



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

Sunday 7th May 2023
EASTER 5 – HOLY COMMUNION

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
7th May 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

LIGHTING THE CANDLE (Kānara Whakamāmā)

We light this candle to remind us of the light of God's love,
the warmth of God's welcome,
and our faith in the ever presence of God,

The candle is lit

Together we say:

Welcome to our place,

Welcome to worship,

Welcome in the name of our living God.

Amen.

WORDS FOR BEGINNING

HYMN (Himene) '**Come to our land, come to our hearts**' [AA 26]

Words: Shirley Murray, *Music:* Colin Gibson

Come to our land, come to our hearts,
Spirit of peace, Spirit of truth,
bring in the spring, the hope and the green,
Spirit of growth and Spirit of youth.

*And all our people will sing together:
Wairua Tapu, holy your name,
there's one great Spirit in all creation,
one great Spirit of God!*

Come to our land, come to our hearts,
Spirit of life, breath of new birth,
teach us to care for water and air,
nourish the seed and cherish the earth,
Refrain

Come to our land, come to our hearts,
Spirit of bush, Spirit of bird,
speak to the soul of Aotearoa
joy in your world and joy in your Word,
Refrain

MEDITATIVE READING

From Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim by Edward Hays.

Remind me ten times and more
of all that you have forgiven me –
without even waiting for my sorrow,
the very instant that I slipped and sinned.

Remind me ten thousand times and more
of your endless absolution,
not even sorrow required on my part,
so broad the bounty of your love.

Yes, I can – I will – forgive
as you have forgiven me.

PRAYER (Inoi Tuatahi)

God of our comings and goings,
we give you thanks for your constant presence.

God of our successes and our failures,
we give you thanks for your unending mercy.

God of our living and our dying,
we give you thanks for your resurrection power.

Bless us, O God, as we worship you today.
**Help us to move forward with thanksgiving
for the past and hope for the future. Keep us
ever mindful of your love for us and keep us
ever faithful to your will for us. Bless us so
that we might bless others in our families, our
community, our country, and our world. Amen.**

MEDITATION AND PRAYER TO REFLECT ON OUR CONSCIENCES

I am of the nature to grow old.
There is no way to escape growing old.

I am of the nature to have ill health.
There is no way to escape ill health.
I am of the nature to die.
There is no way to escape death.

All that is dear to me and everyone I love are of the nature to change.
There is no way to escape being separated from them.

My actions are my only true belongings. I cannot escape the
consequences of my actions. My actions are the ground upon
which I stand.

We acknowledge we deny the truth of things,
that in the face of change we retreat to the familiar,
we allow hope to retreat

and our horizons to narrow.
It is easy to go back to what we know.
We resolve to live more bravely,
And find the resurrection that is intimated in all that passes.
Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME (Tīmatanga Kōrero)

HYMN (Himene) 'Christ has changed the world's direction' [HioS 15]

Words: Shirley Murray, *Music:* Barry Brinson

Christ has changed the world's direction!
Christ can change the human heart:
agents of the new creation
mend the people torn apart;
 so are we
 charged to be
go-betweens for unity.

Peace will be our way of thinking:
common wealth and common state.
Gone the wounds, the words and weapons
that conspire to hurt and hate,
 and no power
 shall devour
earth or air where peace might flower.

Debts and doubts will be forgiven,
cancelled in the name of God,
olive trees again be planted
there where soldiers' boots have trod,
 hunger fed,
 terror fled,
justice shining in its stead.

What have we as commendation,
sent to speak, as speak we must?
Love will be our global language,
hands an enemy can trust,
 faith to faith,
 race with race,
all shall find a meeting place.

Envoys of a High Commission,
gifts of hope we find to share,
Christ the Spirit reconciling,
Christ our internet of care.
 though we stall,
 fail or fall,
shall we now refuse God's call?

MINISTRY OF THE WORD (Ngaa Paanui Karaipiture)

Acts 7: 55-60 [The Message]

⁵⁴⁻⁵⁶ At that point they went wild, a rioting mob of catcalls and whistles and invective. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, hardly noticed—he only had eyes for God, whom he saw in all his glory with Jesus standing at his side. He said, “Oh! I see heaven wide open and the Son of Man standing at God's side!”

⁵⁷⁻⁵⁸ Yelling and hissing, the mob drowned him out. Now in full stampede, they dragged him out of town and pelted him with rocks. The ringleaders took off their coats and asked a young man named Saul to watch them.

⁵⁹⁻⁶⁰ As the rocks rained down, Stephen prayed, “Master Jesus, take my life.” Then he knelt down, praying loud enough for everyone to hear, “Master, don't blame them for this sin”—his last words. Then he died.

Saul was right there, congratulating the killers.

John 14: 1-14 [The Message]

¹⁻⁴ “Don’t let this rattle you. You trust God, don’t you? Trust me. There is plenty of room for you in my Father’s home. If that weren’t so, would I have told you that I’m on my way to get a room ready for you? And if I’m on my way to get your room ready, I’ll come back and get you so you can live where I live. And you already know the road I’m taking.”

⁵ Thomas said, “Master, we have no idea where you’re going. How do you expect us to know the road?”

⁶⁻⁷ Jesus said, “I am the Road, also the Truth, also the Life. No one gets to the Father apart from me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him. You’ve even seen him!”

⁸ Philip said, “Master, show us the Father; then we’ll be content.”

⁹⁻¹⁰ “You’ve been with me all this time, Philip, and you still don’t understand? To see me is to see the Father. So how can you ask, ‘Where is the Father?’ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you aren’t mere words. I don’t just make them up on my own. The Father who resides in me crafts each word into a divine act.

¹¹⁻¹⁴ “Believe me: I am in my Father and my Father is in me. If you can’t believe that, believe what you see—these works. The person who trusts me will not only do what I’m doing but even greater things, because I, on my way to the Father, am giving you the same work to do that I’ve been doing. You can count on it. From now on, whatever you request along the lines of who I am and what I am doing, I’ll do it. That’s how the Father will be seen for who he is in the Son. I mean it. Whatever you request in this way, I’ll do.

REFLECTION (He Whakaaroaro)

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CARE FOR OTHERS

Ever living God, we give you thanks that you sent your Son to be our way, our truth and our life: in confidence we bring to you our prayers for all your people.

We pray for your world:

For those who live in places scarred by conflict and war, for those who live in places ravaged by disease and famine. We pray particularly this morning for the people of West Papua, Sudan, Afghanistan, Ukraine and Russia.

We give thanks for all whose lives manifest your spirit of reconciliation and peace; for peace-keepers, aid workers, conservationists and all who work for a just and sustainable world. Righteous God, dwell in us, that our lives may proclaim your works.

In your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for your church:

In places where the church struggles in the face of persecution or rejection; in places where the church is faithless, divided or disobedient.

We give you thanks for those who risk their lives so that others may hear your good news, and for all who minister faithfully to your people.

Faithful God, dwell in us, that our lives may proclaim your works.

In your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for our community:

For our families, our friends and our parish family;

For all whose work sustains others in this community.

We give you thanks for those whose lives shine with your spirit of forgiveness and love; for welfare agencies, and for all who in their daily lives bring your love to others.

Loving God, dwell in us, that our lives may proclaim your works.

In your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all in need:

for those who know loneliness, anxiety or grief;

for those who know pain or sickness and for all who face death.

We give you thanks for those whose lives are filled with courage in the face of adversity and for those who bring your tenderness and consolation to others.

Compassionate God, dwell in us, that our lives may proclaim your works.

In your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We give you thanks for your followers of every age:

For Stephen and all who have given their lives for you;

For those whose lives have drawn others to you.

Lead us in your way and open us to your truth, that with all your saints, we may be brought to the place of everlasting life, which you prepare for all your people.

Ever living God, dwell in us, that in our living and at our dying we may proclaim your works.

In your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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) 'Now to your Table Spread' [AA 100]

Words: Shirley Murray, Music: John Ireland

Now to your table spread
we come, each one, in faith
that you alone provide the words of life and death:
in wine and bread,
in promised food
we find your loving heart, O God.

Hands of the world stretch out,
your mystery to touch
in longing to believe a truth beyond our reach,
to sing in joy,
to cry in grief,
to know your meaning for our life.

Here is our common wealth
in sharing what is good,
as though all humankind around one table stood,
this bread to break,
this wine to taste –
one people in the name of Christ.

THE OFFERTORY (Taatou Koha Ki Te Haahi)

Here we bring our gifts of money and talents
That they may be used to reflect your love in the world.

**Bless our gifts and our lives so that they can be used
to create a better world for all people. Amen**

BLESSING BREAD AND WINE

Blessed are you Lord, God of all creation,
through your goodness we have these gifts to offer,
Which Earth has given and human hands have made.
Blessed be God forever.

THE EUCHARISITIC PRAYER

We offer you our praise dear God, and hearts lifted high.
For in the communion of your love Christ comes close to us and we
come close to Christ. Therefore, with the whole realm of nature
around us, with earth, sea, and sky we sing to you. With the whole
communion of saints and with brothers and sisters east and west, we
sing to you, and now with our loved ones, separate from us now,
who yet in this mystery are close to us, we offer you our praise.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Life,
Heaven and Earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in God's name.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed be our brother Jesus, who walks with us the road of our
world's suffering and is known to us in the breaking of bread.
On the night before he died Jesus took bread, and having blessed it
he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples saying;
Take this all of you and eat it, this is my body, given up for you. Do
this to remember me.

In the same way he took wine, and having given thanks for it he
poured it out and gave the cup to his disciples
saying;
This cup is the new covenant, sealed with my blood. Take this all of

you and share it. I shall drink wine with you next in the coming kingdom of God.

Hear us O Christ and breathe your Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine. May they become for us your body, vibrant with your life, healing, renewing, making us whole, Amen

BREAKING BREAD

We break this bread,
bread inviting us to grasp what the eye cannot see:
**God with us in the journey of life;
God with us in our everyday,
God with us in our living and our loving.**

We drink this wine,
wine reminding us of promises to love,
**of love generously shared,
of Jesus who loved so totally and our call
to love as courageously as Jesus loved.**

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We who have shared the bread of community
and the cup of our common dreams
leave this table challenged to be the body of Christ,
loving, redeeming, making things whole,
challenging to newness. May this come to be.
Amen.

HYMN (Himene) '**We are many, we are one**' [FFS 67]
Words and Music: Colin Gibson

We are many, we are one,
and the work of Christ is one

when we learn to live in true community,
as the stars that fill the night,
as a flock of birds in flight,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;
as the branches of a tree,
as the waves upon the sea,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

All division is made whole
when we honour every soul,
find the life of God in every you and me,
as the fingers of a hand,
as the grains that form the sand,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;
as the threads upon a loom,
as a field of flowers in bloom,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

We will join creation's song,
make a world where all belong,
build as one in peace and loving harmony,
as the voices of a choir,
as the flames within a fire,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;
as the snowflakes in the snow,
as the colours of a bow,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

PARTING WORDS (Ngaa Inoi Whakamutunga)

We now extinguish this candle, but let us say together:

**We now embody this light and promise
to reflect the light of God's love
in all that we say and do. Amen.**

Blessing words

Whatever the origins of love
we know it is our only hope.
It lies at the heart of Easter
which shows us how to live.
So let us each day make love our song.
Let it work its transforming power in us.
We cannot do this alone –
and that is love's first lesson. **Amen**

MA TE MARIE. (*Sung unaccompanied*)

Ma te marie a te Atua
Tatou katoa e tiaki;
Mana ano e whakau
O tatou ngakau ki te pai

Ma te Atua Tamaiti ra
Ma te Wairua Tapu hoki
Ratou, Atua Kotahi nei.
Tatou katoa e whakapai.
Amine.

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Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:
Gathering, resources for worship, *The United Church of Canada*
Edward Hays, *Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim*

Thic Nhat Hanh, *The Art of Living*

Janet Nelson, *Let us Pray*

Iona Community

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<https://www.facebook.com/wesleywellington.methodistchurch.10am>