

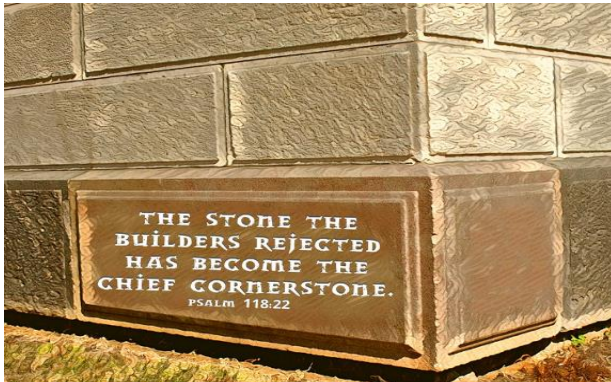


Wesley Wellington
75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

METHODIST CHURCH OF NEW ZEALAND
TRINITY THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
2023
Critique Service for Ministry Students
(Semester 2, Sunday 8th October, 2023)

by,
Sokopeti Sina
(2nd Year Placement)

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.

ASSESSORS:

Rev. Nicola Teague Grundy

Philip Garside

Hugh Laurenson

(Superintendent & Wesley (Wellington) Methodist Church Presbyter)

Lay Preachers

Haere mai ki tēnei Whare Karakia

Welcome to this House of Prayer

Welcome & notices and guidelines (Whakatau mai & Panui Whakamahere Aratohu) Haere mai! Nau mai! Whakatau mai!

Lighting the candle

Gracious loving God, As we light this candle, we are reminded of the warmth of Your presence and the light of Your love that dispels darkness. May the flickering flame be a symbol of hope in times of despair, a beacon of guidance in moments of uncertainty, and a reflection of the eternal light that shines within our hearts.

We offer this light as a prayer for those in need—those facing challenges, illness, or grief. May the glow of this candle be a source of comfort and a reminder that You are with us, even during our struggles. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we dedicate this light to Your glory. Amen.

Call to Worship – The Rejection of Cornerstone (Karanga ki te whakapau kaha).

Leader: Come, let us gather in the presence of the Almighty, seekers of truth and bearers of burdens. Today, we enter this sacred space with hearts open to the ancient words of Psalmist 118, a psalm that resonates

with the joy of pilgrimage but also echoes the somber rejection of a cornerstone.

People: **We gather, O Lord, with open hearts and curious minds.**

Leader: In our joyous pilgrimage, we are reminded of the beauty of unity and the strength found in community. As the psalmist exclaims:

People: **I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'**

Leader: Yet, as we celebrate the cornerstone, let us also consider the rejection it faced. In the tapestry of faith, rejection too plays a part. The psalmist continues:

People: **"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."**

Leader: Reflect on the rejected cornerstone, the challenges it bore, and the transformation it underwent. How often do we, too, reject what might be foundational in our lives?

People: **In our reflections, we seek wisdom, O Lord.**

Leader: As we embark on this journey of worship, may we find strength in unity and humility in acknowledging the rejected corners of our lives. Let us not cast aside what may become a cornerstone in the grand design of Your purpose.

People: **Guide us, O Lord, as we navigate the complexities of our faith.**

All: For in this sacred gathering, may the rejected find redemption, and may the stones cast aside become the pillars of our spiritual foundation. Amen.

Opening Prayer (Inoi Tuatahi)

Merciful God, we gather here in Your presence, seeking Your guidance and grace. As we open our hearts to worship, may Your spirit descend upon us, filling this space with Your peace and love. Be with us, O Lord, as we lift our voices in praise and open our ears to hear Your word.

May we be open to its teachings and convinced by its truths. Help us to apply these lessons to our lives, growing in love, compassion, and wisdom. Lord, we lift up any burdens, worries, or challenges that we carry today. May Your peace that surpasses all understanding fill our hearts, and may Your love surround us in every moment. May Your Holy Spirit move among us, drawing us closer to You and to one another. In Your precious name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn (Himene) Christ is Made the Sure Foundation (H&P 485)

Translator: J. M. Neale (1861) Published in 287 hymnals

1. Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one,
holy Zion's help forever,
and her confidence alone.
2. Lord, here grant to all Your servants
what they ask of You to gain,
what they gain from You, forever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in Your glory
evermore with You to reign.

3. Praise and honor to the Father,
praise and honor to the Son,
praise and honor to the Spirit,
ever Three, and ever One,
one in might, and one in glory,
while unending ages run.

Prayer of Confession

Here in the presence of God, and in company with the saints secure in the loving support we offer each other we examine our lives in light of the Gospel.

We pause in silence reflection

For when we have diminished other people
by seeing them as the other, as a problem, as less than us,
Show us your mercy and deepen our compassion.

For those times when bitterness and despair
have threatened to overwhelm us.
Show us your mercy and deepen our compassion.

For those times when we have seen ourselves as less than we are,
for when we have accepted the names and labels others have give us,
for not cherishing our souls and loving our humanity.
Show us your mercy and deepen our compassion.

God is love, love at the very heart of our humanity,
a love which seeks our healing and nurtures our wholeness.
In our turning to God we find ourselves welcomed by this love.
Hear then a word of grace,
God welcomes us, speaks to us words of forgiveness and peace,
Rejoicing in all that we are.
Be at peace this day.
Amen. Thanks be to God

Words of Assurance

Take assurance in the perfection, trustworthiness, and wisdom found in God's Word. In times of uncertainty or difficulty, turn to the timeless guidance of the Lord. His commandments are not burdensome but are a source of refreshment, joy, and light, providing the assurance that you are under the care and wisdom of a loving and sovereign God

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Tamariki time – Exodus 20

Hymn (Himene) -"The Church's One Foundation" (H&P 515)

Words: Samuel John Stone (1839-1900)

Tune: AURELIA S.S. Wesley (1810-76)

- 1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ,
 her Lord; She is His new creation,
 By water and the word;
 From heaven He came and sought her.
 To be His holy bride;
 With His own blood He bought her,
 And for her life He died.

2. Elect from every nation,
 Yet one o'er all the earth,
 Her charter of salvation:
 One Lord, one faith, one birth;
 One holy name she blesses,
 Partakes one holy food,
 And to one hope she press
 With every grace endued.

3. Yet she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with Thee.

Scripture Reading (Ngaa Paanui Karaipiture)

Matthew 21:33-46 (NIV)

The Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers

33 “Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. 34 Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. 35 And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. 36 Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. 37 Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ 38 But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ 39 So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him.

40 “Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?”

41 They said to Him, “He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will [g]render to him the fruits in their seasons.”

42 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

‘The stone which the builders rejected

Has become the chief cornerstone.

This was the Lord’s doing,

And it is marvelous in our eyes’?

43 “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. 44 And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”

45 Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them. 46 But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitudes, because they took Him for a prophet.

Reflection (He Whakaaroaro) Sokopeti Sina

Theme: Christ the Living Cornerstone

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

Merciful Father, We come before you with grateful hearts, acknowledging your infinite love and mercy. We lift up the members of Wesley Church and their families to your loving care. You, who know the depths of our hearts and the intricacies of our lives, we trust in your providence and grace. We pray for our Minister Rev Nicola Teague Grundy, may she be filled with courage, wisdom, and strength as she continues her important work for her members. May her efforts bring comfort, guidance, and positive transformation to those she serves.

Lord, we pray for those among us who are facing challenges and needs. You, who are our Provider, we ask for your abundance to flow

into our lives. Bless them with the strength to overcome difficulties and the wisdom to navigate through uncertainties. May your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

We ask for unity and support within the Wesley Church community. Let the bonds of fellowship grow stronger, and may we be a source of encouragement and help to one another. Lord, we thank you for the relationships within our church family, and we pray that we continue to be a source of blessing and comfort.

We also extend our prayers to the families of our church members, our wider community. May your love and grace surround them, providing comfort in times of sorrow, strength in times of weakness, and joy in times of celebration. Bless their homes with peace and harmony.

We come before you with hearts full of gratitude for the blessings you have bestowed upon our nation. As we stand on the threshold of elections, we seek your guidance and wisdom.

Lord, you are the source of all wisdom and knowledge. We pray that you would grant discernment to the voters as they choose the leaders who will govern our country. May they be led by values that reflect justice, compassion, and a commitment to the well-being of all citizens.

Lord, we surrender our church and its members into your hands, acknowledging that you are the ultimate source of all blessings. May your will be done in our lives, and may we always seek to glorify you in all that we do.

In Jesus' name, we pray. 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.

THE PEACE

How can we claim to love God who we cannot see, if we do not love our neighbour, who we can see?

The peace of God be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

Notices

Hymn (Himene) Rock of Ages (H&P 273)

Augustus M. Toplady, 1776

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Save from wrath and make me pure.
2. Not the labor of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

3. While I draw this fleeting breath,
When my eyes shall close in death,
When I rise to worlds unknown,
And behold Thee on Thy throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

OFFERING (Taatou Koha Ki Te Haahi)

Here we bring bread and wine, gifts of a fertile earth, and signs of our human need;

Here we bring the currency of our work and our sharing.

We place our gifts in the hands of Christ.

May his Spirit pervade our hearts and shape our needs.

Amen

Thanksgiving

Leader: Loving and gracious God who calls us here today. We give thanks and blessings to you. We bless you for our world. We give you thanks for our diversities in colour, culture and age. Yet, called into oneness-of-being through Christ. With many tongues, yet with one voice, we honour you saying:

**All: Holy, holy, holy, Lord,
God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes
In the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!**

Leader: Loving and gracious God, who surrounds creation with abundant love, we give thanks and blessings to you. We bless you for your love, made known to us through Jesus, which reassures and reconciles us to you, to ourselves and to one another. As Christ is our light to you, may we be lights to others illuminating the path toward communion with you, the Holy Spirit and Jesus, our friend. Amen.

Blessing of the Bread and Wine

Leader: God, may this bread connect us more closely with you and with our neighbors near and far.

All: Bless this bread, we pray

Leader: May this fruit of the vine remind us of the interconnectedness of people around the world.

All: Bless this cup, we pray.

Leader: May this simple meal bring us into union with you, your people and your community united in the One Body of Christ.

Sharing of Bread and Wine

Bread: The bread of life, shared with you.

Cup: The cup of the New Covenant, shared with you.

All are invited and all are welcome. The meal is ready!

Prayer of Thanksgiving (after communion)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! With thanksgiving, let us celebrate our new life in Christ giving thanks to God our creator and sustainer:

Loving and gracious God, thank you for this meal. Thank you for Jesus and his all-inclusive love for humanity. Thank you for this day which we worship and serve you.

Hymn (Himene) Blessed Assurance (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 Saviour am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with his goodness, lost in his love. [Refrain]

WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING

The candle is extinguished.

"As this cornerstone is laid, may it stand as a symbol of enduring strength, unwavering purpose, and the blessings of a prosperous future. May every brick be a testament to the foundation of dreams, and every layer echo with the grace of joy and success."

In the name of Christ. Amen.

GRACE (Share the Grace)

**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**

HOSPITALITY

We extend a warm invitation to everyone to gather now for food and fellowship at the new Hall.

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Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:

Pilgrim Uniting Church,
<https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/>