



**Wesley Wellington
75 Taranaki Street**

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

**Sunday 22nd October 2023
Café Church**



“Give therefore
to Caesar the
things that are
Caesar’s and
to God the things
that are God’s.”

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

Living God’s Love – Acting for the common Good

**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**

Café Church in the New Hall

Pentecost 21

**Leaders: Sokopeti Sina & Philip Garside
Guitar: Heather Garside**

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Beloved, we gather in the presence of the Almighty, who knows the depths of our hearts and the sincerity of our worship.

People: In awe and reverence, we come, seeking wisdom and truth in the teachings of our Lord.

As Jesus faced the crafty questions of his time, let us too approach God with open hearts and minds, ready to receive His word.

In the complexities of life, may we find guidance in the simplicity of Christ's profound teachings.

Like the coin with Caesar's image, we, too, bear the divine imprint of our Creator. Let us give to God what is God's, offering our lives in worship and service.

We bring our praises, our questions, and our gratitude, recognizing the sovereignty of God over all aspects of our existence.

Leader: As we engage in this sacred moment, may our worship be authentic, our fellowship be genuine, and our hearts be receptive to the transformative power of God's love.

All: Together, let us worship in spirit and truth, honouring the One who calls us to live in the light of His eternal grace. Amen.

Opening prayer

Loving, living God, be among us now.

Show us your ways. Guide our steps.

Live in us, that we may be people of steadfast hope
and powerful giving.

**Help us hear your words,
challenging us to give you all the things that are yours.**

Help us remember that all we are and all we have
are gifts from you, gifts to be shared in service and love.

**Holy One among us, help us be a holy people
who receive your word with joy and live your message with love. Amen.**

God is with us (Words and music: Jonathan Berkahn)

God is with us, God is with us,
God is with us in this place.
God is with us, God is with us,
in his mercy and his grace.

He will never leave you,
never for-sake you,
never give you up for lost;
in your darkest night,
in your deepest confusion,
he never will abandon hope.

Bible reading: Matthew 22:15-22 (NRSVUE)

The Question about Paying Taxes

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

Slogans and Sayings activity (Philip)

Summing up / Reflection (Sokopeti)

Notices

Prayers for ourselves and others

To the bidding "...God of Glory," please respond with **"hear our prayer."**

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven
holy be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Do not put us to the test,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

Offering and blessing of offering

(We also acknowledge offerings made by automatic payment and online banking)

Jesus said:

**"Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's,
and give to God the things that are God's."
All we have and all we are, has come from God,
so let us worship him with our offerings.**

Offertory Prayer

**Our loving God,
we thank you for protecting us in our daily lives
by providing an ordered and peaceful existence.
Help us to obey and respect the**

governing authorities.

But above all, lead us to honour and

obey you, our Lord,

and to serve you with all that you have given us.

Amen.

Song: Let there be peace on earth

Words & Music: Sy Miller, Jill Jackson

Adapted by Philip Garside (2018)

1. Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me:
Let there be peace on earth,
The peace that was meant to be.
With God always with us
Family all are we.
Let us walk together
In perfect harmony.
2. Let peace begin with me,
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take,
Let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment
and live each moment
In peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth
and let it begin with me.

Benediction & Grace.

May we carry within our hearts the wisdom to discern our dual responsibilities – to render to Caesar with integrity and to God with devotion.

May our actions in the world reflect justice, compassion, and responsibility to our civic duties.

As we navigate the complexities of life, may we remember to honour both the earthly and the divine, recognizing that in fulfilling our earthly obligations, we also contribute to the greater good in the eyes of God.

May our lives be a testament to the harmonious balance of worldly engagement and spiritual dedication. Amen.

The Grace (Said together)

**The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen**

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Liturgy for this service was sourced from:

Let Us Pray, Janet Nelson, HarperCollins 1999;
<https://sacredise.com/>; <https://re-worship.com/>

To keep up-to-date with services and news, visit the parish website:

<https://wesleychurch.org.nz/>

And the 10am Congregation's Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/wesleywellington.methodistchurch.10am>

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