



WESLEY WELLINGTON
75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 16th July 2023

MATARIKI

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
16TH July 2023

WELCOME AND SAFETY BRIEFING

GATHERING & REMEMBERING

OPENING PRAYER (Inoi Tuatahi)

E te Atua, generous God, by the light of the Southern stars, te marama o ngā whetu, you guided the great traveller Kupe to this land, Aotearoa, a land teeming with life and steeped in natural wonder.

You are kind in all your ways, your mercy knows no end.

E te Atua, generous God, by the light of the Southern stars, te marama o ngā whetu, you guided the voyaging waka to this land, Aotearoa, a land rich in food and natural resources.

You are kind in all your ways, your mercy knows no end.

E te Atua, generous God, by the light of the Southern stars, te marama o ngā whetu, you guided the ship Endeavour and all who followed her to this great land, Aotearoa, a land that nursed the hopes and dreams of many travellers.

You are kind in all your ways, your mercy knows no end.

E te Atua, generous God, by the light of the Southern stars, te marama o ngā whetu, you guided all who travelled to this great land, Aotearoa, a land abundant with the promise of new beginnings.

You are kind in all your ways, your mercy knows no end.

And so, rejoicing in your goodness and mercy, we sing.

HYMN (Himene) Whakaaria Mai/How Great Thou Art

Russian Hymn *translated and arranged* Stuart K Hine [Church Hymnary 154]

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

*Whakaaria mai,
tou ripeka ki au
Tiaho mai,
ra roto I te po
Hei kona au,
titiro atu ai
Ora, mate,
hei au koe noho ai*

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

*Whakaaria mai,
tou ripeka ki au
Tiaho mai,
ra roto I te po
Hei kona au,
titiro atu ai
Ora, mate,
hei au koe noho ai*

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee
How great Thou art, How great Thou art
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

INTRODUCTION OF THE THEME

LIGHTING OF NINE CANDLES (Kānara Whakamāmā)

Response:

There is a time for everything, a season for every purpose under heaven: a season to be born and a season to die; a season to plant and a season to harvest. God has made everything in harmony with the divine. (Ecclesiastes 1)

HYMN (Himene) Our life has its seasons

Words: Shirley Murray; Music: Colin Gibson (AA113)

Our life has its seasons, and God has the reasons
why spring follows winter, and new leaves grow,
for there's a connection with our resurrection
that flowers will bud after frost and snow,

*so there's never a time to stop believing,
there's never a time for hope to die,
there's never a time to stop loving,
these three things go on.*

There's a time to be planting, a time to be plucking,
a time to be laughing, a time to weep,
a time to be building, a time to be breaking,
a time to be waking, a time to sleep,

but there's never a time ...

There's a time to be hurting, a time to be healing,
a time to be saving, a time to spend,
a time to be grieving, a time to be dancing,
a time for beginning, a time to end,

But there's never a time ...

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF WISDOM 7: 16-23 (The Inclusive Bible)

All that we are and all that we say are in God's hands –
It was God who gave me certainty in understanding the way things are:

the organization of the universe and the working of the elements;
the beginning and end of an era, and all that occurs in between;
the cycles of the solstices and the changing of the seasons;
the circle of the year and the positions of the stars;
the nature of animals and the instincts of wild beasts;
the power of spirits and the thoughts of human beings;
the uses of plants and the properties of roots.

Whether it was hidden or apparent, I learned it all,
for wisdom was my teacher,
and it was she who designed all these things.

Inside Wisdom, there is a spirit of intelligence and holiness that is unique and unmistakable: subtle, dynamic, perceptive, pristine, unclouded, unconquerable, compassionate, shrewd, compelling, generous and loving toward mortals, faithful, faultless, serene, directing all, knowing all, and pervading every intelligent, pure and most subtle spirit.

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23 (*Paraphrased by Nathan Nettleton*)

After telling everybody that he regarded only those who do things God's way as his true family, Jesus left the house and went and sat on the beach. He was soon crowded out by people wanting to hear more of what he had to say, so using a boat as his platform, he taught the crowd gathered on the beach. One of the many stories he used to illustrate his points went like this:

"Listen up! When it was time to plant the crops, a farmer spread the seeds widely across the farm. Some of the seeds fell on the tracks,

and the birds made a meal of them in no time. Other seeds fell on ground where the topsoil was shallow and there was nothing but rock underneath. They sprouted quickly enough, but because they were unable to put down roots, they didn't survive when the heat of the sun hit them. Other seeds fell where the weeds were out of control, and being unable to compete with the weeds, they were soon strangled to death. But there were other seeds that fell on good soil and went on to produce an bumper harvest: some reproducing themselves a hundred times over, and others at least sixty or thirty times over. Don't miss what I'm saying. If you've got ears, use them!"

Speaking to his closest followers later, Jesus said:

"Don't miss the point of my story about the farmer sowing seed. When people hear the message of the new culture and it means nothing to them, the evil one swallows up what was sown in their hearts before they can give it a second thought. It is just like the seeds sown on the tracks. What about the seeds sown in the shallow topsoil with rock below? This is like the people who hear the message and latch on to it with great enthusiasm. But they are too shallow to put down any decent roots, so they don't last long. As soon as the message they have accepted attracts any heat, their enthusiasm wilts and they are gone. And what about the seeds which were sown among the weeds? This is just like the people who *get* the message but it can't compete with all the other agendas that have taken over their lives. Their real priorities – being noticed and getting ahead – quickly strangle the message and nothing comes from it. But what about the seeds which were sown on good soil? Now we are talking about the people who hear the message and really take it to heart. It bears fruit in their lives and the harvest of good is multiplied, a hundred times over in some people; and at least sixty or thirty times over in others."

REFLECTION (He Whakaaroaro)

HYMN (Himene) Light of lights beholden

Words and Music: Jenny McLeod

Light of lights beholden
we from days of olden
sang this song
for to understand
that peace upon this planet
was pledged to come.
Each to other, sister, brother,
born for life and song,

*Look towards the light and carry on:
let the simple heart and hope among us
Keep our family strong,
let the simple heart and hope among us
keep our family strong.*

Darkness all around us,
light has always found us,
light will come
where the dark is deepest,
greater light will keep us
safe from harm.
Troubled times will always find
a voice of troubled doom,

*Look towards the light and carry on:
let the simple heart and hope among us
Keep our family strong,
let the simple heart and hope among us
keep our family strong.*

THE OFFERTORY (Taatou Koha Ki Te Haahi)

(We acknowledge offerings made by automatic payment and on-line banking)

Let us offer our gifts and lives in this moment.

**Take these gifts of our minds and our hands,
They are never enough but we offer them in faith to you.
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 INTERCESSION (Ngaa Inoi mo te Whaanau)

We are called always and everywhere to be concerned about and pray for the needs of the whole world, and so we bring these needs to prayer.

Silence

You laid the foundations of the earth; the heavens are the work of your hands.

We pray for the Earth our Common Home – that there will be new efforts to care for the natural environment, to protect threatened species and look after the Earth's bio-diverse systems.

You laid the foundations of the earth; the heavens are the work of your hands.

We pray for the atmosphere that surrounds our planet – that we will learn how to live more simply, reduce carbon emissions and maintain the climate.

You laid the foundations of the earth; the heavens are the work of your hands.

We pray for community leaders – that they will be guided by Wisdom, strive for communities where all people have what they need and neighbours show concern for one another.

You laid the foundations of the earth; the heavens are the work of your hands.

We pray for the growth and production of food and crops – that sufficient food for all people will be produced by sustainable methods which care for the soil.

You laid the foundations of the earth; the heavens are the work of your hands.

We pray for all Indigenous peoples – that their rights and customs be protected and their wisdom valued.

You laid the foundations of the earth; the heavens are the work of your hands.

We pray for the beginning of the New Year signified by Matariki – that celebrating Matariki will bring us closer to the natural world and its rhythms, and deepen our care for nature.

You laid the foundations of the earth; the heavens are the work of your hands.

We pray for our selves – that we will be open to the beauty and loveliness of the natural world, finding it rich with the ‘grandeur of God.’

You laid the foundations of the earth; the heavens are the work of your hands.

We pray for our loved ones and all who have died – may they be at peace, at home in the eternal realm, in the company of saints and angels.

You laid the foundations of the earth; the heavens are the work of your hands.

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 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.

HYMN (Himene) Where mountains rise to open skies

Words: Shirley Murray Music: Vernon Griffiths

Where mountains rise to open skies
your name, O God, is echoed far,
from island beach to kauri's reach,
in water's light, in lake and star.

Your people's heart, your people's part
be in our caring for this land,
for faith to flower, for aroha
to let each other's mana stand.

From broken word, from conflict stirred,
from lack of vision, set us free
to see the line of your design,
to feel creation's energy.

Your love be known, compassion shown,
that every child have equal scope:
in justice done, in trust begun
shall be our heritage and hope.

Where mountains rise to open skies
your way of peace distil the air,
Your spirit bind all humankind,
One covenant of life to share!

PARTING WORDS

We now extinguish these candles, but let us say together:
**We now embody this light and promise
to reflect the light of God's love
in all that we say and do. Amen.**

BLESSING

The new light of Matariki has risen!
May it be to you a sign of resurrection and new life.
May it be to you a sign of hope in times of darkness.
May it be to you a sign of the wondrous mystery of Atua who loves you.
May it be to you a sign that the eyes of the Eternal One are ever upon you
and that the presence of the Holy One is ever with you.
And may this be the cause of your rejoicing.
Go in peace.
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.

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Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:
Catholic Diocese of Auckland, liturgy of Judith Courtney and Manuel Beazley
Living by the Stars, Professor Rangi Matamua
Te Wananga o Aotearoa, Matariki guidebook
Laughing Bird Liturgical Resources, Nathan Nettleton, <https://laughingbird.net/>
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