



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

Sunday 31st March 2024
EASTER SUNDAY

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
Easter Sunday 31st March 2024

Worship leader – Rev Utumau’u Pupulu
Organist – Vivien Chiu

Gathering words

Very early, still in darkness, we set out.
Sorrowful, uncertain, knowing only our loss,
We return to the tomb in our anguish and our love.

Love looks back at us and calls us by name.
You are seeking Jesus, who died on the cross.
He has been raised.

He is not here in your loss.
The tomb could not hold him.
Risen, he goes before you with new life for the world.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!
The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia.

WELCOME & SAFETY BRIEFING

INTROIT

Tongan Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Out of the darkness of grief and despair
comes a message of hope. Christ is risen.
Christ is risen, indeed.

We run to the tomb to see for ourselves.
And it is true. Christ is risen.
Christ is risen, indeed.

The one who lived among us, doing good and healing,
was crucified, dead and buried.

But God raised him on the third day.

This very day, God has acted.

Today, we will rejoice and be glad! Amen.

HYMN – Christ the Lord is risen today

OPENING PRAYER

God, just as you raised Jesus from the dead,
you offer us new and transformed lives
in the risen Christ.

**We rejoice and give thanks for this good news,
which has been handed down to us
from generation to generation.**

May we, too, be witnesses of Jesus,
who you anointed with the Holy Spirit
to bring blessings of mercy and healing.

**May we be witnesses of Jesus' suffering and death
and how he meets us in the broken places
of our lives.**

Most of all, may we be witnesses of the resurrection,
sharing your promise of forgiveness and grace
with all people.

This is your doing, O God.

It is marvelous in our eyes.

Amen.

HYMN – Love Divine All Loves Excelling

H&P 267

PRAYER OF YEARNING

Rev. Nicola Teague Grundy

Risen Jesus, how we long to proclaim the good news we have received-
you are risen,
the tomb is empty,
and you are present with your friends.

Remind us not to look for you-
our grief, in the places where we lost you
our grief
our failure,
the death is all around us.

For you have been raised,
You are not trapped in some tomb.
Help us proclaim your resurrection with confidence on this day.

Flawed as we are, help us perceive how deeply we are loved, for your
grace and mercy never fail.

Word of assurance

Beloved of God, the grace of God is with you,
and God's grace has not been in vain.
Receive forgiveness and mercy through the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

10AM SINGING GROUP

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Exodus 14: 10 – 16

Tongan

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, "Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians"? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground.

Mark 16: 1 - 8*10am*

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

ANTHEM*Fijian Choir***REFLECTION****AFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Please stand*)**

**We believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

HYMN – Thine be the Glory**HP 212**

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Rev. Nicola Teague Grundy

Lord Jesus Christ, risen from death.

We praise you for changed lives and new hopes at Easter.

You came to Mary in the garden.

And turned her tears into joy.

For your love and your mercy:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

You came to the disciples in the upper room.

And turned their fear into courage.

For your love and your mercy:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

You came to the disciples by the lakeside.

And turned their failure into faith.

For your love and your mercy:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

You came to the travellers on the Emmaus Road.

And turned their despair into hope.

For your love and your mercy:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

You come to us in our unworthiness and shame.

And turn our weakness into triumph.

For your love and your mercy:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

Lord Jesus

Wherever there are tears

Or fear, or failure,

Or despair, or weakness:

Come, reveal to us

Your love, your mercy,

And your risen power;

For the glory of your name.

Alleluia. **Amen**

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

THE MINISTRY OF SACRAMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Rev Tahī Kato

Friends, God has opened the gates of righteousness.

Let us accept God's invitation and offer gifts of thanksgiving
in Christ's name.

OFFERING PRAYER

**Holy God, thank you for your goodness and mercy,
especially for the good news of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

**May these offerings, and indeed our very lives,
become a witness to all people of the salvation and grace,
you bring into the world.**

Amen.

THANKSGIVING

God of beginnings, you are always creating.

At the very beginning, you sent your Spirit,
to bring order out of chaos.

You spoke and there was light.

You named the light day,
and the darkness you called light.

It was the first morning, a new beginning.

You continued your active presence in our world,
over and over calling forth newness.

You never gave up on us,
but kept on reaching out to us,
through the power of your Spirit.

**And so, we join the great chorus of heaven and earth,
praising you forever.**

Holy, holy, holy, God of glory and strength!

Holy, holy, holy, God of power and majesty!

As Jesus faced condemnation and death,
he gathered his friends for a meal.
He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it,
and gave it to his friends, saying:
“This is my life, offered to you.
When you eat this, remember me.”

When the meal was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you and offered it to his friends, saying:
“This is the cup of forgiveness, poured out in abundance.
When you drink it, remember me.”

**And so, as we remember Jesus
and his ministry of love and forgiveness,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ was. Christ is. Christ will be.**

God of glory, send your Spirit upon these gifts of bread and cup.
May they become a new beginning for our lives,
by feeding us for your work in the world.
Send your Spirit upon us, gathered at this table.

**May we become the living body of Christ,
expressing your love in word and deed.
Through your Son Jesus,
and by the power of your Holy Spirit in your Church,
all glory and strength, power and majesty are yours, now and
forever. 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”

*(The Fijian 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.)*

CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

BENEDICTION

Easter people of Jesus Christ, this very day, God has acted.

Jesus is raised from the dead.

Let us rejoice and be glad.

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	Mā te Atua Tamaiti rā,	.
Tātou katoa e tiaki;	Mā te Wairua Tapu hoki,	.
Mana anō e whakaū	Rātou, Atua kotahi nei.	.
O tātou ngākau ki te pai.	Tātou katoa e whakapai.	.
	Amine.	.

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