



Wesley Wellington
75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday, 19 November 2023
Pentecost 25

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



Using our talents wisely

Living God's Love – Acting for the common Good

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 Fesilafai & Leatuavao Leatuavao

10AM Congregation – Order of Service

Worship leader: Hugh Laurensen

Organist: Vivien Chiu

Welcome and Safety Briefing

Leatuavao Leatuavao

Call to Worship (Ngā Kupu Whakapūare)

Ko te rā tēnei i hanga i Ihowā

This is the day which the Lord has made

Kia hari, kia koa tātou

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

Kind and ever loving God, Giver of Life and all that is good, you have trusted us with so much: your creation, your peace, and your promise. Give us the grace to see your goodness unfold in the world around us, right here in the land of the living. Let us be united in love and seek you with our whole hearts, as we see your salvation at work in us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lighting the candle (Kānara Whakamāmā)

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

Opening Prayer (Inoi Tuatahi)

Kind and ever loving God, Giver of Life and all that is good, You have trusted us with so much: your creation, your peace, and your promise. Give us the grace to see your goodness unfold in the world around us, right here in the land of the living. Let us be united in love and seek you with our whole hearts, as we see your salvation at work in us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn (Hīmene): Come, thou long expected Jesus (H&P 81a – Stuttgart)

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley

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

Lord of Creation, we confess that we have squandered your gifts and used them as if they had been given for us alone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbours, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hear the Good News: We have not been faithful in all things. But our God still welcomes us with patience and kindness. Therefore, as people of God's promise, let us receive forgiveness, embrace hope, and faithfully respond, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Glory to God! We are forgiven. We have hope. We will respond. Amen.**

Introducing the Theme (Tīmatanga Kōrero)

Hymn (Himene): How much am I worth? (HIOS 63)

How much am I worth? What's the value in me?
Do I count if I stand or I fall?
If I'm weak or I'm strong, if I win or I lose,
Am I someone, or no one at all?

***I am worth everything, everything, everything,
I am worth everything in the eyes of God;
You are worth everything, everything, everything,
We are worth everything in the eyes of God***

I am that bird that dropped to the ground,
the tiniest bird of them all,
and nobody knew, and nobody cared,
but our Father, who cares for us all.

I am that stone that fell from a ring
that was precious beyond all compare;
and they hunted the house, till they cried out with joy,
When they saw it, still gleaming down there.

I am that child who felt lost and afraid,
when she saw just how far she had roamed.
but they scoured the hills till they found her again,
and rejoicing, they brought her safe home.

How much am I worth? Do I matter at all?
When I'm thinking it through I may see
That I'm worth all the love of the Son of God,
Who laid down his life just for me.

Colin Gibson

Matthew 25:14-30 - New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Parable of the Talents

¹⁴ “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once ¹⁶ the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹

After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Reflection (He Whakaaroaro)

Hymn (Himene): We are many, we are one (FFS 67)

We are many, we are one,
and the work of Christ is done
when we learn to live in true community,
as the stars that fill the night,
as a flock of birds in flight,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;
as the branches of a tree,
as the waves upon the sea,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

All division is made whole
when we honour every soul,
find the life of God in every you and me,
as the fingers of a hand,
as the grains that form the sand,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;
as the threads upon the loom,
as a field of flowers in bloom,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

We will join creation's song,
make a world where all belong,
build as one in peace and loving harmony,
as the voices of a choir,
as the flames within a fire,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;
as the snowflakes in the snow,
as the colours of a bow,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

Colin Gibson

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 and concerns

Prayers of Intercession (Ngā Inoi Mō Te Whānau)

Our tender and compassionate God asks us to pray for all people. Let us offer our prayers for the world in need, trusting in God's great love. We pray for the church around the world. As the broken bread, though once scattered as grain on the hillsides become one loaf, so may your church be one in spirit throughout the earth, and one in witness to your saving love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, lead our leaders throughout the Church. Grant them your wisdom, that by their deeds they may encourage the faithful and witness to the world and its people. Eternal ruler of the universe, we pray for those who govern every land, and for the people committed to their charge. We pray for the incoming government, and the legislators who guide our lives. Turn the hearts of leaders and peoples to you that governments may seek the good of humanity and of all who suffer. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you suffer with those who suffer. We pray for those who are denied what they need to live and those whose dreams have been shattered by war and disaster. We pray especially for those who suffer in the season of plenty. Reach out and bring healing through the hands of your faithful people. Holy Comforter, healing Spirit, grant your peace to those who are sick and those who grieve, and especially those of our own church families who are suffering today. Radiate through their lives with the light of your presence, that renewed healing and strength may be theirs. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray, dear Lord, for those whose actions offend us most and for those whom we have learned to fear and despise. Through your great love, make tender all

hearts hardened by hatred, bigotry and suspicion; and work your justice among us. God of hope and new life, help us to see the joy and abundant life you intend for us. Forgive our short-sightedness and often miserly attitudes toward the created world which you have entrusted to our care. Give us your peace – peace which is not so much an absence of trouble, as an awareness of your guiding presence and bounteous gifts in all that we do; for these our prayers we bring to you in the name of Jesus the Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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 aiane 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)

Bring forth the fullness of your vision to us, O God, as we open our hearts to you in the giving of these gifts. Like the praise we sing, may they bring glory to your name, now and in your world forever. Amen.

Hymn (Himene): Praise to the Lord! The Almighty, the King of creation! (H&P16)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Come, all who hear; now to his temple draw near,
join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, above all things so wondrously reigning;
sheltering you under his wings, and so gently sustaining!
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
if with his love he befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen sound from his people again;
gladly forever adore him.

Joachim Neander

Sending forth/Benediction (Ngā Inoi Whakamutunga)

Go now, and live as children of the light.
Put on the breastplate of faith and love,
And for a helmet, the hope of salvation.
Make the most of all God has given you
And encourage one another in Christ.
And may God's hand be open to you in kindness;
May Christ Jesus welcome you into his joy;
And may the Holy Spirit fill you with courage, vigilance and faithfulness.

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 & Rendall Conwell for providing today's kai and manaakitanga.

Liturgy for this service was sourced from:

[Laughing Bird](#)
[Life in Liturgy](#)
[Michael Anthony Howard](#)

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>