



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

Sunday 30TH APRIL 2023
EASTER 4 – GOOD SHEPHERD 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 - 10am Congregation
Wesley Methodist Church 75 Taranaki Street
30th 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 - Sarah Laurenson

GATHERING (Mihimihi)

LIGHTING THE CANDLE (Kānara Whakamāmā)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Ngaa Kupu Whakapuuare)

Christ Jesus is the way to life.

It may not be a life of endless rest and recreation, but, within its boundaries, the voice of Christ calls to us in love.

There we will be renewed and nurtured.

There we will find all that we need, and be embraced by the care of God discovering a home in which lies all that we need.

Christ's church may be part of that sanctuary,

restoring our lives and preparing us to live as the people who follow the way of the Christ.

HYMN (Himene) '**Alleluia, Alleluia**' [H&P 250]

Words and Music: Donal Fishel

*Alleluia, alleluia,
give thanks to the risen Lord,
alleluia, alleluia,
give praise to his name.*

1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth;
He is the King of creation:
2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and has risen:
3. God has proclaimed the just reward:
new life for all! Alleluia!
4. Come, let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Saviour:

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Inoi Tuatahi)

God of infinite love: we come today in response to your warm tenderness to us. As the Good Shepherd of every flock, and of every tradition and culture, we come to worship you and to revere you for your all-inclusive love and care of all that you have created. In confident trust we gather together as your people in this time and place to offer to you our praises of thanks for the way your love is seen and experienced in all spheres of life – if we but take the time to look and see God at work amongst us – blessing and surrounding us with grace and mercy.

**The Lord is our shepherd; we have all that we need.
You are close beside us.**

God of limitless mercy: we come in response to your gentle nurturing of us as we travel through life with all its challenges and blessings. Gracious God, as the Compassionate Carer of all vulnerable people, we give our thanks and praises for the way you support and strengthen us when we are at our weakest points in life and living. There are many times when we are overwhelmed by the pressures of life; and that is when we are most in need of our Good Shepherd, to nurture us with your presence as you walk beside us, giving us the trust in you we need.

**The Lord is our shepherd; we have all that we need.
You renew our strength.**

God of all peoples: we come to praise you in response to your welcoming and generous care of all your people, which overflows with love and understanding. As the Leader, Guide and Protector of every flock of “sheep” and of “goats”- so we revere and praise you for your generous and gracious mercy to us all. We give to God our thanks and praises for the wonderful gift of trust, which allows us to confidently come to God with our prayers, our praises and our thanks. We are so blessed by the encouragement we receive in response to that blessing of sure and certain trust that God is indeed our Good Shepherd.

The Lord is our shepherd; we have all that we need. You guide us in the right way. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME (Tīmatanga Kōrero)

HYMN (Himene) ‘I know someone who watches over me’ [AA 66]

Words and Music: Bonnie Low

I know someone who watches over me all through the day.
I know someone who cares for me in every single way,
the Shepherd who will help me if I ever go astray.
He’s the Lord and Jesus is his name.

*He’s the children’s Saviour, he’s the children’s friend,
A very special person and his love will never end.
He’s the children’s Saviour, he’s the children’s friend.
He’s the Lord and Jesus is his name.*

Whenever I am lonely or whenever I am sad,
Jesus comes to cheer me up and make my heart so glad.
He’s got to be the nicest friend that I have ever had.
He’s the Lord and Jesus is his name.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD (Ngaa Paanui Karaipiture) – Peter Grundy

The Shepherd and the Host – *Psalm 23*

Written by: Jim Cotter

Dear God, you sustain me and feed me:
Like a shepherd you guide me.
You lead me to an oasis of green,
to lie down by restful waters.

Quenching my thirst, you restore my life:
Renewed and refreshed, I follow you,
a journey on the narrowest of paths.
You keep me true to your name.

Even when cliffs loom out of the mist,
my step is steady because of my trust.
Even when I go through the deepest valley,
with the shadow of darkness and death,
I will fear no evil or harm.
For you are with me to give me strength,
your crook, your staff, at my side.

Even in the midst of my troubles,
with the murmurs of those who disturb me,
I know I can feast in your presence.

You spread a banquet before me,
you anoint my head with oil,
you stoop to wash my feet,
you fill my cup to the brim.

Your loving kindness and mercy
Will meet me every day of my life.
By your Spirit you dwell within me,

and in the whole world around me,
and I shall abide in your house,
content in your presence for ever.

Wise and loving Shepherd, you guide your people in the ways of your truth, leading us through the waters of baptism and nourishing us with the food of eternal life: keep us in your mercy, and so guide us through the perils of evil and death, that we may know your joy at the heart of all things, both now and for ever.

John 10: 1-10 (The Message)

10 ¹⁻⁵ “Let me set this before you as plainly as I can. If a person climbs over or through the fence of a sheep pen instead of going through the gate, you know he’s up to no good—a sheep rustler! The shepherd walks right up to the gate. The gatekeeper opens the gate to him and the sheep recognize his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he gets them all out, he leads them and they follow because they are familiar with his voice. They won’t follow a stranger’s voice but will scatter because they aren’t used to the sound of it.”

⁶⁻¹⁰ Jesus told this simple story, but they had no idea what he was talking about. So he tried again. “I’ll be explicit, then. I am the Gate for the sheep. All those others are up to no good—sheep rustlers, every one of them. But the sheep didn’t listen to them. I am the Gate. Anyone who goes through me will be cared for—will freely go in and out, and find pasture. A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.

REFLECTION (He Whakaaroaro)

HYMN – ‘Where the light of Easter Day’ [HioS 153]

Words: Shirley E. Murray, Music: Jillian Bray

Where the light of Easter Day
Shines through our life, then faith can say,
Christ is living,
Christ is moving,
Christ is changing all the world.
Here is God’s good kingdom!

Where the yeast of love will rise,
Bubbling with God’s new enterprise,
Christ is living,
Christ is moving,
Christ is working through the world.
Here is God’s good kingdom!

Where a child can grow in trust,
Where there is joy that powers are just,
Christ is living,
Christ is moving,
Christ will colour all the world.
Here is God’s good kingdom!

Where the harvests ripen in peace,
Where all the sounds of gunfire cease,
Christ is living,
Christ is moving,
Christ is healing in the world.
Here is God’s good kingdom!

Where the Spirit’s flame burns bright,
where there is health and truth and light,
Christ is living,
Christ is moving,
Christ will resurrect the world.
Here is God’s good kingdom!

OFFERING (Taatou Koha Ki Te Haahi)

We acknowledge all gifts of time, talents and money.

Blessing of Offering (said together)

**God of love, use these our gifts for your work of caring,
That all may feast at the table of abundance,
Walk without fear, and drink deeply from
The cup of compassion. Amen.**

COMMUNITY TIME

God makes peace within us. Let us claim it.
God makes peace between us. Let us share it.
Let us greet one another as a sign of God's peace.

Let us greet each other saying:

The peace of God is here to stay.

Notices

Sharing our joys and concerns

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS (Ngaa Inoi mot e Whaanau)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;
We believe in the goodness of God.
We believe God hears and responds to our needs.
We believe God responds to all children everywhere.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters,
he restores my soul.
We are grateful that we've been blessed with enough water.
But we know that many do not have enough.
Not enough water, not enough food, not enough peace.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Too many children do not see God's righteousness.
Too many children watch violence, taste hunger, feel fear.
Too many children cry from the unspeakable horror of war.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
To become involved is risky. Pain is often contagious.
Our hearts may be broken, and our lives may be threatened.
Yet we hear God calling and we can no longer hide.

Thou preparest a table for me in the presence of my enemies;
thou annointest my head with oil, my cup overflows.
Our steps may be small and timid.
We may read a book, write a letter, or make a gift.
But each tiny step is blessed by God and multiplies.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.
God is more relentless than war.
God is more pervasive than hatred.
God is more insistent than despair.
Amen.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (He Inoi O Te Ariki)

E tō mātou Matua i te rangi
Kia tapu tou Ingoa
Kia tae mai tou rangatira-tanga.
Kia meatia tau e pai ai

ki runga i te whenua,
kia rite ano ki to te rangi.
Homai ki a mātou aianeī
he taro mā mātou mo tēnei ra.
Murua o mātou hara
Me mātou hoki e muru nei
i o te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.
Aua hoki mātou e kawea kia whaka-waia;
Engari whaka-orangia mātou, i te kino:
Nou hoki te rangatira-tanga,
te kaha,
me te kororia,
Ake, ake, ake.
Āmine.

HYMN (Himene) ‘There’s a wideness in God’s mercy’ [HioS 135]

Words: F W Faber *altered by* Colin Gibson. Music: Colin Gibson

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there’s a kindness in God’s justice
which is more than liberty.
There’s no place where human sorrows
Are more deeply felt than heaven;
there’s no place where human failings
have such kindly judgements given.

For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make that love too narrow
by the limits of our own;
and we magnify God’s strictness
with a zeal Love will not own.

There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that endless world of bliss.
If our love were but more simple,
we would trust the living Word;
and our lives would fill with gladness
in the joy of Christ our Lord.

PARTING WORDS (Ngaa Inoi Whakamutunga)

As we prepare to leave this sacred space
Where we have worshipped together,
Let us return to our lives enlivened and renewed ...

The candle is extinguished.

We extinguish this candle,
Knowing the light of the risen One is within us,
And we carry it forth from this place.

Blessing

May God the heart of life be deep within us,
God the Christ be present in our history,
And God the Spirit empower us
To sing and dance and celebrate.

Amen.

**Kia tau ki a tātou katoa,
te atawhai o to tātou Ariki o Ihu Karaiti,
me te aroha o te Atua,
me te whiwhinga tahitanga
ki te Wairua Tapu. Amine**

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Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:

Moira Laidlaw, "Words for Worship" (*adapted*)

Mary Petrina Boyd, "Ministry Matters"

Katherine Hawker, "Liturgies Outside"

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By Quang Nguyen Vinh

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