



Wesley Wellington

**75 Taranaki Street**

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

**Sunday 11 February 2024**

**Transfiguration Sunday**

*Haere mai ki tēnei Whare Karakia*

*Welcome to this House of Prayer*



### **“The Transfiguration”**

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 11 February 2024  
Transfiguration  
Leader: Tahi Kato  
Organist: Vivien Chiu**

**Welcome and Safety Briefing**

**Sarah Laurenson**

**Introduction**

**Call to Worship**

Sometimes it feels like it doesn't really matter, God,  
if we ignore the needs of our spouse,  
or shout at the kids unnecessarily,  
or elaborate on the truth just a little, so we look better,  
or waste the resources our world so generously gives;

**sometimes it just feels silly to worry about making things beautiful,  
to keep reaching for the best of the good, and not just the easy,  
to stay true to what is true.**

What difference does it really make, in the big scheme of things,  
if we just take the easy way, the not-bad-but-could-be-better way?

**And then we come here, and we remember.**

**You do not change to accommodate our good-enoughness,  
our that'll-do-ness;**

**You do not darken the sun just a little, so we won't feel so dull,  
or switch off some of the stars to keep us from feeling small.**

You are holy – whole-y – one and complete and God;  
You are Light and Life and Love and Fullness – you can be no other;  
You are Beauty and Goodness and Truth – brilliant and dazzling;

**And it is we who must change, we who come to this place to worship,  
It is we who must choose to gaze on your holiness & beauty,  
and be changed into glory.**

**And, so here we are, God. Please, show us yourself.**

**Amen.**

### **Lighting the candle**

*The candle is lit*

The light shines in the darkness  
And the darkness cannot overcome it.  
We praise God for the light, and for the radiance  
that never ceases to stream into us and our world.

**May this candle and the light it produces remind us  
the Shining One who transfigures all things.**

### **Hymn: Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty**

Words: Reginald Heber (Rev 4:8-11). Music: JB Dykes. Tune: NICAEA

1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

2 Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,

casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim, falling down before Thee,  
which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

3 Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,  
though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;  
only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee,  
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

### **Prayer of Praise**

You are the pre-dawn glow  
that promises yet another new beginning;  
You are the still dusk  
that brings rest to a weary world;  
You are the prophecy  
of God's life-giving Word inscribed on our hearts;  
You are the law  
that finds its fulfilment in love;  
You are the mountain  
where the presence of God blazes and burns;  
You are the valley  
where the face of God peeks out from suffering eyes;  
You are the glory that we long for,  
the whispered rumour of a different order,  
the Shining One who transfigures all things.

You are the One we worship.

**Amen.**

## **Prayer of Confession**

God of Mercy and Grace,  
you come to us in Jesus of Nazareth  
to break down the dividing walls of hostility between us:  
Yet we maintain walls that separate and isolate.

You give us the ministry of reconciliation:  
Yet we nurse our wounds and withhold mercy and forgiveness.

You invite us to join with Peter, James, and John  
on the mountain of Transfiguration:  
Yet we deny the wonders you have worked in our own lives.

You ask us to acknowledge and share our wealth:  
Yet we refuse to recognize and relieve the poverty around us.

You bless our lives with boundless love:  
Yet we fail to witness to that love,  
and so keep others from knowing you.

Forgive our selfishness, we pray.  
Transform us by your Spirit and your Word  
into that which pleases you,  
the image of Christ.

**Amen.**

## Words of Assurance

Jesus admonished Peter, James, and John  
not to tell of what they witnessed on the mountain  
until he was resurrected.

But we can tell what we have seen and heard of God's glory!

Here is the good news:

Jesus lives! He is raised! We are forgiven!

Go, share the vision!

Tell of God's love! In this God is well pleased!

## Introducing the Theme

### Hymn - Great ring of light (Alleluia Aotearoa 57) Words & Music: Colin Gibson.

Great ring of light,  
true circle with no ending;  
clear beam so bright,  
whose purpose knows no bending;  
O Word of God ,  
in darkness always shining out.

A man who cried,  
up on a cross at Calvary;  
for Him who died,  
an empty tomb, a mystery;  
O risen Christ,  
all pain and loss transcending.

Immortal fire  
of love forever yearning;

flame of desire  
for our salvation burning;  
Spirit divine,  
our friend, and present comforter.

The light shines still, .  
the eternal Word has spoken;  
on Calvary's hill  
the power of death is broken;  
and I receive the life, the joy, the loving.

## **Readings (NRSVUE)**

**Sven Heger**

### **2 Corinthians 4:3-6**

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing clearly the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus's sake. 6 For it is the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

### **Mark 9:2-9**

2 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, 3 and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one[b] on earth could brighten them. 4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. 5 Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." 6 He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. 7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" 8 Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. 9As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead

## Sermon

**Hymn: There is a light upon the mountain** Word: Henry Burton. Tune: MT. HOLYOKE

1 There's a light upon the mountains,  
And the day is at the spring,  
When our eyes shall see the beauty  
And the glory of the King:  
Weary was our heart with waiting,  
And the night-watch seemed so long,  
But His triumph day is breaking,  
And we hail it with a song.

2 In the fading of the starlight  
We may see the coming morn;  
And the lights of men are paling  
In the splendours of the dawn;  
For the eastern skies are glowing  
As with light of hidden fire,  
And the hearts of men are stirring  
With the throbs of deep desire.

3 There's a hush of expectation  
And a quiet in the air,  
And the breath of God is moving  
In the fervent breath of prayer;  
For the suffering, dying Jesus  
Is the Christ upon the throne,  
And the travail of our spirit  
Is the travail of His own.



4 He is breaking down the barriers,  
He is casting up the way;  
He is calling for His angels  
To build up the gates of day:  
But His angels here are human,  
Not the shining hosts above;  
For the drum beats of His army  
Are the heartbeats of our love.

5 Hark! we hear a distant music,  
And it comes with fuller swell;  
'Tis the triumph-song of Jesus,  
Of our King, Immanuel!  
Go ye forth with joy to meet Him!  
And, my soul, be swift to bring  
All thy sweetest and thy dearest  
For the triumph of our King!

## **Community Time**

### **Sharing the Peace**

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

### **Notices**

**Sarah Laurensen**

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

### **Prayers of Intercession**

To the bidding "...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

Gracious God, may our offerings (made by us here today and by automatic payment or online banking) reflect the warming light of your love in our lives.

Just as Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James, and John, may our hearts be transformed, and our actions reflect the love and truth Jesus embodies.

Bless our giving and use it to bring your divine light to a world in need. In the name of Jesus, our Lord, we pray.

**Amen.**

**Hymn: Ye servants of God** Word: Charles Wesley. (to be played to a tune familiar with the congregation)

1 Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,  
and publish abroad his wonderful name;  
the name all-victorious of Jesus extol:  
his kingdom is glorious, and rules over all.

2 God ruleth on high, almighty to save;  
and still he is nigh, his presence we have;  
the great congregation his triumph shall sing,  
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

3 Salvation to God who sits on the throne!  
Let all cry aloud, and honour the Son.  
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

4 Then let us adore, and give him his right:  
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,  
and honour and blessing, with angels above,  
and thanks never-ceasing, and infinite love.

## **Extinguishing the candle**

### **Commission and Benediction**

Come down from the mountain with mountain-like faith.  
Walk on God's paths as bright, shining lights.  
Live in God's ways with faith, hope, and love.  
Go into the world transformed and renewed!

## **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:

Worship Ways – United Church of Christ;

Sacredise.com;

Abingdon Worship Annual, Cokesbury website;

World in Prayer, <http://www.worldinprayer.org/>;

Discipleship Ministries – The United Methodist Church;

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

Florida Museum, Youtube channel.

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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>