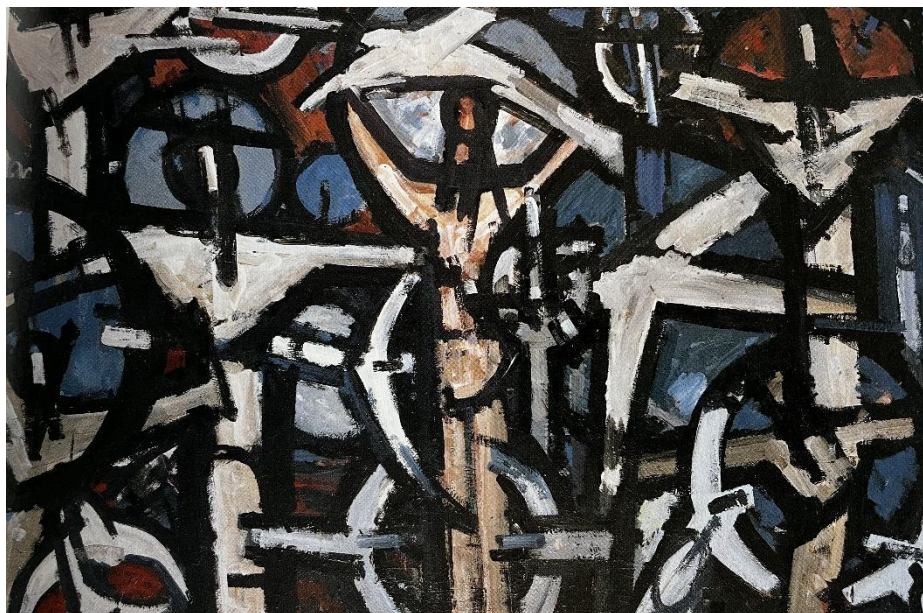


WESLEY

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

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023**  
**THE FEAST OF ASCENSION**

*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**  
**21<sup>ST</sup> May 2023**

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** - Alan Dine

**LIGHTING THE CANDLE** (Kānara Whakamāmā)

We light this candle to remind us of the light of God's love,  
the warmth of God's welcome,  
and our faith in the ever presence of God,

*The candle is lit*

Together we say:

**Welcome to our place,**

**Welcome to worship,**

**Welcome in the name of our living God.**

**Amen.**

**WORDS FOR BEGINNING**

We know you and we do not know you

**You are mysterious and full of joy**

You know us and you understand us

**You are loving and full of truth**

You welcome us and you live in us

**You are Holy and full of Hope**

We look for you in each other

**We look for you in our midst.**

**HYMN** (Himene) **"Great and deep the Spirit's purpose"**

*Words:* Marnie Barrell *Music:* Colin Gibson [AA 55]

Great and deep the Spirit's purpose,

hidden now in mystery,

Nature bursts with joyful promise,

ripe with what is yet to be.

In a wealth of rich invention,  
still the work of art unfolds:  
barely have we seen, and faintly,  
what God's great salvation holds.

Great and deep the Spirit's purpose,  
making Jesus seen and heard.  
Every age of God's creation  
grasps new meaning from the Word.  
Show us, Holy Spirit, show us  
your new work begun today:  
eyes and ears and hearts are open,  
teach us what to do and say.

Great and deep the Spirit's purpose:  
all God's children brought to birth,  
freed from hunger, fear and evil  
every corner of the earth,  
and a million million voices  
speak with joy the Saviour's name;  
every face reflects his image,  
never any two the same.

Great and deep the Spirit's purpose,  
nothing shall be left to chance.  
All that lives will be united  
in the everlasting dance.  
All fulfilled and all perfected,  
each uniquely loved and known,  
Christ in glory unimagined  
once for all receives his own.

### **MEDITATIVE READING**

By David Best *"...From under the bench"*

### **PRAYER (Inoi Tuatahi)**

Lord, we praise you this morning for the love that grants us freedom, and  
for the grace that allows us to dwell in peace.

We praise you for the sun that shines upon our endeavours  
and for the moon and the stars at night which remind us of your glory.

We thank you for the many good things that you have bestowed upon us.  
Help us, O God, in this time of worship, and beyond,  
to have a heart that exalts in your grace and goodness,  
lips unafraid to proclaim your praise,  
and minds which are focussed on living  
according your glorious and living word.

We ask this through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

Ascended Lord Jesus, we adore You!

Once you lived a human life, subject to limitations of time:

Now you are the same yesterday, today and forever!

Once you were limited to one particular place:

Now you are present wherever people turn to you!

Once only those who met you face to face knew you:

Now your divine love extends throughout all the world!

Ascended Jesus, Lord of time and space, love as wide as life,  
we adore You. Amen!

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME (Tīmatanga Kōrero)**

### **HYMN (Himene) “Now Jesus came among us”**

Words and Music: Cecily Sheehy [AA101]

Now Jesus came among us with a very special gift;  
and we clap; **(clap, clap)** and we wave; **(wave, wave)**  
for his life was full of loving and he'd say to everyone:  
“I love you and welcome you today.”

*Join hands, link us all together now.*

*Join hearts loving all the way.*

*Reach out, heal with your gentle hands.*

*“Do this in memory of me.”*

We're standing here together all the children of the day;  
and we clap; **(clap, clap)** and we wave; **(wave, wave)**  
and we turn and look at everyone and say a little prayer:  
"I love you and welcome you today."

Now Jesus went away, with his Father he did stay;  
and we clap; **(clap, clap)** and we wave; **(wave, wave)**  
and we turn and look at everyone and say a little prayer:  
"I love you and welcome you today."

## **MINISTRY OF THE WORD** (Ngaa Paanui Karaipiture)

### **Psalm 104**

By Margie Abbott *"Sparks of the Universe"*

God, how fertile your genius!  
You shape everything,  
You fill the world  
with what you do.

*Left:* **Let God's glory endure.  
The Holy One delights in creating.**

*Right:* **I will sing to my God,  
Make music for my God,  
As long as I live**

We praise you God  
for the beauty of creation,  
and stand in your presence  
in awe and wonder.

### **John 17: 1-12** – Norbert Nziramasanga

Jesus said these things. Then, raising his eyes in prayer, he said:

Father, it's time. Display the bright splendor of your Son so the Son in turn may show your bright splendor. You put him in charge of everything

human so he might give real and eternal life to all in his care. And this is the real and eternal life: That they know you, the one and only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent. I glorified you on earth by completing down to the last detail what you assigned me to do. And now, Father, glorify me with your very own splendor, the very splendor I had in your presence before there was a world.

I spelled out your character in detail to the men and women you gave me. They were yours in the first place; Then you gave them to me, and they have now done what you said. They know now, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that everything you gave me is first-hand from you, for the message you gave me, I gave them; And they took it, and were convinced that I came from you. They believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I'm not praying for the God-rejecting world but for those you gave me, for they are yours by right. Everything mine is yours, and yours mine, and my life is on display in them. For I'm no longer going to be visible in the world; They'll continue in the world while I return to you. Holy Father, guard them as they pursue this life that you conferred as a gift through me, so they can be one heart and mind as we are one heart and mind. As long as I was with them, I guarded them in the pursuit of the life you gave through me; I even posted a lookout. And not one of them got away, except for the rebel bent on destruction (the exception that proved the rule of Scripture).

## **REFLECTION (He Whakaaroaro)**

### **LITANY OF PRAISE**

Praise the sun, the moon, the stars,

*Mn: Praise the ant, the tree, the shining leaf.*

*Wn: Praise every child large and small*

*All: **Praise the one within us all.***

Praise the flower and the winding weed,

*Mn: Praise each blade of grass and every dewdrop.*

*Wn: Praise dark moist earth.*

*Mn: Praise rock, sand and shoal.*

*Wn: Praise wind – nature's breath.*

*Mn: Praise those with fin, fur and finger,*

*Wn: Praise the winged ones, the tiny ones  
And all the ones that live unseen.*

**All: Praise brightest morning and darkest night.**

Praise the prickly and the unpopular.

*Mn: Praise the crow's cry and beggar's sigh*

*Wn: Praise the dancers, the doers and the dreamers.*

**All: Praise those that give, those who love, and those who heal.**

Praise to wanderers, weavers and seekers

*Wn: Praise sounds of thunder, crashing waves, and shouts for justice.*

Praise silence.

*Mn: Praise spirit*

*Wn: Praise all colours.*

Praise all acts of compassion.

**All: Praise all. Praise all. Praise all.**

### **HYMN (Himene) "God, grant us grace to be as one"**

*Words: Jan Chamberlin Tune: Arnold's, MHB 762*

God, Grant us grace to be as one,  
as one to join in prayer,  
for blessings on our troubled world.  
which needs your loving care.

God help us be accepting of  
opinions not our own;  
to be respectful, give support,  
that no-one stands alone.

God, make us mindful of your love,  
and precious truths impart;  
that we may find, in loving all,  
a place within your heart.

## **THE OFFERTORY (Taatou Koha Ki Te Haahi)**

Here we bring our gifts of money and talents  
That they may be used to reflect your love in the world.

**Bless our gifts and our lives so that they can be used  
to create a better world for all people. Amen**

## **COMMUNITY TIME**

God makes peace within us. Let us claim it.  
God makes peace between us. Let us share it.  
Let us greet one another as a sign of God's peace.

Notices

Sharing our joys and concerns

## **PRAYERS FOR OTHERS**

Let us hold before God all those whom Christ calls to follow him –  
when faith is great and when faith is little;  
when faith is sure and when faith clings by its fingernails;  
when faith sees clearly and when faith gropes;  
when faith reassures and when faith challenges;  
when following is easy and when following brings conflict –  
both those who follow Christ with firm tread  
    and those who step is less steady –  
that, among God's people, joy may be celebrated  
    and tears may be shed,  
all are welcomed, young and old, seeker and stranger,  
God's kingdom is both sought and lived,  
and the Good News of Jesus Christ is shared and proclaimed.

Your Kingdom come.

**Your will be done.**

Let us hold before God all those to whom Christ offers his Kingdom:  
the abused and the exploited;  
the battered and the bruised;  
the blind and the broken;



the deaf and the dumb;  
the destitute and the dispirited;  
the feeble and the forgotten;  
the homeless and the hungry;  
the lame and the lost;  
the lonely and the unwelcome;  
the outcast and the scapegoat;  
the poor and the paralysed;  
the sick and the sorrowful;  
the unlovely and the unloved.

*Silence*

Your Kingdom come.  
**Your will be done.**

Let us bring to God those conditions in which we  
long to see Christ reign:  
where conflict is a reality and peace but a dream;  
where greed is honoured and generosity is mocked;  
where injustice reigns and justice is trampled underfoot;  
where the powerful are heard and the powerless are ignored;  
where people are discriminated against  
because of race, creed and gender;  
where the earth is abused;  
where historic hate lives;  
where honest work is derided or denied.

*Silence*

Your Kingdom come.  
**Your will be done.**

Give to us, O God,  
**A vision of your Kingdom**  
**A glimpse of your Glory**  
**An openness to your rule**  
**And your spirit to guide us**  
**Hear us, we pray,**  
**Through Christ,**  
**The risen and ascended one.**

## **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) "These hills"      *Words and Music: Colin Gibson***

These hills where the hawk flies lonely,  
beaches where the long surf rolls,  
mountains 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 as equals,  
justice for age-old wrong,  
worth for every man and woman,  
*these are our prayer.*

Cities where the 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.*

#### **PARTING WORDS** (Ngaa Inoi Whakamutunga)

We now extinguish this candle, 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.**

May you be wholly present in your own life,  
Ready to be surprised by the wonder  
Of each ordinary moment.

Go in peace.

May the earth be warm under your feet,  
The rain bring the gentle flowers of the bush bright around you,  
And the wind blows as the breath of the Spirit before you all. **Amen.**

**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**

\* \* \* \* \*

Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:  
**Gathering Resources for worship** The United Church of Canada  
**UUA Worship** <http://www.uua.org/spirituallife/worshipweb>  
**Jan Chamberlin**, *Hymns from the Heart*  
**Ruth Burgess**, *Fire and Bread*  
**NZ Hymn Book Trust**, *Alleluia Aotearoa, Faith forever Singing.*

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**Image:**

Roger Kemp, Ascension, c.1960,  
Rosemary Crumlin, *Images of Religion in Australian Art*, pg70, Bay Books

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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>