



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

1st Hakihea / December 2024
ADVENT - HOPE



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

1st Hakihea / December 2024

Worship Leader: Nicola Teague Grundy

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

CHRISTMAS CAROLS BY OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

HYMN – HOPE

Words: George Stuart; Tune: *Maccabeus* [H&P 212]

Hope is forever; it will never end;
Like the rainbow — ageless; we can't comprehend;
Like the mountains — matchless; as a trusted friend;
Like the ocean — boundless; on it we depend.

Refrain:

*Hope is forever; like the rising sun;
Always brings new promise; light to everyone.*
Hope is elusive when we're feeling low;
Dark clouds are depressing; life has lost its glow;
Duty can be pressing; pulls like undertow;
Hope then brings a blessing; joy can overflow.

Refrain:

*Hope is forever; like the rising sun;
Always brings new promise; light to everyone.*

Hope in the future; God is always there
In love and compassion, and with more to spare;
Love that has no ration, for all, everywhere;
This was Jesus' passion, shown in love and care.

Refrain:

*Hope is forever; like the rising sun;
Always brings new promise; light to everyone.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Look!
Can you see ahead?
It's the first week of Advent.
Come and worship the Lord.
The promise of hope is offered
For all who seek peace.
Come and worship the Lord.

OPENING PRAYER

Our Lord and God
in this time of Advent
we watch
and we wait for the coming of the Christ.
We praise you
for the good news of your coming
for the light that comes into our darkness
for the hope that comes into our world
for the warmth of your love
for the coming Day of our Salvation.
We extend to you an open invitation.
Come to us
that we may carry your love and good news
out to others.
Amen.

SO WHAT'S THE STORY ...

Jeremiah 33: 14-16 *Play video while passage is read*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZB59iV3Bbk>

The Lord's Wonderful Promise

The Lord said:

I made a wonderful promise to Israel and Judah, and the days are coming when I will keep it.

I promise that the time will come
when I will appoint a king
from the family of David,
a king who will be honest
and rule with justice.

In those days,

Judah will be safe;
Jerusalem will have peace
and will be named,

“The Lord Gives Justice.”

Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to the Galilean village of Nazareth to a virgin engaged to be married to a man descended from David. His name was Joseph, and the virgin's name, Mary. Upon entering, Gabriel greeted her:

Good morning!

You're beautiful with God's beauty,

Beautiful inside and out!

God be with you.

Mary was thoroughly shaken, wondering what was behind a greeting like that. But the angel assured her,

“Mary, you have nothing to fear. God has a surprise for you: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call his name Jesus.

He will be great,
 be called ‘Son of the Highest.’
The Lord God will give him
 the throne of his father David;
He will rule Jacob’s house forever—
 no end, ever, to his kingdom.”

Mary said to the angel, “But how? I’ve never slept with a man.”

The angel answered,

The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
 the power of the Highest hover over you;
Therefore, the child you bring to birth
 will be called Holy, Son of God.

“And did you know that your cousin Elizabeth conceived a son,
old as she is? Everyone called her barren, and here she is six
months pregnant! Nothing, you see, is impossible with God.”

And Mary said,

Yes, I see it all now:
 I’m the Lord’s maid, ready to serve.
Let it be with me
 just as you say.

Then the angel left her.

PRAYER OF WHO WE ARE

*During this prayer, gently touch the sides of your eyes every
time you hear the word **look** or **see**.*

God of Hope,
We are sorry for the times when we **look** around and ignore the
sadness, pain, and desperation we **see** in others.

We are sorry for the times when we **look** at your amazing creation and don't acknowledge you as creator God.

We are sorry for the time when we **look** so much at our screens that we fail to really **look** at, or **see**, those closest to us.

We are sorry for the times when we **look** at, and desperately want what others have, instead of being grateful for what you have provided.

We are sorry for the times when we **look** at ourselves with critical eyes instead of **seeing** ourselves through your eyes.

Open our eyes so that we can **look** at your world in a new way and forgive when we fail to respond or act on what we **see**.

Amen.

The great news is that God looks at us with compassion. God hears our prayers and forgives us.

REFLECTION

During the reflection you are invited to make yarn wrapped stars.

HYMN / Himene – Come now, Lord Jesus

Words: Shirley Murray; Tune: *Lala Mntwana* Zulu melody AA23(ii)

Come now, Lord Jesus,
enter our Christmas,
be to us no stranger
in this new-made manger.

Come, small and human,
born of a woman,
yet a Son much greater
of our own Creator.

Come, cold and crying
comfort denying,
no place to receive you,
few yet to believe you.

Come poor and simple,
our flesh your temple,
in your body feeling
hurt as well as healing.

Come gift and token,
bread to be broken –
star and sign still point you,
myrrh will yet anoint you.

OFFERING

God is at work in the world, renewing, remaking, resurrecting, bringing hope through the faith, the gifts, and the work of the Church. We trust in God, and together we work for peace and justice through God's Spirit. Let us rejoice in our God-given opportunity to share in God's work.

The offering is collected.

Thank you, God of hope, for the promise of this season. We are grateful for the generosity aroused in us by Christ's coming into the world. May these gifts represent a new spirit of joyous sharing among us, for the sake of all your people everywhere. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

You are invited to write a prayer of hope for this advent season on the paper shape inserted into you're your order of service. Once written bring your prayer to the front to be included in the congregational prayer ribbon for Advent.

Loving God,
we offer these prayers for ourselves, for those named or remembered, for those we stand in solidarity with, for those who have not the freedom to express their concern or celebration.

In all these prayers, in all our joys and in all our concerns,
may we be ever mindful of your presence among us,
may we look and see the new possibilities of the now and the
future.

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**

COMMUNION

Source and Sustainer of life we name God,
present and active from the beginning of time,
we are gathered in your ever presentness.
**And it is right that we give thanks and praise,
and tell our stories of celebration,
lament, and connectedness.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up in praise.

For the galaxies extend to eternity.

And their beauty is exquisite.

Let us give thanks for the abundance of life on this earth.

Through it we and all people may be nourished.

In time beyond our dreaming

God hovered over the water,

and was revealed in fire and storm and precious law.

Likewise, humanity in this creative likeness evolved on this

earth, along with earth's minerals and waters,

flowers and fruits, living creatures of grace and beauty!

We offer this our thanks and praise.

In this age and season,

we wait again with expectant hearts

and hopeful spirits,

as we seek to discern God's presence among us.

Yet we remember and lament...

For that which has been locked up,

trapped and frozen in our reverence of the traditional,

For those outdated customs that have

immunised against the new and on the edge

and diluted our passion.

For choices that strangle rather than free us,

For old ways of doing things which are now out of place

yet still live within us and cause us anxiety and insecurity.

Silence

Long ago,
Jesus came in the humble birth of a child,
a child of amazing and divine love,
a child of Mary's 'yes',
a child of Joseph's acceptance,
a child of our humanity.

**We pledge ourselves to be embodiments
of the dream he dreamed.**

Long ago our tradition says, Jesus took bread,
gave thanks, and broke it:
'This bread is broken, as my body will be'.
Bread is broken

And he handed it to his friends, inviting them to eat:
Remember all that I have been to you'.

Long ago our tradition says, Jesus poured a cup of wine,
offered thanks for it, and gave it to his friends:
Wine is poured out

'This wine is poured out as my life will be poured out.
As you drink give thanks for all I have given'.

May this gathering of this community of faith
be comforted and challenged during this Advent season.

**May people see in us the courage and the generosity
that characterised Jesus' life.**

SHARING THE MEAL

Everyone is welcome at this table.
Everyone present will receive a share.
So, in the meal tradition of Jesus
we break and share bread and drink wine,

pledging ourselves to allow the spirit that moved in Jesus to move freely in our lives.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of all life and love, as we leave this table may we go forth in the certainty of faith, in the knowledge of love and in the vision of hope. May we be blessed with all good things on this day and forever more. Amen.

HYMN / Himene – Love Divine

Words: Charles Wesley

English

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.

Fijian

Sa dau yaco mai na gauna
Kivei keda kecega,
Me da digitaka kina
Na vinaka se na ca:
Me da vakatudaliga
Ki na kaci i Jisu,
Se muria ga na meca
Era cati Koya tu.

Tongan

Ofaange ke lilingi
Ki he fakataha ni
'A e kelesi Hotau 'Eiki
Hono ivi ngaue mai!

Ka tau hao mei he kovi,
Ka tau laka pe ki mu'a
'O tau tupu ai ke ofi
Ki he anga he 'Otua.

Samoan

Le Alii e, silasila
Ia i matou uma nei
O tagata agasala
Ma ua matua sese
A ia e sisila lava
I le maliu o Iesu
Le na matua saunia
O le olataga fou.

English

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 crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

PARTING WORDS / *Ngā Inoi Whakamutunga*

Our celebration need not cease.
It can echo in our lives,
In our words
In our deeds
In our moods
In our dreams.

May the God you see in all the colours of creation
Arouse in you a sense of awe and wonder.
May the God who is a sacred presence be real to you.
May the God who is a source of inspiration and courage
Keep call you forward.
May your God go with you, and bless you.

MA TE MARIE (*Sung unaccompanied*)

Mā te mārie a te Atua
Tātou katoa e tiaki;
Mana anō e whakaū
O tātou ngākau ki te pai.

Mā te Atua Tamaiti rā,
Mā te Wairua Tapu hoki,
Rātou, Atua kotahi nei.
Tātou katoa e whakapai.
Amine.

Please join us for our Christmas Party
in the New Hall following the service.

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Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:
Intergenerational Worship Resources – <https://intergen.org.au>
Rex A E Hunt - <https://www.rexaehuntprogressivelgy.com/liturgies>
Stuart G. **Singing a New Song**. Volume 3. 2011
(AA) Alleluia Aotearoa, New Zealand Hymnbook Trust, 1992

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

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