever we are, wherever we go,  
open our eyes, open our hearts.

*Refrain*

Love grow within us, joined in our prayers.  
Spark of the Spirit, plenty to share.

2. Help us to see the world as it could be,  
a place where we all stand tall and free.
3. What does love ask, what will we do?  
You showed us your way, help us follow you.

## Readings

**Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25.** (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

### The Tribes Renew the Covenant

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac.

“Now, therefore, revere the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living, but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods, for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went and among all the peoples through whom we passed, and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good.” And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the LORD!” Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.” The people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

### The Coming of the Lord

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we

believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

### **Sermon/Reflection: Who speaks for God today?**

**Song: Jesus, I sing your praise AA80.** Words and Music: John Franklin

*Refrain:*

Jesus, I sing your praise  
with the birds of the dawn,  
with the stars of the night;  
Lord, my heart reaches out  
singing praise with the wind,  
with the flowers in the sun.

1. For Jesus, you are the song  
that makes the world sing,  
the hills laugh with joy.  
You are light in the darkness,  
the peace in the storm,  
the friend on the road.

2. *Bridge*

You are simplicity,  
wholeness, integrity,  
you are the presence of life.  
You are the Holy One,  
Man of Love,  
Son of God.

*Refrain*

- O Master, may your bright Spirit  
flow out like a stream,  
a river of life,  
to flower the wilderness places,  
bring bread to the poor,  
build households of love.

*Refrain*

## **Community Time**

### **Sharing the Peace**

Let's greet each other saying: "God's peace be with you."

### **Notices**

### **Sharing Joys, Things we are Grateful for, Sorrows & Concerns**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

To the bidding "...and in your mercy" would you please respond "**hear our prayer.**"

### **Lord's Prayer**

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 aianei  
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.

## Offering

(We also acknowledge offerings made by automatic payment and online banking)

### **Blessing of Offering** (said together)

**God of all, we know these offerings are part of your creation, and like us, money and possessions can be used to achieve good and ill.**

**We pray that the offerings passing through this parish will be used wisely, with our money we offer ourselves to be used in your service. Amen.**

**Hymn: Take my gifts** AA127 Words: Shirley Murray. Music: Colin Gibson

1. Take my gifts and let me love you,  
God who first of all loved me,  
gave me light and food and shelter,  
gave me life and set me free.  
Now, because your love has touched me,  
I have love to give away;  
now the bread of love is rising,  
loaves of love to multiply!
2. Take the fruit that I have gathered  
from the tree your Spirit sowed,  
harvest of your own compassion,  
juice that makes the wine of God;  
spiced with humour, laced with laughter -  
flavour of the Jesus life,  
tang of risk and new adventure,  
taste and zest beyond belief.
3. Take whatever I can offer -  
gifts that I have yet to find,  
skills that I am slow to sharpen,  
talents of the hand and mind,  
things made beautiful for others  
in the place where I must be:  
take my gifts and let me love you,  
God who first of all loved me.



## **Sending forth / Benediction**

Go with your strength renewed in God.

**We go confident that you are a good God,  
We go confident that you are a loving God.**

Go invigorated by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
Go to reflect love and goodness in all you do.

**We commit to following the loving example of Jesus.**

## **The 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**

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Liturgy for this service was sourced from:

*Let Us Pray*, Janet Nelson, HarperCollins 1999;  
*Gathering Pentecost 2*, United Church of Canada 2023.  
*Lay Preaching Basics*, Rosalie Sugrue, Philip Garside Publishing 2018

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Recording of #47. Chorus: Since by man came death  
from *Messiah* by Georg Friedrich Händel (1685-1759).  
Monteverdi Choir • English Baroque Soloists • Conductor: John Eliot Gardiner  
[https://youtu.be/3o\\_djBIF6-o](https://youtu.be/3o_djBIF6-o)

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

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

And the 10am Congregation's Facebook Page:

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