

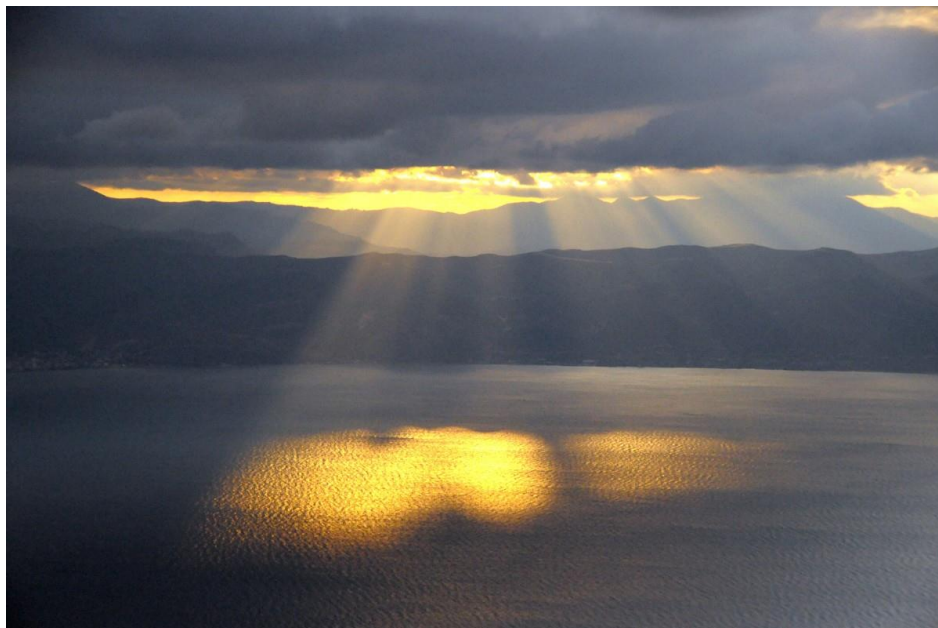


WESLEY WELLINGTON
75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

14th January 2024

Epiphany 2

Haere mai ki tēnei Whare Karakia
Welcome to this House of Prayer



Living God's Love
Acting for the common Good

Kia ora koutou katoa — Talofa Lava
Malo e lelei — Bula Vinaka Greetings to you all!

Order of Service
Sunday 14th January 2023 – Epiphany 2

Worship Leader: Nicola Teague Grundy
Organist: Vivien Chiu

SAFETY BRIEFING

WELCOME

WORDS FOR BEGINNING

God of light, light of light, true God of true God
We bless You.

God of new beginnings, hope of hope,
as we reach for this new year
We bless You.

God of joy, delight of delight,
As we give thanks for all that is good
We bless You.

WORDS OF AWARENESS

As we gather, let us affirm the connection we have:
with each other, and
with that creative mystery we call God.
May we remain open to the unfolding one
all that can be celebrated,
all that can be learned,
all that can be done,
all that can be,
without diminishing the life of others.
May it be so.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

God calls us to be witnesses to the light;
Light of new insight.
Light to overcome shadows and despair.
Light of hope.
Light of promise.

The candle is lit

May this candle and the light it produces be a symbol and sign of all these things.

HYMN (Himene) “Weave our lives together”

Words: Helen Wiltshire Tune: Glenfinlas 65.65, H&P304(i)

Weave our lives together,
Sinew, blood and bone;
Shape us in completeness,
Secret and yet known.

Knit our souls together,
spirit, mind and heart;
weave us in the darkness;
craft our ev'ry part.

Hold us in enchantment;
nuture us in grace;
search us in our being;
carve for us a place.

Draw us to your presence,
Gather us in care;
Call us to your beauty;
Nourish each one there.

Woven, shaped and living;
Held within love's womb;
May we spring and flourish,
Grow and come to bloom.

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Praise be to you, God of life,
for the shoot that breaks through the earth,
that strains toward the sun,
that blossoms and makes of its fruit
an offering to the world.

Praise be to you, God of life,
for the seed that dies,
and is resurrected into tree;
for the tree whose longevity
whispers a parable of eternity.

Praise be to you, God of life,
for your presence and purpose,
that infuses all of creation,
and calls us to follow,
to embrace life,
to share life,
and to offer the fruit of our lives
as worship to you.

PSALM 139: 13-18 – Always near

SO WHAT'S THE STORY ...?

1 Samuel 3: 1-10 - *presented by Semisi Sina and Alan Dine.*

1 John: 43-51 - Read by Norbert Nziramasanga

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.”

⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” ⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” ⁵⁰ Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” ⁵¹ And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

HYMN (Himene) What Good Can Come From Nazareth?

Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6 D (H&P 515)

“What good can come from Nazareth?

Can any good at all?”

Nathaniel said to Philip when he heard Philip’s call.

The prophets never praised it — that little backwoods place.

He thought God wouldn’t choose it to be a means of grace.

And yet, when he met Jesus,

Nathaniel changed his ways.
His words that put down others soon turned to words of praise.
He called our Savior “Rabbi!” and “Son of God!” and “King!”
What change a little listening and openness can bring!

“What good can come from strangers?”
O God, we hear the shout.
For some hate other people and seek to push them out.
May we who follow Jesus be glad to “Come and see!”
May we learn from each other with true humility.

O God of all our cultures, now make us one, we pray.
May we see your grace working in all your lands this day.
May we hear others’ stories — what makes them sad or strong,
Till — listening — we find friendship,
with love our common song.

REFLECTION

HYMN (Himene) “Will you come and follow me”

Words and Music: John L. Bell and Graham Maule

Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call you name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare

should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In you and you in me.

OFFERING and BLESSING OF OFFERING

(We acknowledge offering made by automatic payment and on-line banking)

We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us.
In the upside down world of the gospel,

we measure our wealth not by what we have,
but what we can give away. Let us give generously in our
offering.

Offertory Prayer

You call us, O God, not because you need us, but because others
do. You gift us, not because we are so special, but because
others need to be blessed by our gifts. We give from the
abundance which is ours, not because we are so generous, but
because you have graced us with so much.

**May our gifts go to serve the work of your kin-dom, we
pray. Amen.**

COMMUNITY TIME

Sharing the peace

Let us offer the peace to each other saying:

The peace of God is here to stay.

Notices - Sharing Joys and Sorrows

PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

*You are invited to point to the parts of your body indicated as
we join together in the following prayer:*

Head

Thank You, God, for giving us minds with which to think.
We pray now for those in our families, in our communities and
in the world, who use their minds to help us understand things –
teachers, researchers, scientists, engineers,
those who use their minds to write and create – authors, actors,
builders, artists, musicians, inventors,
and those who use their minds to help us tackle difficult
questions – strategists, politicians, professors, community

development workers. We pray that You will enable them and us all to use our heads wisely.

Shoulders

God, we know that there are many people in our families and communities that feel as if they are carrying the weight of the world on their shoulders. Those who are constantly worrying about whether they will be able to feed their family this week. Those who are making the difficult decisions as to which employees to make redundant, or how to tackle the climate crisis. We pray that You will be with them as they carry those burdens on their shoulders, that they may feel seen and known by You in their time of struggle, and that we too may come alongside them, offering what support we can.

Knees

God, it can sometimes seem as if the health system is on its knees, struggling to care for its staff as well as the people in need of its care and expertise. We pray for all those who are on their knees caring for others, for carers, nurses, doctors, and paramedics, and in particular for all those who are feeling unseen by those making decisions about how services are run. God, equip them in their roles of service, giving them the capacity to really see and know their patients and the strength to get through the difficult days.

Toes

God, sometimes we think our toes are not an important part of our body, but without them our lives would be much harder. We pray now for those who bring us joy through their use of the toes – for dancers, sports people and gardeners – and for those who keep our society moving by using their toes – for bus drivers, taxi drivers, train drivers and truck drivers. We pray that You will nurture them and that we will become better at not taking them for granted. Be with us too, as we seek to walk alongside people, bringing beauty into unexpected places and sharing something of our knowledge of You with them.

Eyes, ears, mouth, nose

God, we pray for all those who use their gifts of the eyes, ears,

mouth and nose. We pray for those who see the world through eyes of compassion and compel others to do likewise – we pray for the work of Christian World Service and other aid agencies as they seek to respond to the situations they see around the world of trauma and injustice. We pray for those who lend a listening ear and give space for people to share their stories – for chaplains in our schools, universities, prisons, hospitals and workplaces, and for those in our own pastoral care team. We pray for those who speak words of truth and kindness – for parents, foster carers and newsreaders. We pray for those who smell the freshness of each new day – for children, chefs, flower arrangers. Be with us all as we seek to embody our faith over the coming days, sharing Your love with those whom we meet.

We join our voices together to sing the Lords 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 aianei
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.**

HYMN: (Himene) There's a wideness in God's mercy

Words: F W Faber, alt by Colin Gibson; Music: Colin Gibson (HioS 135)

There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.

There's no place where human sorrows
are more deeply felt than heaven;
there's no place where human failings
have such kindly judgements given.

For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our minds;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make that love too narrow
by the limits of our own;
and we magnify God's strictness
with a zeal Love will not own.

There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that endless world of bliss.
If our love were but more simple,
we would trust the living World;
and our lives would fill with gladness
in the joy of Christ our Lord.

PARTING WORDS (*Ngā Inoi Whakamutunga*)

Let us embrace the wonder of this week with expectation and
imagination ...

The candle is extinguished

By learning to trust nature, including our human nature – our dreams and imaginations – we can unleash the creativity that lies within each human being.

Take time to listen to the birds, the waves, the wind.
Take time to breathe in the air, the earth, the ocean.
Take time to be still, to be silent,
To allow God to fill you up with deep peace and love.
Amen.

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 and adapted from:
Steve Garnaas-Holmes, *Unfolding Light daily reflections and Worship resources*; <https://unfoldinglight.net/2023/05/01/2nd-sunday-after-epiphany/>
Sacredise, Lectionary Resources, Year B. <https://sacredise.com/epiphany-2b/>
The Work of the People, *Always Near – Psalm 139: 1-6 and 13-18*,
<https://www.theworkofthepeople.com/always-near>
Thom Schuman, *Liturgy*, [Thom Schuman.10B.Epiph2.Liturgy w comm](https://www.thom-schuman.com/10B-Epiph2-Liturgy-w-comm)
Carolyn Winfrey-Gillette; *Carolyns Hymns*
bcgillette@comcast.net www.carolynshymns.com/
NZ Hymn Book Trust, *Hope is our Song*, Raumatī

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