



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

Café Church

Living God's love, Acting for the common good

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
23rd April 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

INTRODUCTION

REFLECTION

OPENING PRAYER:

Risen Christ
Walk with us this day
be our companion and guide
be our teacher and friend
be our host and servant
bringing your gifts of faith, peace and hope
and deep joy
as always. Amen.

HYMN - God who sets us on a journey

Words: Joy Dine; Music Hyfrydol

God who sets us on a journey
to discover, dream and grow,
lead us as you led your people
in the desert long ago;
journey inward, journey outward,
stir the spirit, stretch the mind,
love for God and self and neighbour
marks the way that Christ defined.

Exploration brings new insights,
changes, choices we must face;
give us wisdom in deciding,
mindful always of your grace;
should we stumble lose our bearings,
find it hard to know what's right,
we regain our true direction
focused on the Jesus light.

End our longing for the old days,
Grant the vision that we lack –
once we've started on this journey
there can be no turning back;
let us travel light, discarding
excess baggage from our past,
cherish only what's essential,
choosing treasure that will last.

When we set up camp and settle
to avoid love's risk and pain,
you disturb complacent comfort,
pull the tent pegs up again;
keep us travelling in the knowledge
you are always at our side;
give us courage for the journey,
Christ our goal and Christ our guide.

WALKING TO EMMAUS AGAIN - Luke 24: 13 – 35

LOST, WANDERING

Slow walk, a heavy walk,
along one path we do know,
the path back to the home
we once knew;
for the new path he showed us
vanished
with his death, signposts scattered
with our hope in the dust.

A slow walk,
Heavy talk,
questions questions,
we thought he
was our answer,
questions, questions,
doubt and confusion;
the world had changed colour
through his stories,
life had gained vigour
as his followers – now
how do you follow a ghost
you cannot see?

Slow talk, no talk,
walking without knowing
who, now?
Where, now?
What? How?
How ... now that he is gone?
Why ... must he be gone?

No talk, heavy walk,
Full of emptiness ...

STOPPED SHORT

He walked with us, a stranger,
A stranger who did not know
to grieve, who did not drag
his feet, who had something new
to say.

His lack of grief
Surprised us, though we were not shocked
at his coming beside us.

His wisdom
warmed us, deeply, somehow,
thought we hardly knew it at the time.

He did not know why we were grieving;
He understood the prophet's words,
and, generous, he opened himself
and God's story, so we would see
ourselves.

SITTING AT THE TABLE

Home at last,
and now a chance
to wash our dusty feet,
to be embraced by family
we had long ago left behind;
to sit, to sleep, to rest
from our weary woes.

Home, he was not:
Make ours your own this night.

Fish, we had eaten with our friend,
Eyes moistened by memories.
Bread, fresh-baked today,
He broke –
Surprise, what shock – delight –
At last we recognised!

New life burst forth on weary bones,
New life in grieving hearts.

He left, but no, he yet remained,
Remains, he lives –
Oh, he is here!

CHILDRENS ACTIVITY & DISCUSSION

Since February the Leaders Meeting have been working on a plan for our congregation. You each have a copy of that plan at your table and hopefully a member of leaders meeting sitting at your table. We ask you to

1. Reflect on the reading from Luke (Road to Emmaus) and Joy Dine's hymn – What do these tell us about “Living God's love, Acting for the common good”?
2. Our proposed vision statement is “Living God's love, Acting for the common good” Does this vision inspire us for our journey ahead?
3. Verse 1 of Joy Dine's hymn talks about “journey inwards and journey outwards”, can you find in our strategic plan how we might do this?
4. Can you add other things that might help us journey inwards and journey outwards?

PRAYER

Christ who walks alongside us,
Often without us realising,
May we be more aware of your presence.
As Easter people we know the facts,
But don't always comprehend their meaning.
How foolish we are,
And how slow of heart to believe your truth and your way as you would
have it.
Meet us where we are at.
Teach us again and open our minds,
Awaken in us a new epiphany,
An experience of knowing you in a new way.
Open the Scriptures to us,
That we might hear you as The Word of God,
Leave us surprised and changed,
Reinvigorated in our faith and following.
Set our hearts on fire with a slow burning passion to live your love,
Being and making disciples,
Witnessing to your reality,

And sharing learning about you and what you call us to,
What you call us to be
And what you call us to do.
Christ,
Word of God,
Who walks alongside us and who journeys with us,
Meet us where we are at,
Teach us again and open our minds,
Reinvigorate in our faith and following,
Leave us surprised and changed.
May it always be so.
Amen.

HYMN (Himene) 'One more step along the world I go'

Words and music: Sydney Carter [H&P 746]

One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go;
From the old things to the new,
Keep me travelling along with you:
*And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.*

Round the corners of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn;
All the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me.

As I travel through the bad and good,
Keep me travelling the way I should.
Where I see no way to go,
You'll be telling me the way, I know.

Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough;
Leap and sing in all I do,
Keep me travelling along with you:

You are older than the world can be,

You are younger than the life in me;
Ever old and ever new,
Keep me travelling along with you:

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

Notices

Sharing our joys and concerns

PARTING WORDS (Ngaa Inoi Whakamutunga)

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 8tātou katoa,
8Te ata8whai o tō tā8tou Ariki o Ihu Karaiti,
me te aroha o te Atua,
me te whiwhinga tahitanga
ki te Wairua Tapu. Āmine**

Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:

Walking to Emmaus Again by Sarah Agnew, Wild Goose Publications
Pilgrim Uniting Church, Australia

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