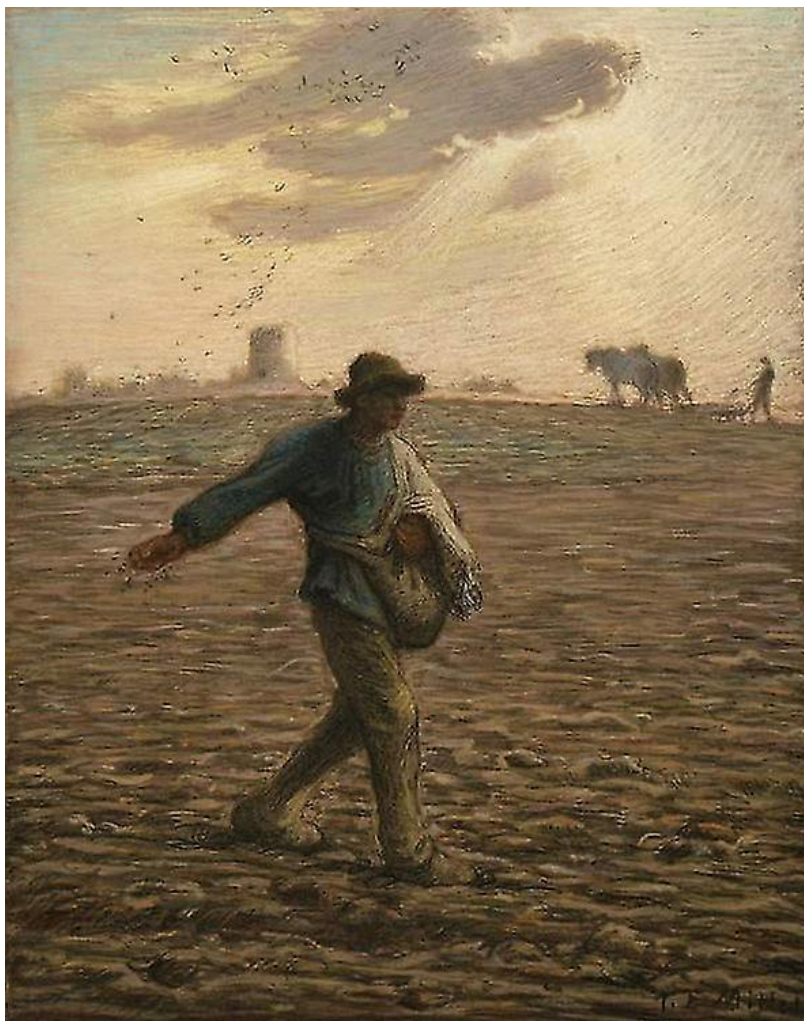




Wesley Wellington
75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday, 16 June 2024
Pentecost 4 (43B)

Haere mai ki tēnei whare karakia
Welcome to this house of prayer



The Seed of Faith

Living God's love – acting for the common Good

**Kia ora koutou katoa — Tālofa lava
Mālō e lelei — Bula vinaka — Greetings to you all!**

Welcome to today's service. A special welcome to visitors. We hope you will enjoy worshipping with us this morning and will join us again.

10AM Congregation – Order of Service

Worship leader: Tahi Kato

Organist: Colin Scarf

Welcome and Safety Briefing

Sarah Laurenson

Gathering

Tena tatou katoa, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Bula Vinaka, welcome.

Welcome to our worship – whether you are here in person or joining us on-line, you are welcome here.

On your order of service, please response with the text in **bold**.

Lighting the candle (Kānara Whakamāmā)

Just as the seed grows unseen and becomes a great plant, so does the light of Christ grow within us and among us. As we light this candle, **let us remember the small beginnings of God's kingdom and the promise of its full fruition.**

Call to Worship (Ngā Kupu Whakapūare)

Called to be branches in Christ's body,
we yearn to be connected to the vine.

Called to be mustard bushes offering shade to God's creatures,
we search for places to plant the seeds of faith.

Called to be growing with God in the midst of this world's painful questions,
we seek God's nurturing presence.

Opening Prayer (Inoi Tuatahi)

God of small seeds and mighty plants, you take our meagre lives and with your love cause them to produce acts of loving kindness for you in this world. You hear our cries and find us when we are lost and wandering in fear. You bring us home with you so that we may be made whole, rejoicing in your goodness. Help us to joyfully serve you all our days, knowing that you are always watching over us. Prepare our hearts to receive your word and our spirits to respond in eagerness to serve you. In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

Hymn (Himene): All Creatures of our God and King

Words: Francis of Assisi.; Tune: LASST UNS EFREUEN - (H&P 329)

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
alleluia, alleluia!

Bright brother sun with golden beam,
clear sister moon with softer gleam:
*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Swift rushing wind, so wild and strong,
high clouds that sail in heavens along.
O praise him, alleluia!
New-breaking dawn, in praise rejoice,
and lights of evening, find a voice:
*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfolds God's blessings on our way.

O praise him, alleluia!
All flowers and fruits that in you grow,
let them his glory also show:
*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

And all who are of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part,
O praise him, alleluia!
All who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and cast on him your care:
*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness.
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus Christ,
we remember with gratitude those people
who generously sowed the seeds of faith in our lives.

Pause for a time of reflection

Above all, we recognise how you have blessed our lives
with the gift of the Holy Spirit
so that our faith has miraculously and mysteriously grown.

We confess the times we fail to involve ourselves
in planting any seeds of faith in the lives of others;
the times when our personal agendas become more important than yours;
the times when we have denied others the opportunity to expand their faith

through our lack of interest or involvement;
the times when our lives become so entangled with the values of the world
that we forget what you have said and done and promised.

Lord Jesus Christ, we know that when we become disconnected from you,
our lives becomes parched and unfruitful and our faith becomes stunted and dry.
Bless and renew our lives, we pray,
so that we remain connected to you at all times and in all places,
strengthening our faith to expand and, growing strongly and vigorously,
to bear the fruit of your mercy, your love, your undying life. Amen.

Words of Assurance

In Christ, we are forgiven. His Holy Spirit continues to work within us, enabling
our faith to expand and thrive. Let us remain connected to Him, trusting in His
promise to bless and renew our lives, so that we may bear abundant fruit for
God's kingdom.

Community Time

Sharing the Peace

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

Introducing the Theme (Tīmatanga Kōrero)

Our Small Difference

We may not be able to confront queens,
or challenge presidents;
We may not have the capacity to divert resources,
or uplift communities;
We may not have the voice to silence the noise of war,
or the words to negotiate peace between armies;
But, as we follow you, O Christ, we are able to do something.

And so, we pray that you would inspire us
to commit to and act on

the small difference we can make:
May we bring peace
through small acts of gentleness
and reconciliation;
May we bring wealth
through small contributions
and collaborations;
May we bring safety
through small acts of consideration
and acceptance;
May we bring wholeness
through small acts of care
and service.

And in the small ways, O God,
may our small difference make a big contribution
to your saving work in our world. **Amen.**

Hymn (Himene): To What Can the Kingdom of God Be Compared

Words: Carolyn W Gillett; Tune: William Howard Doane, 1875 ("To God Be the Glory")

To what can the kingdom of God be compared?
A mustard seed falls where a field's been prepared,
And there, where predictable plantings should be,
There grows up a wild bush — as big as a tree!
God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:
Loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.
Your reign is amazing, your ways still astound,
Just like that new life springing forth from the ground.

A small bit of leaven will change the whole bread:
A poor woman sees that her neighbors are fed,
A church reaches out to the youth in the town,
A man shares his faith and God's blessings abound.
God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:
Loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.
Your reign is among us, creation is blessed,
When even a few faithful lives change the rest.

While some look for treasure or one priceless pearl,
God's reign is the gift wise ones seek in this world.
A girl sells possessions to help those in need;
A boy chooses faithfulness rather than greed.
God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:
Loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.
Your reign is a treasure that wise ones pursue;
May we seek your kingdom in all that we do.

Ministry of the Word (Ngā Pānui Karaipiture)

Simulata Pope

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13 (NRSVUE)

34 Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul.

1 The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."

2 Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." 4 Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" 5 He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 10 Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." 11 Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." 12

He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Mark 4:26-34 (NRSVUE)

26 He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground 27 and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. 28 The earth produces of itself first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. 29 But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle because the harvest has come."

30 He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? 31 It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, 32 yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

33 With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it; 34 he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Reflection (He Whakaaroaro)

The Seed of Faith: Growing in God's Timing

Hymn (Hīmene): A Small Thing Like a Hazelnut

Words: Rae E Whitney (Church Hymnary 4th Edition #142)

A small thing like a hazelnut,
Lay in my open hand,
and God disclosed three truths to me,
that I might understand:
God made it, God loves it,
and God will always care;

God made it, God loves it,
and God will always care for it.

I marvelled that this little thing
reveals how God can be
our maker, lover, keeper, now
and for eternity!
God made you, God loves you,
and God will always care;
God made you, God loves you,
and God will always care for you!

Until my heart is one with God,
its aching will not cease,
and so I rest, held close by God,
these three things bringing peace:
God made me, God loves me,
and God will always care;
God made me, God loves me,
and God will always care for me!

Notices

Sharing joys, things we are grateful for, sorrows and concerns

Prayers of Intercession (Ngā Inoi Mō Te Whānau)

There is no shortage of ways that we can help to heal our world, Lord;
we just need the willingness to see them
and the courage to act.

So, we pray for Your inspiration and strength,
to use the abilities and resources we have
for the sake of those who need them.

We pray for those of us who have plenty –
of wealth that can lift some out of poverty,

of power that can influence the world toward justice and equity,
of relationships that can connect those who can help each other,
of creativity that can inspire and challenge through new ideas and new visions,
of time that can be used to feed the hungry,
transport the weary,
or befriend the lonely.

And we pray for all who need ordinary, gifted people
to ease their grief, their pain, their trauma, their need and their fear.
Do not let us rest, Lord, until we have found a way
to help as we may,
for the cause of Christ. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer (He Inoi O Te Ariki)

**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 (Tātou Koha Ki Te Hāhi)

We also acknowledge offerings made by automatic payment and online banking

**May the offerings brought this day be used as seeds,
planted faithfully and nurtured lovingly
so that God's way may be realised anew in this world.
Grant us the humility we need to plant and then tend your precious garden.
Amen.**

Hymn (Hīmene): Take my life, and let it be

Words: Frances Ridley Havergal; Tune: NOTTINGHAM H&P 705

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee
Take my moments and my days
Let them flow in ceaseless praise

Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love
Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee

Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee

Take my silver and my gold
Not a mite would I withhold
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose

Take my will, and make it Thine
It shall be no longer mine:
Take my heart, it is Thine own
It shall be Thy royal throne

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee

Extinguishing the candle

Sending forth/Benediction (Ngā Inoi Whakamutunga)

We go from this place back into the world,
to proclaim the saving message of God,
in word and action, in challenge and compassion,
to all creation.

And we go in the confidence that comes from knowing that
Christ's limitless grace,
God's infinite love,
and the Holy Spirit's relentless companionship,
always encompass us,
and are always within us.
Amen.

The Grace

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 morning tea in the New Hall following the service.

Liturgy for this service was sourced from:

<http://liturgyoutside.net/>
<https://www.carolynshymns.com/>
<http://www.liturgiesonline.com.au/>
<https://sacredise.com>
<https://hymnary.org/>

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To keep up-to-date with services and news, visit the parish website: <https://wesleychurch.org.nz/>

Or the 10AM Congregation's Facebook Page:

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