



Wesley Wellington

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

**Sunday, 22 January 2023**  
**Epiphany 3**

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



***Fishing for the light***

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 Sarah Laurenson and Wendy Conwell.*

## 10AM congregation – Order of Service

**Worship leader: Hugh Laurenson**  
**Organist: Colin Scarf**

**Welcome & Safety Briefing**

*Daphne Pilaar*

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

The God of all creation makes us one in the flesh.

**Let us join hearts and voices in praise.**

In Jesus Christ, we are made one in the Spirit.

**Let us be united in truth through the same one Spirit.**

We practice our faith in many different ways.

**Yet we confess one Lord Jesus Christ.**

We render different forms of ministry.

**Yet our calling is one because Christ is undivided.**

Rejoice, people of God: The Risen Christ is among us, calling us together at one table.

**Praise the Lord!**

**Lighting the candle**

As we light this candle, we say together:

**In this season of Light, we light this candle to remind us of God's light shining in the darkness. May we carry this light of hope, peace, and justice to the world around us every day.**

**Opening Prayer**

Kia ora, my friend God.

I give to you the voyage of this day, that to be which is already yours,  
Adding it to my rejoicing, a shout of praise. Amen. Amen.

You are the wind: fill up my sails.

You are the water: run beneath my keel.

And I will sing in the wind and dance over the water.

God my friend, oh God my friend.

You are the light: enfold me.  
You are the darkness: embrace me.  
You are the pain: hollow me.  
You are the love: overflow me.  
The storms of change are you, and the peace of tranquil waters.  
You are all these things, friend God, and I thank you. Amen. Amen.  
May I journey without fear through all your seasons.  
In emptiness, let me find fullness.  
In imprisonment, let me find freedom.  
Render me passive in your will and I shall be most active,  
Moving with you in everything, seeing you in everything,  
Knowing you in everything.  
Amen. Amen.

*Joy Cowley*

### **Hymn: I am the light of the world (WOV 669)**

**I am the light of the world  
you people come and follow me.  
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.**

1. When the song of the angels is stilled.  
When the star in the sky is gone.  
When the kings and the shepherds have found their way home.  
The work of Christmas is begun!
2. To find the lost and lonely one,  
To heal that broken soul with love,  
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,  
To feel the earth below the sky above!
3. To free the prisoner from their chains,  
To make the powerful care,  
To rebuild the nations with strength and goodwill,  
To find true friendship everywhere.

4. To bring hope to every task you do,  
To dance at a baby's new birth,  
To make music in an old man's heart,  
And sing to the colours of the earth!

*Jim Strathdee*

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

We give you all thanks and praise, O God,  
And to bring to you a joyful sacrifice,  
An offering of prayer in your temple.

At the dawn of creation  
You were the light that split open the darkness  
And brought all things into being.  
You called a people to live in your presence  
And walk in the light of your law and prophets.

In Jesus the Christ you have proclaimed to us  
The good news of the nearness of heaven  
And called us to repent and to follow him as disciples.  
He was killed but you raised him to new life,  
And although his cross is derided as foolishness,  
To us who are being saved it is your power at work,  
Breaking the grip of our oppressors, teaching us your truth,  
Healing our sicknesses, increasing our joy  
And leading us home to your house of prayer.  
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.

## **Introducing the Theme**

## Hymn: Be thou my vision (H&P 378)

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;  
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord.  
Born of thy love, thy child may I be,  
Thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.
3. Be thou my buckler, my sword for the fight.  
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight,  
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r.  
Raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
4. Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always.  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
Ruler of heaven, my treasure thou art.
5. True Light of heaven, when vict'ry is won  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!  
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all

*Translated by Mary Byrne*

## Readings:

*Philippa Conway*

## Matthew 4: 12-23

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali — to fulfil what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,  
the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan,  
Galilee of the Gentiles— the people living in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of the shadow of death  
a light has dawned.”

From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

### **Psalm 27: 1, 4-9**

The Lord is my light and my salvation—  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life—  
of whom shall I be afraid?  
One thing I ask from the Lord,  
this only do I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord  
and to seek him in his temple. For in the day of trouble  
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;  
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent  
and set me high upon a rock.  
Then my head will be exalted  
above the enemies who surround me;  
at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make music to the Lord.

Hear my voice when I call, Lord;  
    be merciful to me and answer me.  
My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"  
    Your face, Lord, I will seek.  
Do not hide your face from me,  
    do not turn your servant away in anger;  
    you have been my helper.  
Do not reject me or forsake me,  
    God my Saviour.

## Reflection

### Hymn: Immortal, invisible (H&P 9)

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
    In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
    Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
    Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
    Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
    Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
    Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all life thou givest, to both great and small;  
    In all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
    We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
    And wither and perish but naught changeth thee.
4. Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
    Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
    All praise we would render, O help us to see  
    'Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

*Walter C. Smith*

## 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

In these quieter times, God of peace, as in the busyness of our hectic days, you hear the true prayers of not just what we say, but also what we do and who we are. Hear us as we join our hearts in unity to pray for your church. May we be united in your truth, committed in your love, and sanctified by your grace, that with one heart and one voice we might proclaim your gospel, in word and deed, praising you for your abiding presence in our midst as a community of faith. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for our fellow creatures, this world which you lovingly made, and the people of earth with all their diversity and commonality. We lift to you those in our world who weep, and those who cause their weeping; those without food, clothing, shelter or a means of sustaining life with the dignity of one whom you have created. We pray for those who distort the good news of the gospel, who make gods out of things, out of themselves their systems, institutions or structures, and who find it all so hollow and empty. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for those who live without meaning and hope, who live as objects of the whims of others, and those who live in broken families, broken communities, and a broken world. Lead your church, we pray, toward a new vision of our mission to them in Christ—the vision of shalom—both those who are afar off in other lands, but also here, where each of us may encounter them personally. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**



Tender and compassionate friend, give us the assurance that you are here among your people, and the gifts of quiet and rest in this celebration of your word and table. Enable us with your guidance to be your church and to do your will in our common life together. Pour out your Spirit on those who are suffering, especially as we lift to you our own needs, the needs of those whose lives are closely linked with our own, and those we name in the silence of our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Bless us to follow in the paths of those saints who have gone before us in faith, whose steps were taken in the sure and certain comfort of your presence, that we may faithfully glorify you now, in your church and your world, forever. For these prayers we offer in the name and spirit of Jesus, your Christ, our Lord. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

### **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)

Gracious, eternal, mysterious God,  
we bring our gifts  
with hopeful and faithful spirits.  
Bless the offering  
of these gifts and our lives  
that new hope and new possibilities  
are made real in the lives of those  
whom we serve in following Jesus. Amen

### Hymn: Give thanks for life

1. Give thanks for life, the measure of our days,  
Mortal, we pass through beauty that decays,  
Yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise,  
Alleluia!
2. Give thanks for those who made their life a light  
Caught from the Christ-flame, bursting through the night,  
Who touched the truth, who burned for what is right,  
Alleluia!
3. And for our own, our living and our dead,  
Thanks for the love by which our life is fed,  
A love not changed by time or death or dread,  
Alleluia!
4. Give thanks for hope, that like the wheat, the grain  
That lies in darkness does its life retain  
In resurrection to grow green again,  
Alleluia!

*Shirley Murray*

## **Sending forth / Benediction**

As we leave this gathered worship, we know that we do not leave alone. We go with God into a world resonant with God's presence. We go with one another, bound together in Spirit and in truth, a mighty company of disciples of Jesus Christ. Let us go, then, separately but together, as we seek to be the on-going sign that God is at work in the world. 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 following the service. Many thanks to the Garside family for their kai and manaakitanga.*

Liturgy for this service was sourced from:

*Aotearoa Psalms – Prayers of a New People* - Joy Cowley (1995)  
Discipleship Ministries - The United Methodist Church  
Jeff Shrowder 2000, 2014 – The Billabong  
Laughing Bird – South Yarra Community Baptist Church  
Life in Liturgy

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>