



WESLEY WELLINGTON  
75 Taranaki Street  
[www.wesleychurch.org.nz](http://www.wesleychurch.org.nz)

**1<sup>st</sup> Mahuru / September 2024**  
**IN FULL CONNECTION - PAPTŪĀNUKU**



**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**

**1<sup>st</sup> Mahuru / September 2024**

**Worship Leader: Nicola Teague Grundy**

**Organist: Colin Scarf**

*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 – Hugh Laurenson**

### **WORDS OF GATHERING / Whakarāmemene**

When God began to create the heavens and the Earth,  
the Earth was complete chaos,  
and darkness covered the face of the deep,  
while a wind from God swept over the face of the Waters.

Then God said,

“Kia marama: nā ka marama. Let there be light.”

And there was light.

And God saw that the light was good,

And God separated the light from the darkness.

God called the light Ko te Awatea/Day,

And the darkness was called Ko te Pō/Night.

And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

*The candle is lit*

Ko te rā tēnei i hanga i Ihowā.

**Kia hari, kia koa tatou.**

### **WORDS OF BEGINING / Ngā Kupu Whakapūare**

As the strengthening sun  
rises above breaking cloud

and floods the whenua  
with spring light;

As Tūi and korimako  
Feast on the sweet nectar  
Of kōwhai and kākābeak blooms;

**Draw us into your light, O God,  
that we might drink deeply  
from your living waters,  
and suck honey out of your rock,  
that we might be strengthened  
to live regeneratively  
within your living Earth.**

### **HYMN / Himene – Cosmic Celebration**

**Words:** Ian Cairns; **Tune:** “Hymn to Joy”

Celebrate the cosmic birthing,  
Flash of primal energy:  
Swirling gases, densing matter  
Stuff of galaxies to be.  
Celebrate the life-force pulsing  
through these 15 billion years,  
Trillion, trillion stars emerging  
From the cradle of the spheres.

Celebrate the white-heat furnace-  
life evoking mother sun;  
Celebrate her planet-offspring  
Nine, in cosmic dance as one.  
Celebrate her favoured daughter,  
Earth, in cloak of fragile green;  
Cragging rocks, and sounding ocean-  
Surface-lashed, beneath serene.

Join the mystic dance of species,  
Chaining, weaving, circling, one

Strong-competing, close depending,  
Life swift ending, new begun.  
Sing our senseful keen awareness-  
Form and sound, scent, taste and hue.  
High achieving, passing, transient-  
Living, dying born anew.

## **OPENING PRAYER / Inoi Whakawhetai**

### **A prayer for Papatūānuku**

Creator and Creating God,  
from the highest maunga, to the depths of moana,  
Papatūānuku Mother Earth  
**speaks of your beauty and aroha.**

Every shining glacier, every bubbling spring,  
every singing forest bird, every scampering gecko  
**speaks of your beauty and aroha.**

Every lumbering sea lion, every waddling hoiho,  
every swaying kelp forest, every gliding albatross  
**speaks of your beauty and aroha.**

The loamy soil of alluvial plains,  
the rich quiet wetlands,  
the wind-lashed headlands,  
the snow-kissed tussock slopes  
**speaks of your beauty and aroha.**

This glorious season of springtime,  
time of new life, blossoming and unfurling,  
time of reconnection,  
time of planting and sowing  
**speaks of your beauty and aroha.**

E te Atua.  
Through your blessed Earth,

You nourish and restore our bodies,  
You nourish and restore our soul.  
You have made us for love.  
**We belong to the Earth,  
we belong to you.**

But we confess that we have not always cherished the Earth:  
**we have taken her for granted,  
we have seen her as something separate  
that we can do what we want with,  
we have taken more than we have given back,  
we have too often exploited rather than nurtured her.**  
**Forgive our broken relationship with Papatūānuku:  
turn us back towards your well-being and wholeness.  
Help us to walk anew in your healing ways.  
Rekindle our love for Papatūānuku again,  
so that we might cherish and care for her every day.**

In this season of creation,  
**help us to live in the power of Te Wairua Tapu.**  
In the name of the One who came to make all things new, we  
pray.  
**Amen**

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

## **WAIATA**

E te Ariki Whakarongo mai ra kia ma tou  
E te Ariki Titiro mai ra kia ma tou  
Tenei matou O tamariki  
E whakapono Ana matou Ki a koe

Aue!  
Aue!  
Aue!  
Aue!

Te Matua te tamaiti Wairua tapu e  
Te Matua te tamaiti Wairua tapu e

## **THE SCRIPTURE / Ngā Karaipiture**

### **Genesis 1: 1-25 [NRSV Updated Edition] – *Fijian reader***

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the

day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

**Romans 1: 18-23 [NRSV Updated Edition] – *Samoan Reader***

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and injustice of those who by their injustice suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. Ever since the creation of the world God’s eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been seen and understood through the things God has made. So they are without excuse, for though they knew God, they did not honour him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and they exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling a mortal human or birds or four-footed animals or reptiles.

## **REFLECTION / Whakaaroaro – Rev Nicola Teague Grundy**

### **HYMN / Himene – Touch the earth lightly**

**Words:** Shirley Murray; **Music:** Colin Gibson [AA 143]

Touch the earth lightly,  
use the earth gently  
nourish the life of the world in our care:  
gift of great wonder,  
ours to surrender,  
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger,  
who create hunger,  
agents of death for all creatures that live,  
we who would foster  
clouds of disaster,  
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening,  
birth from the burning,  
water that blesses and air that is sweet,  
health in God's garden,  
hope in God's children,  
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living,  
God of all loving,  
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,  
teach us, deflect us,  
Christ re-connect us,  
using us gently and making us one.

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION / Ngā Inoi Mō Te Whānau**

"Ko au te whenua, ko te whenua ko au" – "I am the land, and the land is me."



God of abundant life,  
You have woven all things together in harmony: the land, the sea, the sky, and all living creatures. We give thanks for the wisdom of our ancestors who remind us of our connection to the land and our role as kaitiaki, guardians of Your creation.

We pray for the Earth, our home.  
Help us to cherish it, to protect its resources, and to nurture its beauty. May we be responsible kaitiaki, ensuring that the whenua is cared for not only for our benefit but for the generations to come.  
Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in positions of power, entrusted with decisions that affect our environment.  
Give them wisdom and courage to act with justice, prioritizing the well-being of Papatūānuku and the communities that rely on her. Guide them to make choices that respect the fragile balance of nature.  
Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our communities, whānau, and tamariki, that they may be empowered to live sustainably and to teach the values of kaitiakitanga. May we work together to restore what has been desecrated, protect what remains, and create a future of abundance and care.  
Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Stir in us a deeper love for all of Your creation.  
Help us to see the divine in the world around us, to tread lightly on the earth, and to share its gifts with gratitude.  
May we embody the whakataukī, “Ko au te whenua, ko te whenua ko au,” as we embrace our responsibility to live in harmony with the land.  
Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who came to bring life and healing to all of creation.

**Amen.**

## **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 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.**

## **COMMUNION / Kaihapa**

**The Great Thanksgiving**  
The creator is with you and all creation.  
**And also with you.**

Open your hearts.  
**We open them to our Creator.**

Let us give thanks to the Maker of Heaven and Earth.  
**It is right to join creation in thanking God.**

We give thanks to you, O God,  
Galaxy-Spinner,  
Star-Sower,  
Earth-Maker!

We give thanks,  
for your love for the Earth  
and the whole community of life.  
You look upon all that you have made and call us good.  
You indwell your whole creation and make it holy.  
The whole Earth is full of your glory!

We thank you for Jesus Christ,  
your embodied Wisdom in Earth,  
intimately connected  
with all in the community of life:  
who was baptised in a river,  
wandered in the wilderness,  
befriended wild beasts,  
foraged for wild foods,  
walked along lakeshores and through wheatfields,  
prayed on mountainsides and in gardens,  
told heaven on Earth parables,  
lifted up the oppressed,

challenged the domination system  
invited all to live in the kin-dom of God.

With past generations  
and future generations  
with all for whom Earth has been  
and will be our common home  
we say with deep gratitude and joy:

**Tapu, tapu, tapu God of all life,  
Te whenua me to moana me te rangi**

**Are infused with your presence  
And revere your name. Āmine.**

### **The Story of the Last Meal**

We remember when Jesus, at table with his friends,  
took a loaf of bread, blessed it,  
and broke it.

As he then shared it with his companions, he said,  
“Take this, each one of you, eat it. This is my body which is  
given for you.”

Nearing the end of the meal,  
he took a cup of wine,  
and gave thanks to you,  
God of all creation.

He passed it among his friends, and said:  
“Take this, all of you, and drink from it.  
This is the cup of the new and everlasting covenant.  
Drink from it and let my life flow through you.”

### **The Blessing of the Bread and Wine**

God of transformation,  
pour out your Spirit on us.  
Pour out your Spirit on these gifts from your Earth.  
May the bread and wine symbolise your body and lifeblood.  
Make us through them,  
Christ’s body alive in the world,  
Bringing healing to the Earth.

### **The Breaking and Sharing of the Bread and Wine**

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.  
*(The bread is broken)*

The cup which we share is a sharing in the new covenant of  
Christ.  
*(The cup is raised)*

## **Communion**

Everyone is welcome at this table,.

So, in the meal tradition of Jesus we come to this meal, pledging ourselves to allow the Holy Spirit to move freely in our lives.

*(The Fijian Choir will be served first and will sing during communion)*

## **Final Prayer**

We go from this feast, to embody Christ's love in Earth community, and to live in the community of the Spirit.

Empowered to rekindle the vā of Papatūānuku

Let us walk humbly with you, O God,

**to do justice, to seek peace,**

**and to heal the Earth.**

**Amen.**

## **HYMN / Himene – Earth was Given as a Garden**

**Words:** Roberta Bard Ruby; **Tune:** 'Hyfrydol' [H&P 272]

Earth was given as a garden,  
cradle for humanity;  
tree of life and tree of knowledge  
placed for our discovery.

Here was home for all your creatures  
born of land and sky and sea;  
all created in your image,  
all to live in harmony.

Show to us again the garden  
where all life flows fresh and free.  
Gently guide your sons and daughters  
into full maturity.

Teach us how to trust each other,  
how to use for good our power,  
how to touch the earth with rev'rence.

Then once more will Eden flower.

Bless the earth and all your children,  
one creation: make us whole,  
interwoven, all connected,  
planet wide and inmost soul.  
Holy mother, life bestowing,  
bid our waste and warfare cease.  
Fill us all with grace o'er-flowing.  
Teach us how to live in peace.

### **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 the blessings of the whenua fill us with gratitude.  
May the blessings of the oceans fill us with humility.  
May the blessings of the sky fill us with wonder.  
May we be a blessing to the Earth  
this day, and every day.  
**Amen.**

### **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 a shared morning tea  
in the New Hall following the service.

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Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:  
**Gibson Mark**; Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa, Season of Creation In Full  
Connexion,  
(AA) **Alleluia Aotearoa, Hymns and Songs for all Churches**. Raumati. New  
Zealand Hymnbook Trust 1993  
Love Song to the Earth,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSnOXbaXzfM&t=1s>

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[www.nasa.gov/image-article/apollo-8-earthrise](http://www.nasa.gov/image-article/apollo-8-earthrise)

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