



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

18th Pēpuere/February 2024
Lent

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 18th Pēpuere / February – Lent
Worship Leader: Nicola Teague Grundy
Organist: Colin Scarf

SAFETY BRIEFING

GATHERING / Emi mai ki taua karakia

LIGHTING THE CANDLE / Kānara Whakamāmā

In this place of friendship there is freedom.
Let the light we kindle go before us,
strong in hope,
wide in good will,
inviting the day to come.

The candle is lit

WORDS FOR BEGINNING / Ngā Kupu Whakapuare

As we gather to remember and share stories of faith,
let us rejoice in the presentness of God.

**Before our stories began, there was God;
Through all our days, God walks with us.**

God's creative presence is moving among us.
Let us sing praises and offer thanks.

Dance with the God who frees us for new possibilities.
We seek to grow in faith and in love for one another.

For all that is our life we offer thanks and praise.
for all life is a gift which we are called to use,
to build the store of common good.
May we know once again that we are not isolated beings
but connected, in mystery and miracle,
to the universe,

to this community, and
to each other.

HYMN / Himene - Touch the Earth Lightly

Words: Shirley Murray; Music: Colin Gibson (AA 143)

OPENING PRAYER / Inoi Whakawhetai

As we gather in the silence of this sacred place,
let us become aware we are in
 a sustaining, life-giving Presence,
 active in our universe
since the first moment of its existence.

(Silence)

We marvel at life.
We celebrate ourselves as a life-form
giving the source of all that is, a unique expression
 in our awareness,
 in our intelligence,
 and in our ability to communicate.

(Silence)

Enfolded in this Presence
may we realise that the world of the Spirit
 and the world of the body
 do not exist alongside one another
but within one another.

As the season of Lent begins
and we wait in anticipation for Easter,
 may we embrace the story of the one called Jesus.
Human like us he discerned where this Presence is found:
 in the everyday,
 in human interaction,
 in feeding,
 in caring,
 in clothing,
 in visiting,
 in sharing,

in forgiving,
in being neighbour.

We remember his total commitment
to living fully and loving totally.

May we allow his life and teaching to motivate all that we do
so that what we profess to have seen in his life
and heard in his teaching
might be evident in our living and loving.

(Silence)

May God-in-us
find generous and courageous expression
in our words and actions
as we undertake to make the reign of God
evident in our community.
May it be so.

SO WHAT'S THE STORY ...?

HYMN / Himene – Simply to be

Words: Shirley Murray; Music: Colin Gibson (HioS 118)

MINISTRY OF THE WORD / Ngā Karaipiture

Genesis 9: 8-17 (CEV)

Again, God said to Noah and his sons:

I am going to make a solemn promise to you and to everyone who will live after you. This includes the birds and the animals that came out of the boat. I promise every living creature that the earth and those living on it will never again be destroyed by a flood.

The rainbow that I have put in the sky will be my sign to you and to every living creature on earth. It will remind you that I will keep this promise forever. When I send clouds over the earth, and a rainbow appears in the sky, I will remember my promise to you and to all other living creatures. Never again will I let floodwaters destroy all life. When I see the rainbow in the sky, I will always

remember the promise that I have made to every living creature. The rainbow will be the sign of that solemn promise.

Mark 1: 9-15 (CEV)

The Baptism of Jesus

About that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. As soon as Jesus came out of the water, he saw the sky open and the Holy Spirit coming down to him like a dove. A voice from heaven said, “You are my own dear Son, and I am pleased with you.”

Jesus and Satan

At once God's Spirit made Jesus go into the desert. He stayed there for 40 days while Satan tested him. Jesus was with the wild animals, but angels took care of him.

Jesus Begins His Work

After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee and told the good news that comes from God. He said, “The time has come! God's kingdom will soon be here. Turn back to God and believe the good news!”

REFLECTION

HYMN / Himene – Choose life

Words: William L Wallace; Tune: St Cecelia

OFFERING / Tātou Koha ki te Haahi

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

We are called to make real the sharing of the gifts God has given to us. Let us offer what we have for the good of all.

Offertory Prayer

Gracious God, we bring our gifts for the work and worship of this community because of our commitment to you, each other, and our world. Amen.

COMMUNITY TIME

Sharing the peace

Let us offer the peace to each other

Notices - Sharing Joys and Sorrows

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS / Ngā Inoi mō te Whānau

We begin with a moment of silence,
to wonder at the mystery of prayer,
to reflect on our journeys and the journeys of others,
and to collect our thoughts before God . . .

We pray for those in leadership,
that they may bless the life and peace of the nations,
our common life here,
and especially the lives of the poor . . .

We pray the hungry might be fed, in body, mind and spirit,
that the thirsty be satisfied,
that God will hear the cry of those who long for justice . . .

We pray for those we meet each day,
at work or in the street, online or in person,
at home or on the phone . . .

We pray for those who teach, in universities and school,
in church and community, praying that knowledge may build up
and not puff up, and that wisdom might guide the feet of all who
walk our world . . .

We pray for those with prophetic gifting,
that they hear rightly, and share rightly,
and that they have a wise community to assess what they say . . .

We pray for all ministers and leaders of our church,
that they may serve with unity, with love and with joy . . .

We pray for one another,
that we grow up in faith during this period of Lent,
that we renew our hope,
that we open our hearts to the deep love of God . . .

And all through Jesus Christ, in whose words we say together,

**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 - Where the road runs out

Words and Music: Colin Gibson (AA 156)

PARTING WORDS (*Ngā Inoi Whakamutunga*)

Time has now come for us to leave this sacred place.

As we do, may we embrace the challenges
of our lives and our world ...

The candle is extinguished

Go out from this place to your daily journey through life.

**As we do, may we fashion relationships of inclusion
and reconciliation, and a life-style that loves and treats
people and the earth gently.**

When you go from here

know that our hearts are always in a holy place,

for we are always connected to one another.

And know that deep down,
Our hearts beat in one universal rhythm.

May we each find the sacred space to hear it.
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:
Rex Hunt - <https://www.rexaehuntprogressivelgy.com/lent1b1822024>
Rev Dr Jock Stein, Church of Scotland,
<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship>
Faith and Worship, prayers for Lent:
http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_Lent.htm#ixzz56sRquqqY

Alleluia Aotearoa. Raumati. New Zealand Hymnbook Trust, 1993.
Wallace, W. L. **The Mystery Telling. Hymns and Songs for the New Millennium.** Kingston. Selah Publishing, 2001.

Hope Is Our Song. Palmerston North. New Zealand Hymnbook Trust, 2009.
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