



Wesley Wellington

75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday, 16 April 2023

Easter 2

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



Where do we go from here?

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

Kia ora koutou katoa — Tālofa lava
Mālō e lelei — Bula vinaka — Greetings to you all!

Welcome to today's service. A special welcome to visitors. We hope you will enjoy worshipping with us this morning and will join us again.

Welcoming you today are Daphne Pilaar and Alan Dine.

10AM Congregation – Order of Service

**Worship leader: Hugh Laurenson
Organist: Vivien Chiu**

Welcome and Safety Briefing

Rachel Tevita

Call to Worship (Ngā Kupu Whakapūare)

Protect us, O God, for in you we take refuge;

Let us say to God, “You are our Lord; we have no good apart from you.”

Today, we come to worship God in truth and turn away from worshiping the idols all around us.

God delights in our sincere worship, but sorrow visits those who give their worship to idols.

We bless the Lord who gives counsel, who instructs our hearts in the secret of the night.

We keep the Lord always before us so that we shall not be moved from God’s ways.

Our hearts are glad, our souls rejoice, and our bodies rest secure,

Because God keeps us from destruction in this life and the next.

God shows us the path of life,

And in God’s presence is the fullness of joy forevermore.

And so, we say to God,

“You are our Lord; we have no good apart from you.” Amen.

Lighting the candle (Kānara Whakamāmā)

As we light this candle, we say together:

By lighting this candle

We are reminded to be your lamp in this dark world.

And to share your warmth with others.

We are reminded of lights that have gone before.

And of lights that even now grow dim.

We are reminded to bring our prayerful offering.

And to go from this place in joy.

Opening Prayer (Inoi Tuatahi)

God of Creation, creating anew, the silence is broken.
With the women in the garden
We catch our breath, wipe our tears,
And try to articulate our experience with you.
What words can describe shadows fleeing from the tomb?
How can we tell of the morning the world turned upside-down?
No mortal words will do.
Still, we must spread the news: Christ is risen!
Our knees are weak from running
Our voices tremble on the edge of fearful joy.
Our eyes have seen the glory
Of the Lord loosed upon the world!
May every breath we take, every word we utter,
Everything we do, witness to the truth of Christ's resurrection.

Hymn (Himene): Christ Is Alive (AA 15)

1. Christ is alive, and the universe must celebrate,
And the stars and the suns shout on this Easter Day!
Christ is alive, and his family must celebrate
In a great alleluia, a great alleluia
To praise the power that made the stone roll away.
2. Here is our hope: in the mystery of suffering
Is the heartbeat of Love, Love that will not let go,
Here is our hope, that in God we are not separate,
And we sing alleluia, we sing alleluia
To praise the power that made the stone roll away.
3. Christ Spirit, dance through the dullness of humanity
To the music of God, God who has set us free!
You are the pulse of the new creation's energy;
With a great alleluia, a great alleluia
To praise the power that made the stone roll away.

Words: Shirley Murray. Music: Jillian Bray

Prayer of Approach & Words of Assurance (Kupu Kī Pono)

We come before you, Holy Friend, with the greetings of the risen Christ ringing in our ears!

You have done great things for us, though we barely understand them.

You have done great things for us, though we sparely share their riches.

You have done great things for us, though we rarely live in their full glory.

Today in this ongoing Easter season, please may the Spirit of Christ surprise us again.

With all his deathless truth and grace, and raise us up from the mediocre worship into which we sometimes slide. In his name we pray.

Amen!

Introducing the Theme (Tīmatanga Kōrero)

Hymn (Hīmene): Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven (H&P 13)

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King!
2. Praise him for his grace and favour
To his people in distress.
Praise him, still the same as ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness!
3. Fatherlike he tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Widely yet his mercy flows!

4. Angels, help us to adore him;
You behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!

Words: Henry Francis Lyte. Music: John Goss.

Ministry of the Word (Ngā Pānui Karaipiture)

Tai Masoe

John 20: 19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

1 Peter 1: 3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you

rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Reflection (He Whakaaroaro)

Hymn (Himene): There's A Wideness in God's Mercy (H&P 230)

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice,
Which is more than liberty.
2. There is welcome for the sinner,
And more graces for the good.
There is mercy with the Savior,
There is healing in his blood.
3. But we make God's love too narrow
By false limits of our own,
And we magnify its strictness
With a zeal God will not own.
4. For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of the mind,
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
5. If our love were but more simple,
We should rest upon God's word,
And our lives would be illumined
By the presence of our Lord.

Frederick William Faber

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 (Ngā Inoi Mō Te Whānau)

Most loving God, be with those who this day are on the brink of hard decisions. Save them from being taken in by either false appearances or subtle self-deceit. Give to your indecisive children clear heads, strong wills, and peaceful hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the Christ who was betrayed by one friend and deserted by eleven, we pray for all people who are feeling rejected or forsaken. Let them know that you will never leave them nor forsake them. May they rise up from their deep hurt and find a peace and a purpose that is not dependent on fragile human loyalties, but is grounded in your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of gentle, wounded hands, please bless and bless again, those hospices where the dying come to watch and wait. Give to all the staff a profound sensitivity, and to each patient a profound serenity. When death comes, may it come like a friend opening a new door. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Risen Friend, Prince of peace, please strengthen the hand of all peacemakers. Steer negotiators through the shoals of injustice, prejudice and pride. Build up courage, trust, forgiveness, patience and hopefulness, and teach us how to look into each other's eyes without fear or self-righteousness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Living Lord, we pray for our parliaments and our councils across this continent. Keep the minds and hearts of our leaders open to Divine grace that they may be wiser than they know and have the courage to make the hard decisions that will help our nation to reach towards its true mission and destiny among the nations

of the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

When we think of those who first gathered to celebrate your resurrection, Lord Jesus, we marvel at your church now in every country of the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Whatever our denomination, style of worship, numerical strength, or influence, we pray that we may all keep the faith with integrity and love. Teach us that the closer we draw near to one another the closer we come to you, and the closer we come to you the closer we must be to each other. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer, Amen**

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.

Offering (Tātou Koha Ki Te Hāhi)

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

Blessing of offerings (said together)

Holy and loving God, you treat us not like the stern disciplinarian but like the forgiving parent who runs to embrace us when we've rebelled or disappointed. Your mercy gives us the opportunities to try again, to return into your grace, to pick ourselves up and brush ourselves off. You forget how many strikes we have

against us but invite us back into the inheritance you desire for us. May our offering this day reflect our gratitude. Amen.

Hymn (Himene): He Came Singing Love (AA 59)

1. He came singing love
And he lived singing love;
He died, singing love
He arose in silence.
For the love to go on
We must make it our song;
You and I be the singers.

2. He came singing faith
And he lived singing faith;
He died, singing faith.
He arose in silence.
For the faith to go on
We must make it our song;
You and I be the singers.

3. He came singing hope
And he lived singing hope;
He died, singing hope.
He arose in silence.
For the hope to go on
We must make it our song;
You and I be the singers.

4. He came singing peace
And he lived singing peace;
He died, singing peace.
He arose in silence.
For the peace to go on
We must make it our song;
You and I be the singers.

Colin Gibson

Sending forth/Benediction (Ngā Inoi Whakamutunga)

As God sent Christ Jesus,
So now you are sent.
Go then, with your hearts rejoicing,
As those who have touched the marks of truth.
Endure suffering,
Forgive sins,
And love the Lord.

And may God's power be your protection;
May Christ Jesus reach out to you with words of peace;
And may the Holy Spirit fill you with indescribable and glorious joy.
**We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Kia tau ki a tātou katoa,
te atawhai o tō tātou Ariki o Ihu Karaiti,
me te aroha o te Atua,
me te whiwhinga tahitanga
ki te Wairua Tapu. Āmine**

Please join us for morning tea in the New Hall following the service. Many thanks to the Garside family for providing today's kai and manaakitanga.

Liturgy for this service was sourced from:

Bruce D Prewer. *Brief Prayers for Busy People*. Ideas into Books, Westview. 2016.
Laughing Bird Liturgical Resources: <https://laughingbird.net>
Disciple Ministries – The United Methodist Church: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/>
<https://www.faithandworship.com/>
Pilgrim Uniting Church of Australia

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>