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

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023**  
**PALM SUNDAY**

*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  
COMBINED SERVICE – PALM SUNDAY**

**Worship leader – Rev Utumau’u Pupulu  
Organist – Colin Scarf**

**WELCOME & BRIEFING**

**Invitation to worship**

On the back of a donkey,

**Jesus came to save us.**

On the road to Jerusalem,

**Jesus came to heal us.**

In the joy of laughing children and the shouts of loud hosannas,

**Jesus came to show us the way.**

**LIGHTING THE CANDLE**

**INTROIT**

**Tongans**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**God’s steadfast love endures forever.**

The stone that the builders rejected,  
has become the chief cornerstone.

**This is the Lord’s doing.**

**It is marvellous in our eyes.**

Line the festival procession with branches.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Loving God, our hearts sing with the children,

when we see you ride into Jerusalem on a donkey.

Our lips shout your praises,

as you empty yourself to become servant of all.  
Open our hearts to the depth of your love,  
that we might walk faithfully with you  
during the long week ahead. **Amen**

**HYMN: Rejoice, the Lord is King**

**H&P 243**

- 1 Rejoice, the Lord is King:  
Your Lord and King adore!  
Rejoice, give thanks and sing,  
And triumph evermore.  
*Lift up your heart,  
Lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*
  
- 2 Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,  
The God of truth and love;  
When He has purged our stains,  
He took his seat above;  
*Lift up your heart,  
Lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*
  
- 3 His kingdom cannot fail,  
He rules o'er earth and heaven.  
The keys of death and hell  
Are to our Jesus given:  
*Lift up your heart,  
Lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*
  
- 4 Rejoice in glorious hope!  
Our Lord and judge shall come.  
And take His servants up.  
To their eternal home:  
*We soon shall hear the archangel's voice,  
The trump of God shall sound: Rejoice!*

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Loving God, we often ignore the desire of our hearts.  
We long to sing hosannas with a cheering crowd,  
but we turn aside at the sight of an angry mob.

**We yearn to dine lovingly at your table,  
but we retreat into the courtyard and shadows.  
We hope to defend the one we love,  
but we succumb to the limits of our strength.  
It is so easy to betray you with a kiss.**

Forgive our fickle faith,  
and heal our hesitant hearts,  
for our spirits ache to be found worthy.  
**Amen.**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

The one the builders rejected,  
has become our cornerstone,  
the very foundation of our salvation.  
Christ offers us forgiveness and fullness of grace.  
**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER** (*In the language of your choice*)

### **HYMN: Tell me the stories of Jesus**

H&P 153

1. Tell me the stories of Jesus,  
I love to hear,  
Things I would ask him to tell me,  
If he were here:  
Scenes by the wayside,  
Tales of the sea,  
Stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

2. First let me hear how the children,  
Stood round his knee,  
And I shall fancy his blessing.  
Resting on me,  
Words full of kindness,  
Deeds full of grace,  
All in the lovelight of Jesus' face.
  
3. Into the city I'd follow  
The children's band,  
Waving a branch of the palm tree  
High in my hand,  
One of his heralds,  
Yes, I would sing  
Loudest hosannas, "Jesus is King!"

W. H. Parker (1845-1929)

**10am SINGING GROUP: *I Take Thy Promise by Jonathan Berkahn***

**MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

**Psalms 118: 1-2, 19-29**

**Samoan**

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

## **Mathew 21: 1-11**

**Tongan**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

## **ANTHEM**

**Samoans**

## **REFLECTION**

**Utumau'u Pupulu**

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(please stand)*

We are not alone – we live in God's world.

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our Judge and our Hope in life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us. We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

Crowds cheered when you came to Jerusalem,  
you came to bring peace,  
but the civil authorities did not welcome you.

Jesus, we pray for your world,  
for peace that brings an end to violence, oppression, and war,  
for peace that enables all people to live with dignity and justice,  
for world leaders and for all who commit their lives  
to work of peace.

Jesus, Son of David, let us follow in your way,  
**let us walk with you to Jerusalem.**

Crowds cheered when you came to Jerusalem,  
you came to bring the freedom of the Spirit,  
but the chief priests plotted your death.

Jesus, we pray for your church,  
for a church freed from false dogma and legalism,  
discord and division,  
for a pilgrim church, ready to travel where you lead,  
for all leaders of your church and for those who  
minister in your name.

Jesus, Son of David, let us follow in your way,  
**let us walk with you to Jerusalem.**

Crowds cheered when you came to Jerusalem,  
you came to bring love,  
but you were betrayed and deserted by your friends.

Jesus, we pray for this community,  
for our families, our friends, for those with without  
hope for the future.  
for all who live in fear or despair and all who  
know the pain of betrayal.

Jesus, Son of David, let us follow in your way,  
**let us walk with you to Jerusalem.**

Crowds cheered when you came to Jerusalem,  
you came to bring healing to sick,  
and release to the captive,  
but you were beaten, imprisoned, and killed.

Jesus, we pray for all in need,  
for prisoners of conscience and those held without trial,  
for all whose beliefs lead them to frightening and lonely places,  
for the friendless, the unwanted  
and all from whom we turn away,  
for the sick and all who mourn.

Jesus, Son of David, let us follow in your way,  
**let us walk with you to Jerusalem.**

Crowds cheered when you came to Jerusalem,  
you travelled towards the Cross,  
but Jerusalem was also the place of the empty tomb.  
We give you thanks for faithful people throughout,  
the ages who have followed you on this journey.

Jesus, let us suffer and die with you,  
that we may rise to fullness of life with you.  
Jesus, Son of David, let us follow in your way,  
**let us walk with you to Jerusalem.**

**HYMN: All glory, laud, and honour**

H&P 160

1 All glory, laud, and honour  
To thee, Redeemer, King,  
To whom the lips of children  
Made sweet hosannas ring.  
Thou art the King of Israel  
Thou David's royal Son,  
Who in the Lord's name comest,  
The King and Blessed One.



2 The company of angels  
Are praising thee on high,  
And mortal men and all things  
Created reply make reply.  
The people of the Hebrews  
With palms before thee went  
Our praise and prayer and anthems  
Before thee we present.

3 To thee before thy passion  
They sang their hymns of praise;  
To thee, now high exalted,  
Our melody we raise.  
Thou didst accept their praises,  
Accept the prayers we bring,  
Who in all good delighted,  
Thou good and gracious King!

4 All glory, laud, and honour  
To thee, Redeemer, King,  
To whom the lips of children  
Made sweet hosannas ring!

*Theodulph of Orleans*

## **OFFERTORY**

God gives us steadfast love and abundant mercy.  
Now, we are invited to bring our gifts to God as tokens of our  
thanksgiving and praise.

*(We acknowledge our gifts for the food bank and the work of the Parish through envelope  
and cash offerings, and through automatic payments and online banking.)*

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Thank you, O God, for coming to us in Christ Jesus.  
Work through these gifts,  
that the world might know the breadth  
of your mercy and your grace**

**Bless our very lives,  
that we might be faithful disciples  
and stewards of your love.  
With gratitude and joy, we pray. Amen.**

## **MINISTRY OF SACRAMENT**

The Lord is here.

**God's Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **PRAYER**

Although rejected and betrayed,

his self-giving love conquered all, even death on the cross.

You raised him victorious over death,

so that he might be with us for ever.

Through your spirit you have brought the church to birth,

and empowered us to give this good news to all.

Therefore, with all your people in heaven and on earth

we worship and praise your glorious name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread,  
and after giving thanks broke it and gave it to his disciples saying,

*“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.*

*Do this in remembrance of me.”*

In the same way he took the cup after supper and said,

*“This cup is the new covenant in my blood.*

*Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”*

**Glory to you, Lord Christ  
Your death we proclaim.  
Your resurrection we celebrate.  
Your coming we await.**

### **PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Come Holy Spirit, that these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Bind us into one body, that we may grow into the fullness of Christ who is the head.

**We come to your table, Lord,  
trusting not in our own righteousness  
but in your great mercy.  
We are not worthy even to gather the crumbs,  
from under the table.  
But you are the same Lord,  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,  
so, to eat this bread and drink this wine,  
that Christ may evermore dwell in us and we in him.  
Amen.**

### **BREAKING OF BREAD**

The bread which we break, is a sharing in the body of Christ.  
The wine which we pour, is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

**Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**

Draw near in faith and take this holy sacrament in remembrance that Christ died for you.

*The Tongan Choir, who will sing during today's communion, are invited to come forward first, followed by everyone. Please approach by the centre aisle for your bread and return by the side for you wine.*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Gracious God, we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living he declared your love,  
gave us grace and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life,  
we who drink his cup bring life to others,  
we whom the spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so, we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name.  
Amen.**

## **HYMN Love divine, all loves excelling**

H&P267

### **1. English**

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
All thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.

### **2. Fijian**

Sa dau yaco mai na gauna  
Kivei keda kecega,  
Me da digitaka kina  
Na vinaka se na ca:  
Me da vakatudaliga  
Ki na kaci i Jisu,  
Se muria ga na meca  
Era cati Koya tu.

### 3. **Tongan**

Ofaange ke lilingi  
Ki he fakataha ni  
'A e kelesi Hotau 'Eiki  
Hono ivi ngaue mai!  
Ka tau hao mei he kovi,  
Ka tau laka pe ki mu'a  
'O tau tupu ai ke ofi  
Ki he anga he 'Otua.

### 4. **Samoan**

Le Alii e, silasila  
Ia i matou uma nei  
O tagata agasala  
Ma ua matua sese  
A ia e sisila lava  
I le maliu o Iesu  
Le na matua saunia  
O le olataga fou.

### 5. **English**

Finish then thy new creation,  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see thy great salvation,  
Perfectly restored in thee:  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

**Extinguishing the candle**

## **BENEDICTION**

The gates of righteousness are thrown wide.

**We go with Christ's blessing.**

The path of salvation is made plain.

**We will walk in the ways of truth and life.**

The cornerstone of our faith is sure.

**Our lives are built on the foundation of our God.**

**Amen.**

Ma te Marie (*Sung unaccompanied*)

Ma te marie a te Atua	<i>The peace of God</i>
Tatou katoa e tiaki;	<i>keep us all.</i>
Mana ano e whakau	<i>He will confirm</i>
O tatou ngakau ki te pai.	<i>our hearts in goodness.</i>

Ma te Atua Tamaiti ra,	<i>May the Son of God</i>
Ma te Wairua Tapu hoki,	<i>and the Holy Spirit too,</i>
Ratou, Atua kotahi nei.	<i>one God,</i>
Tatou katoa e whakapai.	<i>Bless us all.</i>
Amine.	<i>Amen.</i>

*Please join us in the new hall for refreshments following the service.*

### Resources

*The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023*

*Let Us Pray by Janet Nelson*

*NZMC Communion Liturgy*

*Online freepik images – [www.freepik.com](http://www.freepik.com)*

*H&P Hymnbook*