



Wesley Wellington

75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday, 5th March 2023



Lent 2

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 — Tālofa lava
Mālō e lelei — Bula vinaka — Greetings to you all!

Welcome to today's service. A special welcome to visitors. We hope you will enjoy worshipping with us this morning and will join us again.

Welcoming you today is Sarah Laurenson.

10AM congregation – Order of Service

Worship leader: Sokopeti Sina

Organist: Colin Scarf

Welcome & Safety Briefing

Sarah Laurenson

Call to Worship (please respond in bold type)

Come, all who need help!

**Our help comes from God,
the one who made heaven and earth.**

Come, all who desire blessing!

**Our blessing comes from God,
the God of Abraham, the God of the ages.**

Come, all who long for salvation!

**Our salvation comes from Jesus Christ,
the one sent by God to save the world.**

Lighting the candle

O Blessed Lord, Lord of light. As I light this candle, I am mindful of your love for us, and our faith in You.

We ask you to help us be a light in this world for You. Our desire is to reflect Your light, be a good witness and point people to the Light.

We want to be used in your service. Cleanse us O Lord, and make us ready for your service.

Help us to see what You want us to see and do what You want us to do.

Let us to remember Your Word and to feel surrounded by Your presence.

As this light penetrates the darkness, let our light—our lives and our witnesses, impact this darkened world for You.

Help us to be ready to serve and share, in season and out, for Your honour and for Your glory.

Amen

Hymn: Love divine, all loves excelling (WOV 148)

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, 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 ev'ry trembling heart.

2. Come, Almighty, to deliver,
let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

3. Finish, then, thy new creation;
true and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Opening Prayer

Loving God,
we come to you in worship and thanksgiving.
You are greater than we can understand;

Open our eyes that we may see the wonderful truths

you have shown to us in Jesus.

You are more loving than our hearts can respond to;

**help us to give ourselves to you in worship
so that we learn what you want us to be.**

Loving God, in Jesus
you chose to come to the world in humility.

In this moment of worship, we pray that you might bless us anew.
Give us ears to hear the melodies of praise that fill the world around us.

**And as we hear the songs, teach us to sing,
to dance with abandon,**

to rejoice in the wonders of your grace.

Forgive us when we have passed by signs of your mercy.

From this moment forward,

**Open our eyes to the places where joy is springing up from parched
ground.**

**Lead us by your Spirit in the pathways of your overflowing peace, hope,
and joy.**

Amen.

Tamariki Time

Hymn: To God be the glory (H&P 463)

1. To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life in atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son
and give him the glory, great things he has done!

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood
To every believer the promise of God!
And every offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives: [Refrain]

3. Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,
but purer and higher and greater will be
our joy and our wonder, when Jesus we see. [Refrain]

Readings:

Alan Dine

Genesis 12:1-4 NIV - The Call of Abram

The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

“I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;

and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.

2nd Reading

John 3:1-17 NIV - Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that

you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit[b] gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You[c] must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Reflection

Hymn: Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine (H&P 668)

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.*

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.*

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture burst on my sight.
Angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest.
I in my Savior am happy and bless'd,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. [Refrain]

Community Time

Sharing the Peace

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

Notices

Sarah Laurenson

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

Prayers of Intercession

Lord Jesus Christ,
like you direct Nicodemus about your kingdom, we want to know how to
get to your kingdom.
You tell us to listen and to take notice of you in this world,
and then, from experience, you talk about the kingdom of heaven.
Open our eyes to see the lame walking, cures occurring,
and hope rising in the kingdom that shall come,
all as evidence of your presence among us.

Stir up your power and come: Be born anew in us.

Dearest Father, your glory is made manifest
by the strength you give us as your believing people.
Fear dissipates when you are near.

Weak knees no longer tremble.
We want to sing, and joy replaces doubt.
We reach for you with our feeble hands,
but it's your hand that holds us fast.

Stir up your power and come: Be born anew in us.

Holy Spirit, we need your counsel.
We do not wait well.
Like farmers waiting for crops to ripen, we need to remember
that your time and presence saturate all of our days,
especially those in which nothing much seems to be happening.
And then you make us bloom in due season

Stir up your power and come: Be born anew in us.

We remember, Lord, that you set the prisoners free,
and gave justice to the wronged.
Now you care for parent-less children and surviving spouses through us,
your hands and heart and voice in a world
that does not see loneliness as suffering.
Be present through us as we attend to all in need.

Stir up your power and come: Be born anew in us.

As we name those whom we know have special needs for healing,
remind us of our own need to be prayed for by the faithful.
Hear us as we speak aloud, or in our hearts, the names of those who
need you,
even as we whisper our very own names _____.
Stir up your power and come: Be born anew in us.
Help us, like children, to feel the excitement,
for we are all children of the Heavenly Father.

**Stir up your power and come: Be born anew in us.
All the earth, seas, and heavens are yours,
and we pray these prayers
because you have promised to listen to us. Amen.**

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 offerings (said together)

**Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift,
teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are,
that we may praise you not with our words only,
but with our whole lives.**

Hymn: 'Ye Servants of God' (H&P 278)

1. Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name all-victorious of Jesus extol,
his kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

2. God ruleth on high, almighty to save,
and still, he is nigh, his presence we have;
the great congregation his triumph shall sing,

ascribing salvation to Jesus, our King.

3. "Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!"
Let all cry aloud and honour the Son;
the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.

4. Then let us adore and give him his right,
all glory and power, all wisdom and might;
all honour and blessing with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing and infinite love.

Benediction

As we leave this gathered worship, we know that we do not leave alone. We go with God into a world resonant with God's presence. We go with one another, bound together in Spirit and in truth, a mighty company of disciples of Jesus Christ. Let us go, then, separately but together, as we seek to be the on-going sign that God is at work in the world. Amen.

The Grace (based on John 3)

Just as God's Word was sent into the world
to heal and redeem,
so, God sends you into the world this day
to be light and love, healing, and hope.
Go now to be light for the world!
And may the grace and peace of God the Creator,
the Redeemer, and the Sustainer
come upon you this day
and remain with you always.

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

Please join us for morning tea following the service. Many thanks to Daphne Pilaar for her kai and manaakitanga.

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>