



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

18th Here-turi-kōkā / August 2024



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

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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.

WELCOME and SAFETY BRIEFING

GATHERING / Whakaemi mai ki taua karakia

LIGHTING THE CANDLE / Kānara Whakamāmā

We light this candle as a symbol of the creativity of our faith.

The candle is lit

**Surprising God,
whose love leads us to new experiences,
help us to be open to your presence amongst us.
Let us sense your presence
in the sights and sounds of this day.**

CALL TO WORSHIP / Ngā Kupu Whakapūare

Based on Psalm 111

Come, and praise God!

In the company of God's people,
let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Great are the works of God,
full of glory and majesty.**

Our God is gracious and compassionate;

Our God is merciful and forgiving

Our God is faithful and trustworthy,

Our God is just and good.

So come, let's worship God together.

God's praise will last forever!

HYMN / Himene – Praise to God the World’s Creator

Words: Jan Berry; **Tune:** “Abbot’s Leigh”

Praise to God, the world’s creator,
Source of life and growth and breath,
Cradling in her arms her children,
Holding them from birth to death.
In our bodies, in our living,
Strength and truth of all we do,
God is present, working with us,
Making us creators too.

Praise to God our saving Wisdom,
Meeting us with love and grace,
Helping us to grow in wholeness,
Giving freedom, room, and space.
In our hurting, in our risking,
In the thoughts we dare not name,
God is present, growing with us,
Healing us from sin and shame.

Praise to God, the Spirit in us,
Prompting hidden depths of prayer,
Firing us to long for justice,
Reaching out with tender care.
In our searching, in our loving,
In our struggles to be free,
God is present, living in us,
Pointing us to what shall be.

OPENING PRAYER / Inoi Whakawhetai

Most gracious and loving God,
we have tasted your goodness in days gone by
and it has satisfied us,
but now with this new day we turn to you again
for the bread of life that you have prepared for us
and for the wine of the Spirit that you pour out for your people.
Help us Lord, to empty ourselves
of those things that hinder us from knowing the fullness of your

love and fill us with those things that tend to make us all that you want us to be.

We need your presence Lord.

Touch us, we pray, and make us whole.

We ask it through Christ Jesus your Son. Amen.

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

WAIATA – He hōnore

He hōnore, he korōria	<i>Honour, glory and</i>
Maungārongo ki te whenua	<i>peace to the land</i>
Whakaaro pai e	<i>May good thoughts come</i>
Ki ngā tangata katoa	<i>to all people</i>
Ake ake, ake ake Āmine	<i>for ever and ever, Amen.</i>
Te Atua, te piringa,	<i>The Lord is the refuge</i>
Toku orange Toku orange	<i>and my life.</i>

THE SCRIPTURE / Ngā Karaipiture

Wisdom from World Religious Traditions

John O'Donahue

Wisdom is not just special knowledge about something.
Wisdom is a way of being, a way of inhabiting the world.
The beauty of wisdom is harmony, belonging and illumination of thought, action, heart and mind.”

Psalm 84

A 21st century exploration by Francis Macnab

O God, from my place in the working world,
and in the wide wilderness of life,
I long for that sure sense of knowing what it is all about.
**I yearn for that experience of joy
to come to my whole body and soul.**

**I look for your presence as a pathway to life's fullness.
Even the birds as small as a sparrow and the swallow,
show me the way to your presence.**

Though we are often wounded and hurt in this fractured world,
we discover that this world also has its source of healing.
**We are all enriched and our hearts are made stronger
as we tap into that power that flows into us.
The very sight of a spring of water
arouses our anticipation of being refreshed and renewed.
From all our external involvements,
we hear the call of our inner spirits.**

O Lord of all Being you remind us that you take hold of us.
A moment in your presence is worth more
than many years in the wilderness of life.
**I will be happy to stay only at the edge of your presence
than be carried away by my own self-serving pursuits.**

God - you stand in front of us when we fear the future.
In our dark times you bring the sun to shine again.
**Out of our troubles you point us
to the pathway of our best bliss.
And as we receive: we are rich indeed!**

John 6: 51-58 (Inclusive Text)

'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.
Anyone who eats this bread will live forever;
and the bread that I shall give
is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

Then the crowds started arguing with one another:
How can this one give us his flesh to eat? they said.

Jesus replied:
'I tell you most solemnly,

if you do not eat my flesh or drink my blood,
you have no life in you.

'Those who do... have eternal life,
and I will raise them up on the last day.

'For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.
Those who do eat and drink, live in me, and I live in them.

'As the living God sent me, and I live because of God,
so whoever eats (and drinks) draws life from me.

'This is the bread come down from heaven;
not like the bread our ancestors ate, they are dead.

But anyone who eats this bread will live forever'.

REFLECTION / Whakaaroaro – *Rev Nicola Teague Grundy*

HYMN / Himene – **Summoned by the God who made us**

Words: Sisters of St. Benedict; **Tune:** “Nettleton” [H&P 517(i)]

Summoned by the God who made us
Rich in our diversity,
Gathered in the name of Jesus,
Richer still in unity:

*Let us bring the gifts that differ
And, in splendid, varied ways,
Sing a new church into being,
One of faith and love and praise.*

Radiant risen from the water;
Robed in holiness and light,
Male and female in God’s image
Male and female God’s delight:

Let us bring ...

Trust the goodness of creation;
Trust the Spirit strong within.
Dare to dream the vision promised
Sprung from seed of what has been.
Let us bring ...

Bring the hopes of every nation;
Bring the art of every race.
Weave a song of peace and justice:
Let it sound through time and space.
Let us bring ...

Draw together at one table
All the human family;
Shape a circle ever wider
And a people ever free.

COMMUNITY TIME

Passing the peace with each other
God's peace be with you
and also with you.

Notices

OFFERING / Tātou Koha ki te Haahi

Take a moment to think of the gifts you have to offer God, not just your financial gifts, although those are necessary and appreciated, but all gifts you have: your personality, your skills and time. Imagine taking those gifts and placing them in your hands, and when you are ready, offer them up to God.

Gracious God, bless the gifts that we give and the gifts that we are. May each step of our journey lead us closer to you and may our lives reveal your love to the world.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION / Ngā Inoi Mō Te Whānau

God of eternity,
who laid the foundations of the universe,
in whose hand the cosmos evolves
through matter pregnant with consciousness, we give you thanks
for life's beauty,
for radiant sunsets, erupting volcanoes,
for waters still and turbulent,
for sacred mountains and peaceful gardens and all the fertility of
Earth's womb.

We praise you for all human life,
for humanity's diversity and differences,
for the rich texture of colour, creed and culture,
for the treasure of human love,
for friends, family and loved ones,
for the heartfelt joy and meaning they bring to us
and for the opportunities of caring and to be cared for.
Above all, we thank you for the revelation of yourself
in the rabbi from Nazareth,
in the mystic narratives of Scripture,
in the Spirit dwelling within each of us.
Holy God, you are everything, all in all:
You are in us and we are in you.

We pray for those whose life is marred or diminished by
prejudice or poverty.
May we know and feel the pain and suffering of others;
guide us to all that we can do to help.
Help us to live as children of God,
sisters and brothers who, with the eyes of faith, see all people as
bearers of God's image,
temples in which the Sacred dwells.

May we be at peace with ourselves,
live in a spirit of humility,
and deal with others, even those who oppose us,

with gentleness, honesty and respect.
Teach us dialogue, not conflict.
We pray for our leaders,
and all who serve our country, city and church:
grant them wisdom,
that they may seek justice in all things, compassion,
that they help those suffering from disease, and justice,
helping the most vulnerable.

We pray for all peacemakers,
for peoples and lands divided,
for families – and children – suffering because of war.
May there be a spirit of compromise,
an abandonment of ego, that lust for power and domination,
help all embroiled in conflict to see and cherish the humanity of
others, see the Divine spark in the eyes of others.
We ask a special blessing upon the Holy Land,
the land of the Jewish and Palestinian peoples,
for an end to violence and a new day, a new dawn, on the soil
that Jesus walked.

Eternal God,
we pray for those whose life is blighted by loneliness,
for those who are facing possible bad news,
for those who are anxious or hurting,
unable to sleep, who find little comfort, for those who are dying,
and for the bereaved.

We give thanks and pray for our loved ones departed,
for those who inspired us and shaped our life.
May we with them one day sit at the Table,
forgiven and restored,
at the feast in your eternal Kingdom.
These prayers we offer in Jesus' Name,
and in His words we would sum up all our prayers, saying

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 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.**

HYMN / Himene – God who sets us on a journey

Words: Joy Dine; **Music:** Hyfrydol [FFS 32]

God who sets us on a journey
to discover, dream and grow,
lead us as you led your people
in the desert long ago;
journey inward, journey outward,
stir the spirit, stretch the mind,
love for God and self and neighbour
marks the way that Christ defined.

Exploration brings new insights,
changes, choices we must face;
give us wisdom in deciding,
mindful always of your grace;

should we stumble, lose our bearings,
find it hard to know what's right,
we regain our true direction
focused on the Jesus light.

End our longing for the old days,
grant the vision that we lack –
once we've started on this journey
there can be no turning back;
let us travel light, discarding
excess baggage from our past,
cherish only what's essential,
choosing treasure that will last.

When we set up camp and settle
to avoid love's risk and pain,
you disturb complacent comfort,
pull the tent pegs up again;
keep us travelling in the knowledge
you are always at our side;
give us courage for the journey,
Christ our goal and Christ our guide.

PARTING WORDS / *Ngā Inoi Whakamutunga*

Time has now come for us to leave this sacred place.
let us return to our work and homes enlivened and renewed ...

The Candle is extinguished

May we also remember that each day
Offers more things than we can do.
May we do what needs to be done,
Postpone what does not,
And be at peace with what we can be and do.

God is with us.
Go out with certainty
Live with gratitude.

Love God's people.
Listen to Wisdom
Act with kindness.
Make good use of every opportunity you have
And delight in the moment,
For God is there before us.
Peace of God be with us all.

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**

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Please join us for morning tea in the New Hall following the service.
Many thanks to Daphne Pilaar and Nicola & Peter Grundy for
providing today's kai and manaakitanga.

Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:
Richard J. Fairchild, *Kir-shalom* <http://spirit-net.ca/>
Scott McKenna, <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>
Macnab, F. *Hope: The Deeper Longings of the Mind and Heart*.
Richmond. Spectrum Publications, 1996.
John O'Donohue, *To Bless the Space Between Us*. Penguin Random
House, 2008

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