



Wesley Wellington

75 Taranaki Street

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 17 March 2024

Lent 5

Haere mai ki tēnei Whare Karakia

Welcome to this House of Prayer

Theme: Hearts of stone, Words of grace



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**

ORDER OF SERVICE
SUNDAY 17th March 2024
Worship Leader: Niko Bower
Organist: Vivien Chiu

WELCOME AND SAFETY BRIEFING

CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 51:1-12

Leader: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Your lovingkindness.

***All:* According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out our transgressions.**

Leader: Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin.

***All:* For we acknowledge our transgressions; our sin is ever before us.**

Leader: Against You, and You alone, have we sinned; we have done evil in Your sight.

***All:* You are just in Your judgment, and we seek Your forgiveness.**

Leader: We were born sinners, yet You desire honesty from the womb, teaching us wisdom even there.

***All:* Purify us, and we shall be clean; wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow.**

Leader: Restore to us the joy of Your salvation, and grant us willing spirits to sustain us.

***All:* Do not cast us from Your presence; let Your Holy Spirit abide with us.**

Gracious God, we gather here, aware of our failures, yet open to Your healing grace and loving mercy. May our worship be honest, heartfelt, and filled with gratitude. Amen.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE

Gracious God, as we light these candles, we pray for enlightenment: Illuminate our minds with understanding, kindle our hearts with passion for Your truth.

May the flickering flames remind us of Your eternal Word.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

1. HYMN (Himene) LOVE DIVINE O LOVE EXCELLING (WOV 148)

John Stainer (1840-1901)

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come
down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.
2. Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave:
thee we would be always
blessing,
3. serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without
ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.
3. Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be,
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee:
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crown before
thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise.

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

We gather before you today, humbled by the promise of your new covenant. As we reflect on your words spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, we are reminded of your unwavering love and grace.

Lord, you declared that you would make a new covenant with your people—a covenant not like the one made with their ancestors when they were led out of Egypt. This new covenant is etched not on stone tablets but upon our hearts.

We thank you for this profound transformation. You promise to put your law within us, to write it on our hearts. You declare that we shall be your people, and you will be our God.

No longer shall we teach one another to know you, for all shall know you—from the least to the greatest. Your forgiveness knows no bounds, and your mercy is everlasting.

As we begin this gathering, may we carry this covenant in our hearts. May it guide our thoughts, words, and actions. May we live as a testament to your love and grace.

In the name of Jesus, our Savior, we pray. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

2. HYMN (Himene) O LOVE THAT WILT NOT LET ME GO (H&P 685)

(George Matheson (1842 – 1906))

1. O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee.
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.
2. O Light that follows all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee.
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.
3. O joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee:
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.
4. O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee.
I lay in dust, life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms
red, life that shall endless be.

STORY TIME

MINISTRY OF THE WORD (NGĀ PĀNUI KARAIPITURE)

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (New King James Version)

A New Covenant

³¹ “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— ³² not

according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. ³³ But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

John 12: 20-33 (New King James Version)

The Fruitful Grain of Wheat

²⁰ Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. ²¹ Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

²² Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

²³ But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. ²⁴ Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. ²⁵ He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

Jesus Predicts His Death on the Cross

²⁷ "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify Your name."

Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified *it* and will glorify it again."

²⁹ Therefore the people who stood by and heard *it* said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him."

³⁰ Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. ³² And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." ³³ This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

REFLECTION HEARTS OF STONE, WORDS OF GRACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

3. HYMN (Himene) I AM HIS, AND HE IS MINE (WOV 497)

Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871)

- 1 . Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for
me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to
thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.
2. Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a
doubt,
fightings fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come.
3. Just as I am, poor, wretched,
blind
sight, riches, healing of the mind
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.
4. Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse,
relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.
5. Just I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down
now to be thine, yea, thine
alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.
6. Just as I am, of that free love
the breadth, length, depth and
height to prove,
here for a season, then above,
O Lamb of God, I come.

NOTICES

SHARING JOYS, THINGS WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR, SORROWS & CONCERNS THE OFFERTORY AND BLESSING OF OFFERINGS

Prayer of Dedication:

Gracious God, we gather in this sacred space, each of us a fragile miracle, evidence of Your creative hands and amazing grace. We are unique, unrepeatable gifts to the world, proof of Your boundless love.

And so, as the gifts of creation, we now bring our offerings to You.

Bless these offering, o God. May they ripple outward, touching lives and hearts.

Just as You multiplied the loaves and fishes, multiply the impact of our gifts. May there be enough for all, and may Your name be praised throughout the world.

In the name of the Creator, the Sustainer, and Redeemer, we pray.

Amen.

4. HYMN (Himene) **MARCHING TO ZION (H&P 487)**

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

1. Come, we that love the Lord,
And let our joys be known;
Join in a song with sweet accord,
And thus surround the throne.

Refrain:

***We're marching to Zion,
Beautiful, beautiful Zion;
We're marching upward to Zion,
The beautiful city of God.***

2. The sorrows of the mind
Be banished from the place;
Religion never was designed
To make our pleasures less.

3. Let those refuse to sing,
Who never knew our God;
But children of the heav'nly King
May speak their joys abroad

The candle is extinguished.

As we extinguish this candle, we remember Christ—the eternal High Priest—who offered prayers and supplications with fervent cries and tears during His earthly life. May His reverence and obedience inspire us.

May this flame be a symbol of His eternal light,

Guiding us through darkness and trial.

In His name, we pray. Amen

WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING

Gracious God,

As we prepare to depart from this sacred space, we lift our hearts in gratitude. We thank you for the time we've spent together, for the connections made, and for the moments of reflection.

May the words spoken and the intentions shared continue to resonate within us. May they inspire us to live with compassion, kindness, and purpose.

We ask for your blessings upon each person present here. May you guide our steps, protect us on our journeys, and grant us peace.

As we go forth, may we carry the light of your love, sharing it with others we encounter. May we be vessels of hope and healing in a world that often yearns for both.

In your holy name, we pray.

Amen

HOSPITALITY

– We extend a warm invitation to everyone to gather now
for kai in the New Hall.

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Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:

H&P, WOV,

NIV Bible - New International Version | The NIV Bible Translation NIV Bible