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

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023**

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

**WELCOME**

**INTROIT**

*Tongan Choir*

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE** *(Continue standing)*

**As we light this candle, may the light of Your Word live in us,  
and always kindle our desire to walk with You,  
serve You, and to be a witness for You.  
Amen.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Continue standing)*

We are standing on holy ground.

**All those who have gone before us,  
have witnessed to the love of God.**

We gather as a community of compassion and hope.

**Jesus calls us to care for each other tenderly and willingly.**

By this caring and sharing we will be known as followers of Jesus.

**By our example others may be led to lives of peace.**

Lord, open our hearts and minds this day to your word,  
and to accept the call to serve you by helping others.

**Teach us to serve you with all our gifts and talents.**

**Amen.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Great I AM, you come to us in unexpected ways.

Exite our curiosity, that we might turn aside  
and realize we are standing on holy ground.

Appear to us in fire and wonder, that we might see worlds  
beyond the reaches of our imaginations.

**Reveal the glory of your kingdom,  
where love is genuine  
where evil is forsaken  
where mutual affection abides.  
and hospitality is shown to strangers.  
where all are made one.**

**Amen.**

**HYMN: All people that on earth do dwell.**

HP 1

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*Rev. Simote Taunga*

God of love and mercy, be with us this day.

We have faltered in our service to you.

We create divisions between various people; we judge before we listen;  
we condemn before we make any attempt to understand.

**Our lives are in turmoil, and we confess that,  
we have turned away from you.**

**It is fear and anger that too often surrounds us,  
and our actions become based on those fears and anger.**

Slow us down, Lord.

Give us hearts overflowing with grace and compassion.

Help us to mirror Jesus who loved and healed others,  
who were rejected by “polite” society.

**Remind us that we are called to be strong voices of hope,  
for those who feel alienated and lost,  
we are called to be a home to strangers,  
to quench thirst and to give nourishment,  
to welcome and bring words of hope.**

Forgive us when we have forgotten these things.

**AMEN.**

**Words of Assurance**

Christ calls each of us into lives of service and hope.

He equips us for these ministries and  
places us on the pathways of peace.

Rejoice! You are called by God’s Son and blessed by him.

*(Let us say together the Lord’s Prayer in the language of your choice)*

**10AM SINGING GROUP “Let the Peoples Praise You (Psalm 67)”**

*by Wellington composer Jonathan Berkahn.*

## **MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

### **First Reading Exodus 3: 1-15**

*10am*

Moses was shepherding the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. He led the flock to the west end of the wilderness and came to the mountain of God, Horeb. The angel of God appeared to him in flames of fire blazing out of the middle of a bush. He looked. The bush was blazing away but it didn't burn up. Moses said, "What's going on here? I can't believe this! Amazing! Why doesn't the bush burn up?"

God saw that he had stopped to look. God called to him from out of the bush, "Moses! Moses!" He said, "Yes? I'm right here!" God said, "Don't come any closer. Remove your sandals from your feet. You're standing on holy ground." Then he said, "I am the God of your father: The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob." Moses hid his face, afraid to look at God. God said, "I've taken a good, long look at the affliction of my people in Egypt. I've heard their cries for deliverance from their slave masters; I know all about their pain. And now I have come down to help them, pry them loose from the grip of Egypt, get them out of that country and bring them to a good land with wide-open spaces, a land lush with milk and honey, the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite.

"The Israelite cry for help has come to me, and I've seen for myself how cruelly they're being treated by the Egyptians. It's time for you to go back: I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the People of Israel, out of Egypt."

Moses answered God, "But why me? What makes you think that I could ever go to Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt?" "I'll be with you," God said. "And this will be the proof that I am the one who sent you: When you have brought my people out of Egypt, you will worship God right here at this very mountain."

Then Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the People of Israel and I tell them, 'The God of your fathers sent me to you'; and they ask me, 'What is his name?' What do I tell them?"

God said to Moses, "I-AM-WHO-I-AM. Tell the People of Israel, 'I-AM sent me to you.'"

God continued with Moses: "This is what you're to say to the Israelites: 'God, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob sent me to you.' This has always been my name, and this is how I always will be known.

**Second Reading: Matthew 16: 21-28***Fijian*

Then Jesus made it clear to his disciples that it was now necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, submit to an ordeal of suffering at the hands of the religious leaders, be killed, and then on the third day be raised up alive. Peter took him in hand, protesting, "Impossible, Master! That can never be!" But Jesus didn't swerve. "Peter, get out of my way. Satan, get lost. You have no idea how God works." Then Jesus went to work on his disciples. "Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am. Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self. What kind of deal is it to get everything you want but lose yourself? What could you ever trade your soul for? "Don't be in such a hurry to go into business for yourself. Before you know it the Son of Man will arrive with all the splendor of his Father, accompanied by an army of angels. You'll get everything you have coming to you, a personal gift. This isn't pie in the sky by and by. Some of you standing here are going to see it take place, see the Son of Man in kingdom glory."

**ANTHEM***Samoan Choir***REFLECTION – Theme: "We are called to serve"***Rev Utumau'u Pupulu**(Take a moment to reflect on the message)***AFIRMATION 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.**

**HYMN     Take my life and let it be**

**HP705(ii)**

**PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

*Rev. Nicola Teague Grundy*

*Leader     Holy God, in your mercy,  
All         Hear our prayers.*

**THE MINISTRY OF SACRAMENT**

**OFFERTORY**

*Sokopeti Sina*

As God has blessed our lives with abundant love and gifts,  
let us bring our offerings to this place, seeking to help others,  
to offer comfort and hope. Let us receive our morning offering.

*(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**

**God of new beginnings, receive these gifts of our hands,  
that hospitality might be extended to those in need.  
Bless today's offering,  
that the hungry may be fed  
and the thirsty may be satisfied.  
May these gifts seal our commitment  
to do what is just and honorable in your sight.  
Amen.**

**THANKSGIVING**

All glory and thanksgiving to you, living God,  
creator and sustainer of the universe;  
you gave us your beloved Son Jesus Christ  
who, on the night he was betrayed, 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 to remember 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.  
Amen**

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

Come Holy Spirit, that these gifts 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.  
**Amen.**

**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 your 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 BREAD**

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.  
The cup of blessing for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

**“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”**

### **INVITATION**

Welcome for all things are now ready.  
Draw near in faith and take the holy sacrament,  
in remembrance that Christ died for you.

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

## **PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION**

**I am no longer my own, but yours.  
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will,  
put me to doing, put me to suffering,  
let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,  
exalted for you or brought low for you.  
Let me be full, let me be empty:  
let me have all the things, let me have nothing,  
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things  
to your pleasure and disposal.  
And now, glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
You are mine and I am yours.  
So be it. Amen.**

**HYMN: Brother, Sister, let me serve you.**

**AA8**

## **BENEDICTION**

Jesus has called you and placed his trust in you.  
Go into this world, bearing the words of hope and healing.  
Reach out to others in compassion.  
For it is Jesus' name, that you are sent out to serve.  
**AMEN.**

## **THE GRACE**

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

## **MA TE MARIE** (*Sung unaccompanied*)

Mā te mārie a te Atua	<i>The peace of God</i>
Tātou katoa e tiaki;	<i>keep us all.</i>
Mana anō e whakaū	<i>He will confirm</i>
O tātou ngākau ki te pai.	<i>our hearts in goodness.</i>

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

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