



-YOU'RE INVITED-
TO WORSHIP

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

OCTOBER

SUNDAY

15
2023

AT 10 AM

WESLEY WELLINGTON,
75 TARANAKI STREET
RSVP TO NICOLA BY 14 OCTOBER



ORDER OF SERVICE
SUNDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2023

Worship Leader: Rev Nicola Teague Grundy

Organist: Colin Scarf

WELCOME AND SAFETY BRIEFING (Whakatau mai & Panui)

GATHERING (Emi mai ki taua karakia)

LIGHTING THE CANDLE (Kānara Whakamāmā)

Hope brings us here:

hope of inspiration,
hope of comfort,
hope of enlightenment,
hope of love.

Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life
In the presentness of God.

The candle is lit

**May we be open to this light,
and to the rich possibilities that it brings us.**

WORDS OF BEGINNING (Karanga ki te whakapau kaha)

Whatever is true and honourable
is before us in the life of Christ this day.
In every moment lies a new possibility,
and an invitation to be present
in the gathering of love and justice.

Here, God meets us,
in the celebration of love for all people
and the passion for true community.

The invitation to the church is open before us
so that we may clothe ourselves in hope.
Let us think on these things,
as we lift our hearts in praise to God.

**We are gathered here in community.
A place has been made for each of us.
Let what we say and do here be real for us
In preparation for the life of the world. Amen.**

HYMN (Himene) 'Celebrate Each Difference'

Words: Andrew Pratt; Tune: *'Intercessor'*, 11.10.11.10 [WOV 503(i)]

We cannot make an easy, safe distinction,
all people are our neighbours, none denied.
The voices of all nations heard beside us:
all sisters, brothers, none we should deride.

The wall between the peoples has been broken.
In love of God divisions disappear.
As seen in Christ, we recognise our neighbours.
We greet unusual faces without fear.

We celebrate each difference God has given.
Each nation, black and white, both straight and gay,
the able and the challenged, God has offered,
that we might share together, learn and pray

We meet with those who paint a different picture,
who value God in words not yet our own.
In dialogue we offer one another
a vision we could never find alone.

This God we seek is greater than each difference;
the source and ground of all variety,
the centre and the soul of all creation,
erasing hate with love, to set us free.

OPENING PRAYER (Inoi Tuatahi)

Most Gracious God,
open us up to a sense of Your presence with us now,
for we believe that You are always here,
always present,
that there is no place where You are not.

And yet so often we go through life unaware of You;
so help us now to become aware of Your presence with us,
and within us,
and in the space between.

Help us to realise that there are no unsacred spaces,
only sacred places and desecrated places,
and that by our attention to You,
we make this a sacred space.

For we come to meet with You,
trusting that knowing You will bring us all that we need
to face what life has in store for us.
We long for the day when things will be done Your way
On earth as they are in heaven,
so hear us as we pray together, saying

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.

INTRODUCTION OF THE THEME – Excuses Excuses

INVITATION PRAYER

No special qualifications are needed;
No particular connections or exclusive memberships are required;
No secret passwords or unique attributes are expected;
No campaigning or canvassing,
no examinations or reference checks;
Just an amazing invitation to a feast;
to find our place at God's table,
Alongside these other unworthy ones,
these other beloved ones;
these others humble enough to accept the invitation
without asking who else will be there.

Well, Jesus, Lord of the Feast,
with thankful and open hearts,
we accept Your amazing invitation.

HYMN (Himene) 'Christians are all kinds of people'

Words and melody: Stan Stewart; Music arrangement: Barry Brinson [HioS 16]

Christians are all kinds of people,
they're average, they're short and they're tall,
from all kinds of backgrounds, with all kinds of outlooks,
our gracious God uses them all.
Christians are all kinds of people,
not even especially good,
but God's love is mighty and that is what counts,
with mercy as wide as the sea, it reaches to you and to me.

Christians are all kinds of people,
they're smilers, they're grouchers and clowns,
in all kinds of weather, whenever they gather,
you'll find every kind of them round.
Christians are all kinds of people,
and sometimes all kinds are in me,
but God's love is mighty and that is what counts,
with mercy as wide as the sea, it reaches to you and to me.

God uses all kinds of people,
the black and the pale and the tan,
new-born and the aged, the fit and disabled,
they all play a part in the plan
God uses all kinds of people,
with problems, with hang-ups and scars,
but God's love is mighty and that is what counts,
with mercy as wide as the sea, it reaches to you and to me.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD (Ngaa Paanui Karaipiture)

Matthew 22: 1-14 - The Story of the Wedding Banquet

22 ¹⁻³ Jesus responded by telling still more stories. "God's kingdom," he said, "is like a king who threw a wedding banquet for his son. He

sent out servants to call in all the invited guests. And they wouldn't come!

⁴ “He sent out another round of servants, instructing them to tell the guests, ‘Look, everything is on the table, the prime rib is ready for carving. Come to the feast!’

⁵⁻⁷ “They only shrugged their shoulders and went off, one to weed his garden, another to work in his shop. The rest, with nothing better to do, beat up on the messengers and then killed them. The king was outraged and sent his soldiers to destroy those thugs and level their city.

⁸⁻¹⁰ “Then he told his servants, ‘We have a wedding banquet all prepared but no guests. The ones I invited weren't up to it. Go out into the busiest intersections in town and invite anyone you find to the banquet.’ The servants went out on the streets and rounded up everyone they laid eyes on, good and bad, regardless. And so the banquet was on—every place filled.

¹¹⁻¹³ “When the king entered and looked over the scene, he spotted a man who wasn't properly dressed. He said to him, ‘Friend, how dare you come in here looking like that!’ The man was speechless. Then the king told his servants, ‘Get him out of here—fast. Tie him up and ship him to hell. And make sure he doesn't get back in.’

¹⁴ “That's what I mean when I say, ‘Many get invited; only a few make it.’”

REFLECTION (He Whakaaroaro)

HYMN (Himene) 'God of the Bible'

Words: Shirley Murray; Music: Colin Gibson [FFS 25]

God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,
hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,
you are our centre, daylight or darkness,
freedom or prison, you are our home.

*Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change. (repeat)*

God in our struggles, God in our hunger,
suffering with us, taking our part,
still you empower us, mothering Spirit,
feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.

Those without status, treated as nothing,
you have made royal, gifted with rights,
chosen as partners, midwives of justice,
birthing new systems, lighting new lights.

Not by your finger, not by your anger
will our world order change in a day,
but by your people, fearless and faithful,
small paper lanterns, lighting the way.

Hope we must carry, shining and certain
through all our turmoil, terror and loss,
bonding us gladly, one to the other,
till our world changes, facing the Cross.

THE OFFERTORY (Taato Koha Ki Te Haahi)

This is the time where we make our love visible
through the giving of offerings. Let's give with cheerful hearts.

Prayer of Dedication:

We give our material goods in hope that they will become something new, something good beyond our separate gifts. By these offerings: **we commit ourselves to Christ, and to the reconciling, healing work of Christ, and we commit ourselves to one another as brothers and sisters in faith. Amen.**

COMMUNITY TIME

Let us offer the peace to each other saying:

The peace of God is here to stay.

Notices

Sharing our joys and concerns

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (Ngaa Inoi mo te Whaanau)

It would be much easier to ignore the hard truths around us, O God: the widening gap between rich and poor, the consistency with which the powerful get their way, the bending of rules and the self-enrichment of the connected and influential, the lack of adequate care, protection and resources for the most vulnerable among us; we would rather not see these signs.

It would be much easier if we could just pretend everything was alright, if we could prophesy goodness and light, and ignore the darkness and evil;

if we didn't have to offend the status quo, or challenge the comfortable; if we could convince ourselves that the cross, was just a one-time thing.

Your calling, not ours.

But, we can't do this because we know too much; your truth has captured us and opened our eyes, and we have become slaves to love,

the love that must speak for the voiceless,
the love that must challenge injustice,
the love that draws lines of division between truth and denial,
between compassion and expediency.

Every day each one of us is given the opportunity to choose love over indifference, positive action over passivity, speaking out over complicit silence.

Beyond this space and time, we are aware of the troubles and anxieties of our day. We hear the cries of suffering and struggle, we witness unfairness and unkindness, scenes that are disturbing and unsettling that flash before us and we are led to pray.

Hear us now, O God, as we name those situations and people to whom our hearts and minds are turned this day....

(prayers are offered)

Give us the courage to acknowledge what we see, to name the signs of the times, to disrupt the 'way things are' in the name of what should be, to divide in order to heal and restore, and to be crucified for the sake of love. By your Spirit, our minds and hearts are set on that which is true, just and pleasing. Stir us by your Spirit. Grant us the words to say and courage for actions that will lead to greater healing, understanding, justice and peace. **Amen.**

HYMN (Himene) 'Lord of all hopefulness'

Words: Jan Struther; Tune: Slane [H&P 552]

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,

be there at our labours, and give us we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING

Time has now come for us to leave this sacred place.
As we do, may we embrace the challenges
of our lives and our world ...

The candle is extinguished.

Friends, go out, strengthened to do the work of Christ,
standing in the gap,
extending the invitation to the eternal banquet,
rejoicing in God,
let your gentleness be known to everyone.

The God who created you,
the Christ who redeems you
and the Spirit who empowers you
is with you today and evermore. 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 in the New Hall.

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Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:
Pilgrim Uniting Church, <https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/>
Sacredise – Year A creative worship suggestions <https://sacredise.com/year-a/>
Strandz – Intergenerational worship resources
<https://www.bibleexplore.nz/ordinary28a.html>
Rex A. Hunt – Liturgies <https://www.rexaehuntprogressivelgy.com/liturgies>
NZ Hymn Book Trust, Faith forever Singing, Hope is our Song
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