



Wesley Wellington

**75 Taranaki Street**

[www.wesleychurch.org.nz](http://www.wesleychurch.org.nz)

**Sunday 10 March 2024**

**Lent 4**

*Haere mai ki tēnei Whare Karakia*

*Welcome to this House of Prayer*



**Living God’s Love – Acting for the Common Good**

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  
Sunday 10 March 2024  
Lent 4**

**Leader: Philip Garside    Organist: Vivien Chiu  
Guitar: Heather Garside**

**Welcome & Introduction**

**Call to Worship**

Come away and be still.

**We come to worship God.**

Come find rest for your weariness.

**We come to worship God.**

Come with your joy and sorrow.

**We come to worship God.**

In this time, in this place, God waits for us!

**Let us worship together!**

**Lighting the candle**

In times of struggle,

**Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.**

In times of wonder,

**Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.**

In times of anxious anticipation,

**Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.**

In this time and place, here and now, and in all the days of our lives,

**Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.**

As we continue to journey toward the cross,

let the light of this Christ candle remind us

of who we are and whose we are:

struggling, wondering, and anxiously anticipating people of the Way. **Amen.**

## Opening Prayer

God of the past, present, and future,  
Mother and Father of us all,  
we come before you today mindful of your covenant with us,  
of the promise you made to Noah and to all living creatures,  
affirming your close relationship with and concern for all your creation.

As we plan our first tentative steps out of the shadows of the past,  
help us to honour your presence,  
renew our relationship with all your living creatures,  
be aware of the possibilities inherent in this new start,  
and watch confidently for your rainbow assurance  
of new life and new possibilities.

**In the name of Jesus,  
who brings the covenant of Noah's time to fruition,  
through the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Hymn: Jesu, thou joy of loving hearts** H&P 258. (Tune: Wareham)

1. Jesu, thou joy of loving hearts!  
Thou Fount of life, thou Light of all!  
From the best bliss that earth imparts  
We turn unfilled to thee again.
2. Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood;  
Thou savest those that on thee call;  
To them that seek thee thou art good;  
To them that find thee all in all.
3. We taste thee, O thou living Bread,  
And long to feast upon thee still;  
We drink of thee, the fountain head,  
And thirst our souls from thee to fill.
4. Our restless spirits yearn for thee,  
Where'er our changeful lot is cast;  
Glad, when thy gracious smile we see,  
Blest, when our faith can hold thee fast.

5. Jesus, ever with us stay;  
Make all our moments calm and bright;  
Chase the dark night of sin away,  
Shed o'er the world thy holy light.

### **Prayer of Approach & Words of Assurance**

Spirit Lord, we come to you knowing we have faulted in our ways. There are times in our week when we do not take the route that Spirit is guiding us to take, whether that be on the street, in our jobs, at school, or in our homes.

At times, we want to do it "our way!" (silence)

We may do this because it feels easier (silence)

or faster (silence)

or better (silence).

Or maybe we simply do not take the time to ask you. (silence)

**Spirit Lord, receive our confession.**

**Come live in our hearts today and forever. Amen.**

*Words of Assurance*

People of God, we are a forgiven people,  
recipients of God's grace and endowed with Holy  
Wisdom. Praise be to our Merciful God! Amen.

### **Introducing the Theme / Story Time: A bronze snake**

#### **Hymn: Loving God of Aotearoa** (*Kindle a Flame*, 2017)

Words: Philip Garside. Music: G. Holst

1. Loving God of Aotearoa,  
hear now our call to you,  
We have gathered in your presence,  
to celebrate anew!  
We have come from many places,  
speaking, thinking differently,  
But in you we are united,  
one whole, strong family.

*Refrain:*

Let us heed your call to service  
and follow lovingly,  
May we be compassionate people,  
alive in you and free.

2. Scripture tells of faithful people,  
who spread your light and love.  
Now inspire, lead, direct us,  
so we can be like them.  
May the Way that Christ has taught us,  
and the power of your Word,  
Set a fire burning in us,  
for justice and for love.
3. Rimu tall, with tui singing,  
proclaim your majesty,  
You who care for all creation,  
will always care for me.  
Matariki's spirit guide us,  
rise within us all the year.  
Help us live and speak forgiveness,  
your people want to hear.

## Readings

### **Numbers 21:4-9** [Common English Bible]

#### *The bronze snake's healing power*

They marched from Mount Hor on the Red Sea road around the land of Edom. The people became impatient on the road.

The people spoke against God and Moses: "Why did you bring us up from Egypt to kill us in the desert, where there is no food or water. And we detest this miserable bread!"

So the Lord sent poisonous snakes among the people and they bit the people. Many of the Israelites died.

The people went to Moses and said, "We've sinned, for we spoke against the Lord and you. Pray to the Lord so that he will send the snakes away from us."

So Moses prayed for the people. The Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous snake and place it on a pole. Whoever is bitten can look at it and live.”

Moses made a bronze snake and placed it on a pole. If a snake bit someone, that person could look at the bronze snake and live.

**John 3:14-21** [New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition]

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed.

But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

**Sermon / Reflection: Symbols of God in Action**

**Song: God So Loved the World**

Text: John 3:16-17. Music: Jonathan Berkahn (*Songs of Expectation* 2013)

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son  
that whoever believes, whoever believes,  
should not perish but have eternal life.

[Repeat verse]

*Refrain*

For God sent his Son in-to the world  
not to judge and not to condemn,  
but that through his life the world might be saved:  
God so loved the world.

[Repeat refrain]

## Community Time

### Sharing the Peace

Let's greet each other saying: "God's peace be with you."

### Notices

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

### Prayers of Intercession

To the bidding "...God of love and goodness, in your mercy" would you please respond **"hear our prayer."**

## Lord's Prayer

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.

## Offering

(We also acknowledge offerings made by automatic payment and online banking)

**Blessing of Offering** (said together)

**Loving God, we come before you today in humility,  
acknowledging the gifts you give us.**

**We ask that you now receive our gifts, the fruits of our labours,  
our hands, and our hearts.  
May they be used to glorify your name. Amen.**

**Hymn: O God, Each Day You Bless Us.**

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (2004). Tune: Ellacombe.

1. O God, each day you bless us with gifts of your shalom:  
You give us peace and justice, you welcome lost ones home.  
You care for your creation and set your people free;  
You offer us salvation and build community.
2. You make us sons and daughters baptised and reconciled!  
You show us: Each peace-maker is blest as your own child.  
You fill us at your table with strength for each new day;  
Then Spirit-filled we're able to live your peaceful way.
3. We'll worship, pray, and study, to learn new skills for peace;  
We'll work as one strong body so justice will increase.  
We'll build new global friendships, seek peace in every land,  
Protect the earth you gave us and give with outstretched hand.

**Sending forth / Benediction**

Go in peace.  
And on your journey,  
may you have the boldness to come to Jesus just as you are,  
ready to be transformed into followers led by the Holy Spirit  
who journey through this world in peace, in faith, and in love.

**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**

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Liturgy for this service was sourced from:

*Let Us Pray*, Janet Nelson, HarperCollins 1999;

*Gathering: Lent/Easter 2023; and Lent/Easter 2024*, United Church of Canada

Cover image:

Wesley children's hand print cross  
combined with a flax cross made by Philip Garside



To keep up-to-date with services and news, visit the parish website:

<https://wesleychurch.org.nz/>

And the 10am Congregation's Facebook Page:

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