



Wesley Wellington

75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 26 February 2023

Lent 1

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



***“Lamb of God –
Exercising Soft Power”***

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

Wesley Methodist Church 75 Taranaki Street
10am Congregation

26 February 2023 Lent 1

Leader: Philip Garside. Organist: Vivien Chiu.
Guitar: Heather Garside.

Welcome, Introduction & Safety Briefing

Call to Worship: Loving God Hear Us

Loving God hear us, when in praise we speak of you,
in our words take pleasure,
for you alone we worship God, unto you our prayers ascend.

Redeemer God hear us, when we come in prayer to you,
of our words take notice,
for you alone can save us God, upon you we must depend.

Compassionate God encourage us, when our hearts cry out to you,
in our words hear our distress,
for you alone supply the faith to overcome our fears.

Merciful God be with us, when we seek to understand
show your holy ways to us,
for you alone can school us God on the wonders of your grace.

Gracious God be with us, when we come together
bless all those gathered here,
for you alone can form us God, into the church of our living Lord. Amen.

Lighting the candles

We light a candle during Lent for all who are imprisoned unjustly.
We remember that Jesus was robbed of his liberty and his life.

We light a candle during Lent for all who are in some form of bondage.
We remember that Jesus came to set the captives free.

We light a candle during Lent for all who are hungry and homeless.
We remember that Jesus depended on others for food and shelter.

We light a candle during Lent for all who suffer.
**We remember that by his suffering on the cross Jesus was glorified,
and that by alleviating the suffering of others we share in his glory. Amen.**

Hymn: There's a wideness in God's mercy.

Words: Frederick William Faber (1862). Music: Jonathan Berkahn (2020)

Refrain

There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in His justice
which is more than liberty.

1. There's a welcome for the sinner,
and more graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Saviour;
there is healing in His blood.
There is nowhere that our sorrows
Are more keenly felt than Heaven;
There is nowhere that our failings
have such kindly judgement given.

Refrain

2. But we make his love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we lose the tender Shepherd
in the judge upon the throne;
for the love of God is broader
than the measure of our mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

Refrain

Prayer of Approach: The Season of Lent

Lord Jesus Christ, from ages past the Season of Lent
has been a season for self-reflection,

for acknowledging that we have not come even close to the perfection you desire.

Lord Jesus Christ, from ages past the Season of Lent has been a season for deep appreciation
**of your willingness to forgive our iniquities,
and of our total dependence upon your grace.**

Lord Jesus Christ, from ages past the Season of Lent has been a season for reconciliation,
**for healing any relationships we have broken,
for being grateful that you reconcile us to God.**

Lord Jesus Christ, from ages past the Season of Lent has been a season of spiritual preparation,
**for focussing on the coming Holy Week
when your passion and resurrection will be recalled.**

Lord Jesus Christ, from ages past the Season of Lent has been a season of renewed dedication
**to our calling as your disciples in this generation,
in response to your saving love and mercy. Amen.**

Story Time / Introducing the Theme

Hymn: Master Speak Thy Servant Heareth

Words: FR Havergal (1836-79) H&P 535. Music: W A Mozart (1756-1791)

1. Master speak! Thy servant heareth,
Waiting for Thy gracious word,
Longing for Thy voice that cheereth;
Master, let it now be heard.
I am listening, Lord, for Thee;
What hast Thou to say to me?
2. Speak to me by name, O Master
Let me know it is to me;
Speak, that I may follow faster,
With a step more firm and free,
Where the shepherd leads the flock
In the shadow of the rock.

3. Master speak! Though least and lowest,
Let me not unheard depart;
Master, speak! for O thou knowest,
All the yearning of my heart.
Knowest all its truest need;
Speak, and make me blest indeed.

4. Master, speak; and make me ready,
When thy voice is truly heard,
With obedience glad and steady,
Still to follow every word.
I am listening, Lord, for Thee;
Master, speak! O speak to me!

Readings – from *The Message*

Psalm 32

Count yourself lucky, how happy you must be—
you get a fresh start,
your slate's wiped clean.

Count yourself lucky—
GOD holds nothing against you
and you're holding nothing back from him.

When I kept it all inside,
my bones turned to powder,
my words became daylong groans.

The pressure never let up;
all the juices of my life dried up.

Then I let it all out;
I said, "I'll come clean about my failures to GOD."

Suddenly the pressure was gone—
my guilt dissolved,
my sin disappeared.

These things add up. Every one of us needs to pray;
when all hell breaks loose and the dam bursts
we'll be on high ground, untouched.

GOD's my island hideaway,
keeps danger far from the shore,
throws garlands of hosannas around my neck.

Let me give you some good advice;
I'm looking you in the eye
and giving it to you straight:

"Don't be ornery like a horse or mule
that needs bit and bridle
to stay on track."

God-defiers are always in trouble;
GOD-affirmers find themselves loved
every time they turn around.

Celebrate GOD.
Sing together—everyone!
All you honest hearts, raise the roof!

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Matthew 4:1-11 – The Test

Next Jesus was taken into the wild by the Spirit for the Test. The Devil was ready to give it. Jesus prepared for the Test by fasting forty days and forty nights. That left him, of course, in a state of extreme hunger, which the Devil took advantage of in the first test: "Since you are God's Son, speak the word that will turn these stones into loaves of bread."

Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: "It takes more than bread to stay alive. It takes a steady stream of words from God's mouth."

For the second test the Devil took him to the Holy City. He sat him on top of the Temple and said, "Since you are God's Son, jump." The Devil goaded him by quoting Psalm 91: "He has placed you in the care of angels. They will catch you so that you won't so much as stub your toe on a stone."

Jesus countered with another citation from Deuteronomy: "Don't you dare test the Lord your God."

For the third test, the Devil took him to the peak of a huge mountain. He gestured expansively, pointing out all the earth's kingdoms, how glorious they all were. Then he said, "They're yours—lock, stock, and barrel. Just go down on your knees and worship me, and they're yours."

Jesus' refusal was curt: "Beat it, Satan!" He backed his rebuke with a third quotation from Deuteronomy: "Worship the Lord your God, and only him. Serve him with absolute single-heartedness."

The Test was over. The Devil left. And in his place, angels! Angels came and took care of Jesus' needs.

Sermon: Lamb of God – Exercising Soft Power

Sing: I take Thy promise

Words: Henry Legh Richmond Deck (1885). Music: Jonathan Berkahn (2013)

1. I take Thy promise, Lord, in all its length,
and breadth, and fullness, as my daily strength;
into life's future fearless I may gaze,
for, Saviour. Thou art with me all the days.
2. Days may be coming fraught with loss and change,
new scenes surround my life and faces strange;
I thank Thee that no day can ever break,
Saviour, when Thou wilt leave me or forsake.
3. There may be days of darkness and distress,
when sin has power to tempt, and care to press,
yet in the darkest day I will not fear,
for, 'mid the shadows, Thou wilt still be near.
4. Days there may be of joy and deep delight,
when earth seems fairest, and her skies most bright,
then draw me closer to Thee, lest I rest
elsewhere, my Saviour, than upon Thy breast.
5. And all the other days that make my life,
marked by no special joy or grief or strife,
days filled with quiet duties, trivial care,
burdens too small for other hearts to share.
6. Spend Thou these days with me, all shall be Thine,
so shall the darkest hour with glory shine.
Then when these earthly years have passed away,
let me be with Thee in the perfect day.

Community Time

Sharing the Peace

Let's greet each other saying: "Peace be with you."

Notices

Sharing Joys, Things we are Grateful for, Sorrows & Concerns

Prayers of intercession

To the bidding "*strengthen us to do your will and fill us with your grace...*" we will sing this response:

$\text{♩} = 60$

Am Em Gm D Am Em C B7

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us.

Lord's Prayer [Sung] (WOV 676)

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

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

Blessing of Offering (said together)

**God, we are committed to living our lives for you,
giving of our time and talents for you,
giving of our substance to you.
May these offerings we give to you
further the mission you have us do.
We thank you for all you give to us.
Bless the little we give back to you. Amen.**

Hymn: Loving God of Aotearoa.

Words: Philip Garside (2010). Music (Thaxted): Gustav Theodore Holst (1918)

1. Loving God of Aotearoa,
hear now our call to you,
We have gathered in your presence,
to celebrate anew!
We have come from many places,
speaking, thinking differently,
But in you we are united
one whole, strong family.

Refrain

Let us heed your call to service and follow lovingly,
May we be compassionate people, alive in you and free.

2. Scripture tells of faithful people,
who spread your light and love
Now inspire, lead, direct us,
so we can be like them.
May the Way that Christ has taught us,
and the power of your Word,
Set a fire burning in us,
for justice and for love.

Refrain

Let us heed your call to service and follow lovingly,
May we be compassionate people, alive in you and free.

3. Rimu tall with tui singing,
proclaim your majesty,
You who care for all creation,
will always care for me.
Matariki's spirit guide us,
rise within us all the year.
Help us live and speak forgiveness,
your people want to hear.

Refrain

Let us heed your call to service and follow lovingly,
May we be compassionate people, alive in you and free.

Commissioning

The God who made the universe and said it was good,
looks down upon you and says you are good.
Go from here knowing you are treasured by God.
Go from here knowing God's infinite love.
The blessings of God are upon you this day.
The blessings of God be upon all whom you love. **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**



Content for this service was sourced from:

Prayers for Southern People, Joy Kingsbury-Aitken, (2023);

Let Us Pray, Janet Nelson (1999);

Lamb of God (from *A Hopkins Gloria*, 2020) by Jonathan Berkahn. (Adapted by Philip Garside);

I take Thy promise: Music: *Songs of Expectation*, Jonathan Berkahn (2013)

Sheep photograph: Alexander Garside – Garside Imaging

The North Wind and the Sun, Brian Wildsmith (1971)

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>