



# Wesley Wellington

75 Taranaki Street

[www.wesleychurch.org.nz](http://www.wesleychurch.org.nz)

Morning Worship

Pentecost 8

Sunday 23 July 2023

Talofa Lava

Kia ora Koutou Katoa

Malo e lelei

Greetings to you all!

Bula Vinaka

**“Surely, the Lord is in this place”.**

**Haere mai ki te-  
nei 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.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

**Leader:** *Kula Bower*

**Organist:** *Colin Scarf*

*Welcome to today's service.*

*A special welcome to visitors. We hope you enjoy worshipping with us this morning and will join us again.*

### **WELCOME & Safety Briefing**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 139 (NIV)**

Psalm 139 (1-12, 23-24)

*For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.*

- <sup>1</sup> You have searched me, LORD,  
and you know me.
- <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit and when I rise;  
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- <sup>3</sup> You discern my going out and my lying down;  
you are familiar with all my ways.
- <sup>4</sup> Before a word is on my tongue  
you, LORD, know it completely.
- <sup>5</sup> You hem me in behind and before,  
and you lay your hand upon me.
- <sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too lofty for me to attain.
- <sup>7</sup> Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?
- <sup>8</sup> If I go up to the heavens, you are there;

if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

<sup>9</sup> If I rise on the wings of the dawn,

if I settle on the far side of the sea,

<sup>10</sup> even there your hand will guide me,

your right hand will hold me fast.

<sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me

and the light become night around me,"

<sup>12</sup> even the darkness will not be dark to you;

the night will shine like the day,

for darkness is as light to you.

**<sup>23</sup> Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.**

**<sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.**

## **CANDLE LIGHTING**

### **Opening Prayer**

(based on Psalm 139)

All-knowing God,

We gather together with praise and thanksgiving

for who You are,

and for all that You have done for us.

**You know us better than we know ourselves—  
all our thoughts and actions—  
and yet You love us.**

No matter where we go or what we do,

Your love encircles us—ahead and behind—

gently leading and guiding and blessing.

We praise You for Your love  
and Your faithful presence in our lives.

**May Your Spirit move in our hearts and minds as we worship together—**

**examine our attitudes and actions,  
lay bare the things we need to confess,  
challenge us with Your Word,  
and guide us on to paths that lead to life.**

**For we are Your people, called by Your name. Amen.**

**HYMN I sing the Almighty Power of God (WOV 40)**

Isaac Watts 1674 - 1748

1. I sing the almighty power of God  
that made the mountain rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad  
and built the lofty skies
2. I sing the wisdom that ordained  
the sun to rule the day;  
the moon shines full at his command,  
and all the stars obey.
3. I sing the goodness of the Lord  
that filled the earth with food;  
he formed the creatures with his word  
and then pronounced them good.
4. There's not a plant or flower below  
but makes thy glories known:  
and clouds arise and tempests blow  
by order from thy throne

5. Creatures, as numerous as they be,  
are subject to thy care;  
there's not a place where we can flee  
but God is present there
  
6. His hand is my perpetual guard,  
he guides me with his eye:  
why should I, then, forget the Lord  
who is for ever nigh?

### **PRAYER FOR PEACE AND THE PEOPLE (followed by the Lords Prayer)**

Faithful God, you have promised that there is no place on earth beyond your presence: hear our prayers for the world and its people.

We pray for all who live in places of war and oppression;  
for prisoners of conscience and for refugees;

for the leaders of nations and all who make and administer laws.

**Search out our hearts and lead us in your way, that we may work for an end to war and injustice.**

**Merciful God, hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, you have promised to be with us even in the darkest parts of life: hear our prayers for all who are in pain, sorrow or hardship.

We pray for those who do not know the joy of companionship and love;  
for those whose minds are anxious and whose hearts are sad;

for the sick and the dying and for all who care for them.

**Search out our hearts and lead us in your way, that we may respond with generosity to the needs of others.**

**Merciful God, hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, you have promised your people the hope of glory: hear our prayers for all who have died in this hope.

We give thanks for the lives of all good and holy people and remember

from this parish those who have gone before us.

**Search out our hearts and lead us in the way everlasting,  
that we, with all our saints, may enter the gate of heaven and dwell  
for ever in your presence.**

**Merciful God, hear our prayer**

## **LORDS PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **CHILDRENS TIME**

**HYMN      Praise, my soul, the king of heaven:      (WOV 68)**

Henry Francis Lyte 1793-1847

1. Praise, my soul, the king of heaven:  
to his feet thy tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who like me his praise should sing?  
Praise him, praise him, hallelujah, praise the everlasting King!
2. Praise him for his grace and favour  
to our fathers in distress  
praise him still the same for ever,

slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
praise him, praise him, hallelujah,  
glorious in his faithfulness!

3. Father-like he tends and spares us:  
well our feeble frame he knows;  
in his hands he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes:  
praise him, praise him, hallelujah,  
widely as his mercy flows!
4. Frail as summer's flower as flourish,  
blows the wind and it is gone;  
but while mortals rise and perish,  
God endures unchanging on.  
Praise him, praise him, hallelujah,  
praise the high eternal one!
5. Angels, help us to adore him,  
ye behold him face to face;  
Sun and moon, bow down before him,  
dwellers all in time and space:  
praise him, praise him, hallelujah,  
praise with us the God of grace!

## **NOTICES**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

O God,  
Jesus taught that where our treasure is,  
there will our hearts be also.  
In this hour, we come bringing our treasures—  
all that we have and all that we are.

We come seeking your treasure—  
treasure that does not fade, decay, or disappoint.  
Share with us the treasure of heaven,  
that we may boldly share it with others. Amen.

## **Scripture Reading:**

### **Genesis 28:10-19(NIV)**

#### **Dream at Bethel**

<sup>10</sup> Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. <sup>11</sup> When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. <sup>12</sup> He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. <sup>13</sup> There above it<sup>[a]</sup> stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. <sup>14</sup> Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>15</sup> I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." <sup>16</sup> When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." <sup>17</sup> He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven." <sup>18</sup> Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. <sup>19</sup> He called that place Bethel,<sup>[c]</sup> though the city used to be called Luz.

### **Matthew 13: 24 – 30 (NIV)**

#### **The Parable of the Weeds**

<sup>24</sup> Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup> But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. <sup>26</sup> When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.



<sup>27</sup> "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'

<sup>28</sup> "'An enemy did this,' he replied.

"The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

<sup>29</sup> "'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

**HYMN     I'm not ashamed to own my Lord                    (WOV 470)**

Isaac Watts 1674 - 1748    Isaac Watts 1674 - 1748

1. I'm not ashamed to own my Lord,  
or to defend his cause,  
maintain the honour of his Word,  
the glory of his cross.
  
2. Jesus, my God: I know his name,  
his name is all my trust,  
nor will he put my soul to shame,  
Not let my hope be lost.
  
3. Firm as his throne his promise stands,  
and he can well secure  
what I've committed to this hands, till the decisive hour.
  
4. Then will he own my worthless name  
before his Father's face,  
and in the new Jerusalem  
appoint my soul a place.

**REFLECTION:        “Surely, the Lord is in this place”.**

**Prayer of Intercession**

Eternal God,  
we thank you for calling us by name.  
In you we live and move and grow.  
We pray for churches and Christians throughout the world.  
Remind us of our common foundation in Christ .  
May we grow together in faith and in love,  
until we attain that unity which is your will.

**Build us together in Christ,  
Make us your dwelling place.**

Send down your Spirit  
so that we may know Jesus and bear witness to our life and unity in him.  
May we know the mind of Christ  
in order to speak God’s wisdom everywhere.  
Strengthen us to work towards peace and reconciliation  
in church and society.

**Build us together in Christ,  
Make us your dwelling place.**

We pray for all churches which are experiencing change –  
growth or struggle, reconciliation or conflict.  
Inspire and strengthen them in works of witness and service.

**Build us together in Christ,  
Make us your dwelling place.**

We pray for those who have no home, no land,  
no food, no work, no medicine, no peace.  
May we recognize and serve Christ in the suffering and the needy.

**Build us together in Christ,  
Make us your dwelling place.**

We thank you for all your gifts of creation.  
Teach us to share with others our time, our energy,  
our resources and our love.  
Make us sensitive and responsive  
to the wounds in the human family and creation.  
May we be faithful to our calling and live a long life on earth.  
May we give our whole life to Christ,  
for we belong to him  
and in him are united all things on earth and in heaven.

**HYMN**

**Hear I am Lord, is it I Lord**

Dan Schutte

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky  
I have heard my people cry  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
My hand will save

**[Chorus]**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me  
I will hold your people in my heart**

2. I, who made the stars of night  
I will make their darkness bright  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
3. I, the Lord of snow and rain  
I have borne my people's pain  
I have wept for love of them  
They turn away

# EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE AND BENEDICTION

## CLOSING PRAYER

May the beauty of God be reflected in your eyes,  
the love of God be reflected in your hands,  
the wisdom of God be reflected in your words,  
and the knowledge of God flow from your heart,  
that all might see, and seeing, believe

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.**

Acknowledgement:  
Let Us Pray (Janet Nelson)  
Reachbeyond.org.uk, [www.living-prayers.com](http://www.living-prayers.com)  
[https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/famous\\_prayers/may\\_the\\_grace.html](https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/famous_prayers/may_the_grace.html)  
<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/07/>



*Please join us for refreshments in the New Hall after  
this service.*

*Thank you for the refreshments*