



Wesley Wellington

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

**Sunday, 19 February 2023**  
**Transfiguration**

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



***Head for higher ground***

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 Lusi and Gertie Tevita*

## 10AM congregation – Order of Service

**Worship leader: Hugh Laurenson**

**Organist: Colin Scarf**

**Welcome and Safety Briefing**

*Leatuavao Leatuavao*

**Call to Worship** (please respond in bold type)

With music and song, with laughter and mirth,  
With movement and dance,

**Let us celebrate the source of joy,  
The spirit of life who will be born in our midst.**

With stillness and prayer, with wisdom and depth, with passion and heart,

**Let us celebrate the source of joy,  
The spirit of life who will be born in our midst.**

With action and care, with service and love, with respect and grace,

**Let us celebrate the source of joy,  
The spirit of life who will be born in our midst.**

In the midst of planning and rushing,  
In the midst of shopping and feasting,  
In the midst of worshipping and candle-lighting,

**Let us celebrate the source of joy,  
The spirit of life who will be born in our midst**

**Lighting the candle**

As we light this candle, we say together:

**Set our hearts on fire with love for You, O Christ our God, so that in its flame we may love you with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our soul and with all our strength. May we love our neighbours as ourselves, so that by keeping your commandments we may glorify you, the giver of all good gifts.**

## Opening Prayer

We give you all thanks and praise, O God,  
For your transfiguring light has overcome us  
And is restoring within us the image of your glory.

At the dawn of time your glory overcame the chaos  
And gave birth to the earth and heavens.  
On the fiery mountain you gave the law to Moses,  
And through men and women moved by your Holy Spirit  
You gave us your word to lighten up the dark places.

In the timeless presence of Moses and Elijah  
You transfigured your anointed one, Jesus,  
Allowing his terrified followers to witness his majesty  
And hear your voice from the awesome cloud.  
Powerful leaders plotted against him and killed him,  
But you raised him from the dead,  
Declaring him again to be your beloved Son.  
Calling us now to listen to him  
You send us forth to share your transfiguring love with all.

Therefore, with our hearts lifted high,  
We offer you thanks and praise at all times  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

## Hymn: Where mountains rise to open skies (AA 155)

1. 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.

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Your love be known, compassion shown,  
that every child have equal scope:  
in justice done, in trust begun  
shall be our heritage and hope.
5. Where mountains rise to open skies  
your way of peace distil the air,  
your spirit bind all humankind,  
one covenant of life to share!

*Shirley Murray*

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

Holy one, we come before you,  
Many of us feeling like we have climbed just a part of the mountain,  
And there is so much more of a climb left.  
To dream that we might be dazzled by what is divine.

Our loads are heavy, with worry, with regret, with fatigue, with illness,  
With despair for all in the world that is hurting, in danger, in bondage and more.

We trudge ahead, following you, stumbling, hoping, praying,  
Breathing hard, hearts pounding, and even some of us are nimble and skipping.

Lead us Lord, to the top of that mountain,  
Where we might be dazzled by your light, lifted by what is divine, filled by the  
sheer delight of what is numinous and ethereal and grounded and real.

We pray this, for ourselves, for one another,  
And for the world in which we live Amen.

## **Introducing the Theme**

### **Hymn: Be still for the presence of the Lord (CMP 50)**

1. Be still for the presence of the Lord  
The Holy one is here  
Come bow before him now  
In reverence and fear  
In Him no sin is found  
We stand on Holy ground  
Be still for the presence of the Lord  
The Holy one is here.
2. Be still for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around  
He burns with Holy fire  
With splendour He is crowned  
How awesome is the sight  
Our radiant King of light  
Be still for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around.
3. Be still for the power of the Lord  
Is moving in this place  
He comes to cleanse and heal  
To minister His grace  
No work too hard for Him  
In faith receive from Him  
Be still for the power of the Lord  
Is moving in this place.

*David Evans*

**Exodus 24: 12-18**

The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone with the law and commandments I have written for their instruction.”

Then Moses set out with Joshua his aide, and Moses went up on the mountain of God. He said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are with you, and anyone involved in a dispute can go to them.”

When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from within the cloud. To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

**Matthew 17: 1-9**

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”

When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.” When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

**Reflection**

## Hymn: These hills where the hawk flies lonely (FFS 63)

These hills where the hawk flies lonely,  
Beaches where the long surf rolls,  
Mountain where the snows meet heaven,  
These are our care.

Pastures where the sheep graze calmly,  
Orchards where the apples grow,  
Gardens where the roses cluster,  
These are our prayer.

Forests where the tree ferns tower,  
Rivers running strong and clear,  
Oceans where the great whales wander,  
These are our care,  
Race meeting race equals,  
Justice for age-old wrong,  
Worth for ev'ry man and woman,  
These are our prayer.

Cities where young roam restless,  
Lives brought to deep despair,  
Homeless and powerless people,  
These are our care,  
Places where the Word is spoken,  
Hands held in serving love,  
Faiths of our many cultures,  
These are our prayer.

All that the old world gave us,  
All that the new world brings,  
Language, ideas and customs,  
These are our care,  
Life finding joy and value,  
Faith seeking truth and light,  
God heard and seen in all things,  
This be our prayer.

## 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

Loving God, working through human events to show your presence and strength, work through each of us as we seek to respond to your call to serve.

**Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

Almighty God, shine in our lives like you do in the universe, maintaining life, order, balance and forever making new creations. Mend us as needed, bend us as necessary, that we may be your new creation, in body, mind and spirit.

**Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

Holy Spirit, put your seal upon us that we may be filled with zeal for God's work through us as agents of reconciliation.

**Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

Lord Jesus Christ, when we do not know what to do when we are overwhelmed by God's intervention in our lives, give us the wisdom to listen, to marvel, and to renew our commitment to follow you all the days of our lives.

**Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

Transfigure your world as you transfigure your church, Lord God, that all may be made new and whole.

**Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

God of the present moment,



God who in Jesus stills the storm  
And soothes the frantic heart;  
Bring hope and courage to all those afflicted by Cyclone Gabrielle  
As they wait in uncertainty.  
Bring hope that you will make them the equal  
Of whatever lies ahead.  
Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided,  
For your will is flourishing whānau and communities;  
You are God, and we need you.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer, Amen**

### **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 offerings (said together)**

Creator God of infinite patience, we see you in every plant that grows and blossoms, every creature that runs or flies, in mountains and sunsets and in every drop of rain that falls. Creation is not something that happened, but

something that is happening every day. As we share our offerings today, we pray you, through Jesus, will continue the work of creation in us, that we might become more tolerant, more forgiving, more generous, and more loving. In that name, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, we pray. Amen.

### **Hymn: Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! (H&P 7)**

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
  
2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.
  
3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,  
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.
  
4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth, and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

*Reginald Heber*

### **Sending forth / Benediction**

Go now and make known the power and coming  
Of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Bow at God's feet,  
And serve the Lord with joy.

And may God be your shelter;  
May Christ Jesus take away your fear;

And may the Holy Spirit lead you in truth until the day dawns  
And the morning star rises in your hearts.

**We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**The Grace** (said together)

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 Wendy Conwell for providing today's kai and manaakitanga.***

Liturgy for this service was sourced from:

Discipleship Ministries - The United Methodist Church  
Laughing Bird – South Yarra Community Baptist Church  
Life in Liturgy  
Pilgrim Uniting Church of Australia  
Orthodox Church in America

Te Pīhopatanga o Aotearoa (Te Hāhi Mihinare ki Aotearoa/The Māori Anglican Church in Aotearoa)

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>