



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

Sunday 19th March 2023
LENT 4

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
19th March – Lent 4

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 - Daphne Pilaar

GATHERING (Mihimihi)

LIGHTING THE CANDLE (Kānara Whakamāmā)

God of the universe, you made light in the darkness.

The candle is lit

God of the universe you make our darkness light.

Thank you.

**Remind me that you are warm and loving,
that you call us to live in Your light.**

CALL TO WORSHIP (Ngaa Kupu Whakapuuare)

When God appeared on earth in the person of Jesus,
most of the world did not recognise him
and therefore did not worship him.

Today we ask for faith that will open our eyes
to see Jesus for who he is,
that we might worship him in truth.

We open our eyes to see his glory.

We open our ears to hear his wisdom.

**We open our hands to offer him gifts.
We open our mouths to sing his praise.
We open our hearts to offer him our love.
He is Lord!**

HYMN (Himene) 'God of our every day' (AA 52)
Words: Shirley Murray, Music: Colin Gibson

God of our every day,
friend who will walk our way,
light who can change the focus of our seeing:
capture our heart and mind,
be in the work we find,
till all we do becomes your mode of being.

Speak to our spirit's void,
hands that are unemployed,
lives that are lived without a true direction:
gifts that are hid, unearth,
lift us to know our worth
that in ourselves we see your own reflection.

Shine through our winter's grey,
break through depression's day,
live in the little deaths we die in growing:
meaning for whom we grope,
home of our strongest hope,
power and peace, through all creation flowing.

OPENING PRAYER (Inoi Tuatahi)

Loving God, you've called us and we've come. We know our need to be in this place and we give you thanks that we are here.

We want to learn more about your love for us. We want to feel the strength of those who have gone before us and whose presence

surrounds us now. We want to find courage for the living of our lives today. We want to notice your presence in the quiet places of our hearts. We want to live with joy and in service to others and to your creation. We want a lot of things, O God. But, deep down, we know that you know what is best for us.

So, most of all in this time, we want to be with you and to feel your love. Hold us, bless us, touch us, so that, when our worship is over, we may go out to be a blessing to everyone we meet. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Te Whaakinga Hara)

Loving God, we come to you in this Lenten season aware of our shortcomings. There have been times when we have stumbled and not done what we knew to be right. We have made choices that suited our immediate needs rather than the needs of our community, our family, and our world.

There have been other times when we did not care for ourselves as you would have us do, times we forgot how much you love us. Gracious God, there have been times when others have treated us badly, times when our love was answered with indifference or dismissal, times when people have not seen the beauty you have so lovingly created in us.

O God, we struggle to choose the right way when so many around us seem to be openly choosing the wrong way. We ask you to help us change what we can. Help us to examine within ourselves and consider how we can better reflect your image. Help us to understand the brokenness in those who hurt us, a brokenness that does not reflect their true image or perceive our true image. We ask you, O God, to remind us of how deeply you love us, even through the brokenness we feel. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Kupu Kī Pono)

Friends, know that God knows you. The cracks and brokenness, which you believe define who you are, are insignificant to God. Our stumbling, and shortcomings are passing things, things that do not define us but simply define a moment in our lives. You were made in the image of God, and that image is strong and true. You are loved and in you there is an incredible capacity to love and forgive. The beautiful rainbow that lives in each of us has been lovingly crafted by God. You are meant to shine, even in this season of muted colours. You are wondrously made and lovingly forgiven. Thanks be to God.

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME (Tīmatanga Kōrero)

MINISTRY OF THE WORD (Ngāa Paanui Karaipiture)

John 9: 1, 6-9, 13-17, 33-34 (Inclusive Text)

Sven Heger

Jesus went along and saw a man blind from birth.
Jesus spat on the ground, made mud with the spittle,
put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said,
“Go and wash in the pool of Siloam’.

So the blind man went off and washed,
and came away with sight restored.

The neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging, said,
'Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?'
Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.'
Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.'
The man said, 'I am the one...'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees.
It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste
and opened the man's eyes,
so when the Pharisees asked how he had come to see, he said,

'The one they call Jesus put paste on my eyes,
and I washed and I can see.'

Then some of the Pharisees said,
'This Jesus can not be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.'

Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?'
And there was disagreement among them.

So they spoke to the blind man again,
'What do you have to say about this Jesus yourself,
now that he has opened your eyes?'
'He is a prophet', replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied, 'and you a sinner
through and through, since you were born!'
And they drove the man away.

HYMN (Himene) 'Hope and Light'

Words: George Stuart; Tune: To God be the Glory

The story of Jesus brings light to each one;
Excites and inspires us by what he has done;
In Jesus the battle with darkness is won;
'The Light of the World' can transform everyone.
Hope abounds; light surrounds;
So our life overflows;
Hope abounds; light surrounds
When our love blooms and grows;
The sacred within us compels us to strive
With Jesus we flourish; in God we're alive.

When darkness surrounds us, we look for the light
that points the way forward and out of the night;
We still have to struggle with all of our might
to stop fears prevailing and put them to flight.

Light empowers; hope is ours
If we give it a chance;
Light empowers; hope is ours
When we join in the dance.
With God as our partner and with a friend's care
We keep up the rhythm; dispel our despair.

Another beginning; life beckons once more;
And hope still arises; it bids us explore,
With courage and boldness to open each door;
With God as our future, we need not withdraw.
Hope ignites; light invites
Us to take the right course;
Hope ignites; light invites
Us to look to its source;
And looking to Jesus, such light fills our soul;
With Jesus we flourish; in God we are whole.

REFLECTION (He Whakaaroaro)

HYMN (Himene) 'Certain of Uncertainty'

Words: George Stuart; Tune: *'Forest Green'*

In life with such uncertainty
We long to feel at peace;
But with no proven guarantee
We feel our stress increase.
When in the maze we grope each day,
'Confusion' is our name;
When change can ruin life we say,
"Please, let things stay the same."

Sometimes our journey feeds our fear,
Can lead us to despair,

But in these times, we need to hear
From Jesus and his care.
He trusted 'Love' would find a way
To ease his troubled soul;
He found that 'Love' would always say,
"My strength shall make you whole."

We find our true humanity
When 'Love' directs our course.
Inspired by Jesus' melody
Of hope, with all its force;

He is our guide when life is grim;
He's with us in our strife;
We stride together. Trust in him
Who came to bring us life.

We cannot see what lies ahead;
It mostly is unknown;
But 'God in us' shares every dread;
We need not feel alone.
Together we can help 'Love' grow;
Together stand as one;
Our human love can make it so;
Our future can be won.

OFFERING (Taatou Koha Ki Te Haahi)

We make our love visible through the giving of our offerings.

We see the generosity of your grace and mercy, and we bring to you something a small part of all you have given us, give to us a generous heart and spirit as we dedicate both our offerings and our hearts that we may serve you and your church. Amen.

COMMUNITY TIME

Let us take a moment to celebrate each other.

Sharing the Peace

Let us greet each other saying: **“God’s peace be with you.”**

Notices

Sharing our joys and concerns

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS (Ngaa Inoi mot e Whaanau)

We have learned today of the healing of blindness and the intransigent blindness of the Pharisees.

We may feel superior that we are not like them yet there are times when we close our eyes rather than see clearly what is around us.

When self-centredness blinds us to the wreckage of human problems and stubbornness blinds us to the troubles of our brothers and sisters; **Jesus, Light of the world, lighten our darkness.**

When we turn away so we cannot see the inequalities where we have so much while others live in poverty,
Lord Jesus Light of the world, lighten our darkness.

There are many diseases around the world that it is a disgrace that with funds available could be healed, blindness caused by drinking dirty water in Africa and cataract removal operations which quickly and easily restore sight.

Areas where the light of Christ is being extinguished by persecution and violence.

Help those who live in the darkness of unbelief, disillusionment and hopelessness to come to the light of Christ.

As you touched the eyes of the man born blind touch us with your love that we may touch others.

Bless our families and our homes and any we name before you in the silence of our hearts...

Gracious and loving God, we believe, help our unbelief, 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.

HYMN (Himene) 'He came singing love' (AA 59)

Words and Music: Colin Gibson

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.

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.

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.

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.

PARTING WORDS (Ngaa Inoi Whakamutunga)

The God we worship is never confined to this holy place.
So go and travel with the God
Who is found in ordinary and surprising places.

The candle is extinguished.

May you know the joy of God who found you, the love of Christ who redeemed you and the peace of the Holy Spirit who gifted you to do God's work, both now and forever more...

**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**

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Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:

Reformed Worship, resources for leading worship,

<https://www.reformedworship.org/>

Gathering, Lent/Easter

Starters for Sunday, Church of Scotland,

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>

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In the Presence,

Discipleship Ministries, The United Methodist Church

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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>