



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

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023**  
**EPIPHANY 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 - 10am Congregation**  
**Wesley Methodist Church 75 Taranaki Street**  
**15th January 2023 – Epiphany 2**

Welcome to today's service. A special welcome to all visitors. Your presence enriches our gathering and contributes to the creative evolution of community.

**WELCOME AND SAFETY BRIEFING – Hugh Laurenson**

**GATHERING**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE**

*The candle is lit*

God calls us to be witnesses to the light;

Light of new insight.

Light to overcome shadows and despair.

Light of hope.

Light of promise.

**May this candle and the light it produces be a symbol and sign of all these things.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jesus invited the disciples to come and see

**Jesus invites us to come and see.**

Jesus invited the disciples to notice God's presence.

**Jesus invites us to notice God's presence.**

Jesus invited the disciples to follow.

**Jesus invites us to follow.**

Come, friends, let us notice what is here among us,

let us notice God present here,

let us follow God's call to be here.

*A silence is kept.*

God asks us to remember that God is present in each of us,  
to remember that God is present in me, in you, in this community.  
Sometimes we forget.

We may see but we do not know God.

**With all of our being, we need to look more closely.**

**We need to look more clearly.**

**We need to look more carefully.**

**HYMN      'Welcome to worship'**

Words: © George Stuart. Tune: Regent Square

We are thankful for a greeting  
And a welcome we all prize;  
We have come to join in worship,  
Searching for what satisfies;  
With a welcome as we gather  
we can feel our spirits rise.

'Welcome' is the way of Jesus;  
'Welcome' is his promised word;  
Welcome is for saints and sinners;  
All are welcome; all have erred;  
Jesus speaks his word of welcome –  
We respond for we have heard.

We all join in affirmation  
Of the love of God we know;  
Like the vastness of an ocean  
Love is here in constant flow;  
I am welcome; you are welcome;  
Jesus says, "Let it be so."

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Gracious God,  
you are great,  
you are wonderful,  
you are more than we can begin to imagine!  
You loved creation into being.  
You love us into wholeness.  
Alleluia!  
But we have a question for you.  
Do you really think we can do it?  
Do you really believe that we can be more than we are?  
Do you really believe that, as disciples of Jesus, we can be  
what you want us to be?  
Do you really believe that we can be salt and light for each other?  
Fill us with your love, we pray.  
Pour down your wisdom, we ask.  
Change us with your grace.  
Because we know we can't do it alone.  
Amen.

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME – Where's Jesus?**

### **PRAYER OF AWARENESS**

How do we do what's right, Jesus,  
when it costs us so much to follow you?  
when the good and the true and the beautiful  
cannot be purchased  
in a 'buy-now-pay-later' scheme  
as a quick-fix solution to our longing for life?  
How do we do what's right when it takes so much time,  
and when the life it brings comes  
according to the timetable of eternity,  
not the stopwatch of our up-to-the-minute world?

How do our leaders do what's right, Jesus,  
for the weak and marginalised,  
for people beyond our borders,  
when the cost could be to forfeit their opportunity to lead?

How do our corporations do what's right, Jesus,  
for our suffering planet,  
for the rights and needs of the poor,  
when the cost could be to lose investors,  
and sacrifice the lives of their own workers?

How do our protectors do what's right, Jesus,  
for the broken and desperate,  
for our allies and enemies,  
when the cost could be to face the attacks  
of those they seek to defend?

We need to learn how to do what's right, Jesus,  
our world needs us to learn it;  
we need to count the cost of your call,  
and measure it against the abundant life you promise.  
Help us, in our own small way, to be those who do the right thing,  
and in so doing, demonstrate the goodness  
that following you brings to all.

**HYMN: 'Will you come and follow me'**

Words: John L. Bell and Graham Maule.

Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call you name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean  
in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
In you and you in me.

## MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### John 1: 29-42

#### The God-Revealer

<sup>29-31</sup> The very next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and yelled out, “Here he is, God’s Passover Lamb! He forgives the sins of the world! This is the man I’ve been talking about, ‘the One who comes after me but is really ahead of me.’ I knew nothing about who he was—only this: that my task has been to get Israel ready to recognize him as the God-Revealer. That is why I came here baptizing with water, giving you a good bath and scrubbing sins from your life so you can get a fresh start with God.”

<sup>32-34</sup> John clinched his witness with this: “I watched the Spirit, like a dove flying down out of the sky, making himself at home in him. I repeat, I know nothing about him except this: The One who authorized me to baptize with water told me, ‘The One on whom you see the Spirit come down and stay, this One will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ That’s exactly what I saw happen, and I’m telling you, there’s no question about it: *This* is the Son of God.”

#### Come, See for Yourself

<sup>35-36</sup> The next day John was back at his post with two disciples, who were watching. He looked up, saw Jesus walking nearby, and said, “Here he is, God’s Passover Lamb.”

<sup>37-38</sup> The two disciples heard him and went after Jesus. Jesus looked over his shoulder and said to them, “What are you after?”

They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

<sup>39</sup> He replied, “Come along and see for yourself.”

They came, saw where he was living, and ended up staying with him for the day. It was late afternoon when this happened.

<sup>40-42</sup> Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard John's witness and followed Jesus. The first thing he did after finding where Jesus lived was find his own brother, Simon, telling him, "We've found the Messiah" (that is, "Christ"). He immediately led him to Jesus.

Jesus took one look up and said, "You're John's son, Simon? From now on your name is Cephas" (or Peter, which means "Rock").

## REFLECTION

### **HYMN**     '**Great and deep the Spirit's purpose**'

Words: Marnie Barrell; Music: Colin Gibson

Great and deep the Spirit's purpose,  
hidden now in mystery,  
Nature bursts with joyful promise,  
ripe with what is yet to be.  
In a wealth of rich invention,  
still the work of art unfolds:  
barely have we seen, and faintly,  
what God's great salvation holds.

Great and deep the Spirit's purpose,  
making Jesus seen and heard.  
Every age of God's creation  
grasps new meaning from the Word.  
Show us, Holy Spirit, Show us  
your new work begun today:  
eyes and ears and hearts are open,  
teach us what to do and say.

Great and deep the Spirit's purpose:  
all God's children brought to birth,  
freed from hunger, fear and evil  
every corner of the earth,



and a million million voices  
speak with joy the Saviour's name;  
every face reflects his image,  
never any two the same.

Great and deep the Spirit's purpose,  
Nothing shall be left to chance.  
All that lives will be united  
in the everlasting dance.  
All fulfilled and all perfected,  
each uniquely loved and known,  
Christ in glory unimagined  
once for all receives his own.

## **OFFERING AND DEDICATION**

*We acknowledge contributions for the work of DCM Foodbank and offerings made by automatic payment and on-line banking.*

**We do offer our whole lives to you, O God. Like Simon Peter and Andrew, we want to go to Jesus and discover what you are doing through him. Accept these our gifts today that they might support the discipleship and discovery of this congregation. We pray in the name of the one we follow, Jesus. Amen.**

## **COMMUNITY TIME**

Let us take a moment to celebrate each other.

### **Sharing the Peace**

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

Notices

Sharing our joys and concerns

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Jesus, friend of many, when two people asked you where you lived, you said "*Come and see*".

**Yours is the open heart that makes space for all.**

**May we find space, and may we make space.**

Jesus, you are close to those searching for homes in our towns and cities, because you, too, searched for homes. You found home with your friends.

**Yours is the open heart that makes space for all.**

**May we find space, and may we make space.**

Jesus you are close to those who seek employment in our communities. You had work to do, you knew your deepest purpose. You lived your deepest purpose.

**Yours is the open heart that makes space for all.**

**May we find space, and may we make space.**

Jesus, you are close to those who are ill and in need of support. You were the one to whom people turned when they were at the end of themselves. And you, too, turned to friends, when you were near the end.

**Yours is the open heart that makes space for all.**

**May we find space, and may we make space.**

Jesus you are close to those who are seeking refuge. Before you began to remember, you were carried from one country to another, and there, refuge was given.

**Yours is the open heart that makes space for all.**

**May we find space, and may we make space.**

Jesus you are close to the marginalised. You were friends with those on the margins. You honoured and respected people from the margins. And you, too, were forced to the margins. And even there, you brought belonging and home.

**Yours is the open heart that makes space for all.  
May we find space, and may we make space. Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**E tō mātou Matua i te rangi  
Kia tapu tōu Ingoa.  
Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.  
Kia meatia tāu e pai ai  
ki runga ki te whenua,  
kia rite anō ki to te rangi.  
Homai ki a mātou āiane  
he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.  
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 whakawaia;  
Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:  
Nou hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha,  
me te kōroria,  
Ake ake ake.  
Āmine.**

### **HYMN: Hymn: O God, Each Day You Bless Us.**

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (2004). Tune *Ellacombe*

O God, each day you bless us with gifts of your shalom:  
You give us peace and justice, you welcome lost ones home.  
You care for your creation and set your people free;  
You offer us salvation and build community.

You make us sons and daughters baptised and reconciled!  
You show us: Each peace-maker is blest as your own child.  
You fill us at your table with strength for each new day;  
Then Spirit-filled we're able to live your peaceful way.

We'll worship, pray, and study, to learn new skills for peace;  
We'll work as one strong body so justice will increase.  
We'll build new global friendships, seek peace in every land,  
Protect the earth you gave us and give with outstretched hand.

## **PARTING WORDS**

Let us take on this week's life with renewed hope and imagination.

*The candle is extinguished.*

May this ending be our beginning.  
Let us begin, again and again,  
to wonder, and to cherish, and to act  
so that at day's end we will be content  
knowing that we have given our all to life.

Blessed be.  
In the name of all that is good and growing,  
In the name of all that is loving and living,  
In the name of all that fires our passion,  
Blessed be.

**Grace** (*we say the grace together*)

**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**

\* \* \* \* \*

Liturgy for this service was sourced from:

Gathering Worship, Season of Epiphany, The Uniting Church of Canada

Church of Scotland, <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>

Stuart, G. *Singing a New Song. Traditional Hymn Tunes with New Century Lyrics.*

Volume 3. Toronto: G Stuart, 2011.

John van de Laar, *Counting the cost*, <https://sacredise.com>

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**Image:**

Mustardseed blog, <http://seedstuff.blogspot.com/2023/01/>

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Or the 10am Facebook Page to keep up-to-date with services and news:

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