



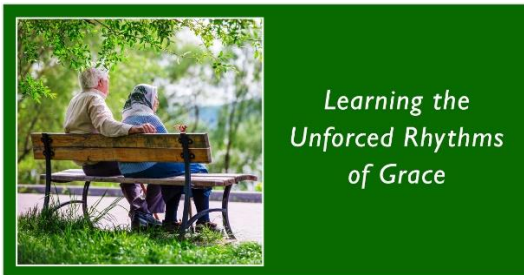
Wesley Wellington

75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 9 July 2023

Pentecost 6

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

Wesley Methodist Church 75 Taranaki Street
10am Congregation

9 July 2023 Pentecost 6

Leader: Philip Garside. Organist: Colin Scarf.

Piano: Vivien Chiu

Welcome, Introduction & Safety Briefing

Call to Worship:

We come together each week
in a regular rhythm of worship.

**In the company of friends we gather
to meet with God our Parent again.**

We sing words of praise and thanksgiving
for all God the Son has done.

**We offer up words of petition
for what we hope God the Spirit will do.**

We read and reflect on the scriptures
listening for what God has to say.

**We come knowing the blessing
of assembling together to worship today. Amen.**

Today We Light the Christ Candle (Candle lighting)

Today we light the Christ Candle in honour
of the One who brings light to the world.

Lord bring light to all who are in places of darkness.

Today we light the Christ Candle in honour
of the One who brings the gift of abundant life.

Lord protect all whose lives are threatened by violence and famine.

Today we light the Christ Candle in honour
of the One who redeems the world.

Lord deliver the world from evil, and us from complacency.

Today we light the Christ Candle in honour
of the One who revealed the Father
and sent the Spirit to be our Advocate.

May our worship today be pleasing to the Triune God. Amen.

Hymn: I Sing the Grace of God Within You.

Words & Music: Colin Gibson. Hope Is Our Song 68

1. I sing the grace of God within you,
I know that grace within my soul;
and when we honour God in each other
we bring together one gracious whole.
2. I sing the love of Christ within you,
I know that love within my soul;
and when we honour Christ in each other
we come together, one loving whole.
3. I sing the Spirit's life within you,
I know that life within my soul;
and when we honour life in each other,
the Spirit forms one living whole.

Prayer of Approach: The Truth that Sets Us Free

It's not just any truth that sets us free but the truth contained within
your word, which if we faithfully follow will free us from the bondage of
erroneous beliefs.

The error of thinking we can be totally self-reliant and have no need for
the blessings of God. It is not just our bodies that need refreshing, our
souls need to be fed by the word of God.

The error of thinking our ways are always right and we have no need for divine instruction. Our damaged world shows our lack of judgment, that the choices we make are often not good.

The error of thinking we are in complete control, that the earth is ours to dominate and exploit. Disease epidemics and other natural disasters prove beyond doubt how vulnerable we are.

God help us embrace the truth that frees us from the deceptions of human arrogance. Everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin, but when the Son makes us free we are free indeed. Amen.

Words of Assurance

In God, we know this truth.

We find healing, wholeness, strength, and courage
—everything we need to be God’s faithful people.

Let us have the courage to open ourselves to the Love that is life itself,
the Love that forgives and heals us.

Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

Time with children / Introducing the Theme

Hymn: Song of Peace.

Words: Lloyd Stone (1912-1993) Music: (Finlandia) Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)

1. This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine,
This is my home, the country where my heart is,
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
2. My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine;
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.

Reading

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 [The Message Bible – Eugene Peterson]

¹⁶⁻¹⁹“How can I account for this generation? The people have been like spoiled children whining to their parents, ‘We wanted to skip rope, and you were always too tired; we wanted to talk, but you were always too busy.’ John came fasting and they called him crazy. I came feasting and they called me a boozier, a friend of the misfits. Opinion polls don’t count for much, do they? The proof of the pudding is in the eating.”

²⁵⁻²⁶Abruptly Jesus broke into prayer: “Thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth. You’ve concealed your ways from sophisticates and know-it-alls, but spelled them out clearly to ordinary people. Yes, Father, that’s the way you like to work.”

²⁷Jesus resumed talking to the people, but now tenderly. “The Father has given me all these things to do and say. This is a unique Father-Son operation, coming out of Father and Son intimacies and knowledge. No one knows the Son the way the Father does, nor the Father the way the Son does. But I’m not keeping it to myself; I’m ready to go over it line by line with anyone willing to listen.

28-30 “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”

Sermon: *Learning the Unforced Rhythms of Grace*

10am Singing Group: *Spirit of God in the clear running water.*

Accompanied by Vivien Chiu on piano.

Composer Miriam Therese Winter, 1976. Original 3rd verse omitted.

1. Spirit of God in the clear running water
Blowing to greatness the trees on the hill.
Spirit of God in the finger of morning:
Fill the earth, bring it to birth,
And blow where you will.
Blow, blow, blow till I be
But the breath of the Spirit blowing in me.
2. Down in the meadow the willows are moaning
Sheep in the pastureland cannot lie still.
Spirit of God, creation is groaning:
Fill the earth, bring it to birth,
And blow where you will.
Blow, blow, blow till I be
But the breath of the Spirit blowing in me.
3. Spirit of God everyone's heart is lonely
Watching and waiting and hungry until
Spirit of God, we long that you only
Fill the earth, bring it to birth,
And blow where you will.
Blow, blow, blow till I be
But the breath of the Spirit blowing in me.

Community Time

Sharing the Peace

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

Notices

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

Prayers of Intercession

To the bidding, "Gracious God, in your mercy..." please respond by saying, "hear our prayer," and then singing: "Living God's love, acting for the common good."

Living God's Love

Text: 10am Leaders Group

Tune: Philip & Heather Garside

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song 'Living God's Love'. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. A tempo marking of quarter note = 100 is present. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are: 'Liv-ing God's love, act - ing for the com-mon good.' The first staff shows the melody with lyrics underneath. The second staff shows the same melody with lyrics underneath, but the lyrics are slightly offset from the first staff.

Lord's Prayer [Sung] With One Voice 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 Offering (said together)

In worship of the God who loves, we bring gifts because we love, to the church begun in love, to do the work of the Lord of love.

Holy One, the God who loves, bless these offerings we bring in love to fund the church's work of love, in a world much in need of love. Amen.

Hymn: I take Thy promise.

Words: Henry Legh Richmond Deck (1853-1910). Music: Jonathan Berkahn (2011)

1. I take Thy promise, Lord, in all its length,
and breadth, and fullness, as my daily strength;
into life's future fearless I may gaze,
for, Saviour. Thou art with me all the days.
2. Days may be coming fraught with loss and change,
new scenes surround my life and faces strange;
I thank Thee that no day can ever break,
Saviour, when Thou wilt leave me or forsake.
3. There may be days of darkness and distress,
when sin has power to tempt, and care to press,
yet in the darkest day I will not fear,
for, 'mid the shadows, Thou wilt still be near.
4. Days there may be of joy and deep delight,
when earth seems fairest, and her skies most bright,
then draw me closer to Thee, lest I rest
elsewhere, my Saviour, than upon Thy breast.

5. And all the other days that make my life,
marked by no special joy or grief or strife,
days filled with quiet duties, trivial care,
burdens too small for other hearts to share;

6. Spend Thou these days with me, all shall be Thine,
so shall the darkest hour with glory shine.
Then when these earthly years have passed away,
let me be with Thee in the perfect day.

Blessing

Go back into the world, knowing that God is an affectionate Parent, God is an understanding Messiah, God is a compassionate Comforter.

Go back into the world, knowing that God the Holy Trinity is calling and equipping you to live lovingly, to behave graciously and to speak wisely, this day and every day.

Go back into the world, knowing that in your going you take with you the blessing of the eternal, the merciful, the tender-hearted God, who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Grace (Said together)

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

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Sources

Call to Worship, Candle lighting, Prayer of Approach, Blessing of Offering, Blessing: *Prayers for Southern People* by Joy Kingsbury-Aitken; PGPL (2023).

Intercessions: *Let Us Pray*, Janet Nelson, HarperCollins (1999).

Words of Assurance: *Gathering Pentecost 1 2023*, United church of Canada

Cover photo of couple on bench:

Photo [71371053](#) © [Photobac](#) | [Dreamstime.com](#)

Books mentioned in sermon:

- *Keeping the Sabbath Wholly*, Marva J. Dawn, Eerdmans (1989)
- *Sabbath as Resistance*, Walter Brueggemann, Westminster John Knox (2017)
- *A History of Christianity*, Diarmaid MacCulloch, Penguin Random House (2009).

See also the six part BBC documentary series of the same name presented by MacCulloch.

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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>