



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

15th Hakihea / December 2024
Koa / Joy



**Our vision – A church united in faith
Where all are respected, accepted and belong**

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

15th Hakihea / December 2024

Worship Leader: Nicola Teague Grundy

Organist: Vivien Chiu

We acknowledge that we are on the land of the Ngāti Mutunga and Te Āti Awa people and that the Spirit was in the land revealing God to them through law, custom and ceremony. We honour Mana Whenua and their continuing culture and pray that we might all work together for peace and justice in this place.

SAFETY BRIEFING

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Light the hope and peace candles.

In Philippians chapter 4, we are reminded to ‘rejoice in the Lord always’.

Light the candle of joy.

As we wait in this season of Advent,
we remember that God’s gift for us includes joy,
a joy that can fill us completely,
a joy that transcends the ups and downs of life,
a joy we can share.

Joy is contagious. I invite you to take a moment and see if you can make the people near you smile, or better still laugh.

Let us pray ...
God who likes to laugh,
fill us with your joy,
so that we can share it with others
and rejoice in your presence. Amen.

HYMN / HIMENE O come, O come, Emmanuel

Words: Susan Wickham; Tune: *Veni Emmanuel* [H&P 85]

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and fill our lives, all dark and fear dispel,
as once an exiled Israel you found,
redeemed, restored and set on holy ground.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to us and in our hearts will dwell.

O come, O light of Christ, so bright and clear
and lift our spirits by your advent here.

In all who gather, show us your face,
that we may know the warmth of your embrace.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to us and in our hearts will dwell.

O come, O Wisdom, mind and heart divine,
help us restore a world we've let decline.

Enlighten us; your way we would know
and show us where new seeds of hope to sow.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to us and in our hearts will dwell.

O Advent God of hope, joy, love and peace,
in you we pray our sad divisions cease.

Bind us as one, a people of grace,
for at your table each one has a place.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to us and in our hearts will dwell.

WORDS OF BEGINNING

Based on Isaiah 12: 2-6

Sing, shout and rejoice (*touch lips, hands out, hands up*)

For God is in our midst. (*hands out*)

Sing, shout and rejoice

For God has done great things (*thumbs up*)

Sing, shout and rejoice

For God protects and cares for us. (*embrace body*)

Sing, shout and rejoice

For God is full of love. (*hands to heart*)

Sing, shout and rejoice

For God is full of strength and might. (*Show muscles*)

Sing, shout and rejoice

For God welcomes us all. (*beckoning arms*)

Sing, shout and rejoice

SO WHAT'S THE STORY / He aha te kōrero ...?

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Luke 3: 7-18 (Inclusive Text)

The crowds asked John, 'What must we do?'

He answered,

'Let the one with two coats share with the one who has none;
let those who have food do the same.'

There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these
said to John,

'Teacher, what must we do?'

John said to them,

'Exact no more than your fixed rate.'

Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What
must we do?'

John said to them,

'Do not bully anyone! Do not accuse anyone falsely!

Be content with your pay.'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people,
who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ,
so John declared before them all,

'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming,
someone who is more powerful than I,
the strap of whose sandals I am not fit to undo.

'This one will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

'A winnowing fan is in his hand to clear the threshing floor
and to gather the wheat into a barn;
but the chaff will be burnt in a fire
that will never go out.'

REFLECTION

LITANY

We are people of all ages who enter this space
bringing our joys and our concerns.

We come together in hope.

We greet each other warmly
with our voices and our smiles.

We come together in peace.

We share our growth and our aspirations.

We come together in wonder.

We share our losses and our disappointments.

We come together in sorrow.

We share our concern and our compassion.

We come together in love.

We sing and pray and listen.

We speak and read and dream.

We think and ponder and reflect.

We cry and laugh and centre.

We mourn and celebrate and meditate.

We strive for justice and for mercy.
We come together to worship God.

HYMN / HIMENE ‘This is the Time of Waiting’

Words: Andrew Pratt; Tune: *Aurelia* [H&P 515]

This is the time of waiting,
the calm before the storm,
the time of Advent judgement,
the coming of the dawn;
a time of recollection,
of Christ’s audacious hope,
beyond imagination,
outside our human scope.

The nations will be gathered,
the age will be fulfilled,
the judgement be enacted,
as Christ had hoped and willed.
But for this consummation
such birth-pangs will be felt,
like rupturing of wine-skins,
the earth will heave and melt.

For love to be exalted,
for hatred to be banned,
our human goals must shatter,
division must be spanned.
A change of mind is needed
as we are turned around,
to move from desecration,
to find love’s solid ground.

OFFERING / Tātou Koha ki te Haahi

God you invite us to share from the abundance of our lives, so others might be filled with life, with hope, with love and with grace.

The offering is collected.

Bless these gifts we offer, so they may be used to share the gospel of wholeness and welcome for all. Amen.

COMMUNITY TIME

Let us take time to celebrate each other
May a heart of peace rest with you.

You are invited to share the peace with others.

Presentation

NZ Lay Preachers Certificate – Hugh Laurenson
Waiata – He Honore

Notices

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS / Ngā Inoi Mō Te Whānau

Prayer is an act of love: love of God; love of self, love of neighbour. We enter a time of prayer to recall, collect and expand on our love for the world.

During our prayers for others we will stretch and pray.

Stretch your arms up high for 30 seconds:

Focus on who God is.

Bend over and stretch down for 30 seconds:

Thank God for all that God has done in your life.

Stretch your arms and body to the left side for 30 seconds:

Pray for your family and friends.

Stretch your arms and body to the right side for 30 seconds:
Pray for difficult situations around the world.

Give yourself a big bear hug for 30 seconds:
Ask God to be with you during the day - guiding, helping and supporting.

Loving God,
These are those who move our hearts in concern today.
In this season of waiting, our God comes to us.
In this holy season of delight and wonder, Jesus comes to us
In these days of remembering what our lives are to be,
God's Spirit comes to us.

We offer our prayers in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER / Te Karakia o te Atua

**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 – Come to this Christmas singing!

Words: Shirley Murray; Music: Douglas Mews [AA28]

Come to this Christmas singing!
come to a birthday, bringing
gifts from our country's treasure,
beauty of shell and stone:
 wisdom the old have taught us,
 laughter the young have brought us,
 love to surround a manger,
 making this Child our own.

Wealth of our land and water,
riches of race and culture –
these be our gold and incense
offered for Christmas Day:
 where we make peace, declare it,
 where we have much, let's share it,
 aroha warm our hearts, and
 aroha be our way.

Here where the sheep are grazing,
where summer sun is blazing
harvests for others ripen –
food for the world can grow:
 Christ of a cold December,
 quicken us to remember
 poverty in a stable,
 need, like a sting of snow.

PARTING WORDS / Ngā Inoi Whakamutunga

The candles are extinguished

Go now and rejoice in the Lord always.
Do not be afraid or worried about anything,
but in everything trust God and pray.
Bear fruits worthy of repentance,
sharing what you have and being gentle with all.
And may God rejoice over you with gladness;
May Christ Jesus renew you in his love;
and may the Holy Spirit give you peace beyond understanding
to guard your hearts and minds in Christ.
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

THE GRACE (said together)

**Kia tau ki a tātou katoa,
te atawhai o tō tātou Ariki o Ihu Karaiti,
me te aroha o te Atua,
me te whiwhinga tahitanga
ki te Wairua Tapu.
Āmine**

Please join us for a shared morning tea
in the New Hall following the service.
Many thanks to Heger family
for providing today's kai and manaakitanga

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Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:
(AA) Alleluia Aotearoa, New Zealand Hymnbook Trust, 1992
Intergenerational Worship Resources – <https://intergen.org.au>
Rex A E Hunt - <https://www.rexaehuntprogressivelgy.com/liturgies>

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

Or the 10AM Congregation's Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/wesleywellington.methodistchurch.10am>