



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

22nd Mahuru / September 2024
IN FULL CONNECTION - MAUNGA



WORDS OF BEGINING / Ngā Kupu Whakapūare

As the mist rises,
from the peaks
of Aoraki and Ruapehu,
Taranaki and Tapuae-o-Uenuku;

and the warm September sun
melts ice and snow,
enlivening nascent
mountain streams.

May the shroud
over our eyes be lifted
so that we see more clearly
the beauty and goodness of creation
that has been so divinely made.

**May we see with greater clarity
God's love for all of creation,
and may our coldness of heart
towards our Earth community
be transformed into life-giving
acts of healing and justice.**

HYMN / Himene – The majesty of mountains

Words: Michael Perry; **Music:** Boosey and Hawkes [AA139]

The majesty of mountains,
the sovereignty of skies,
the regal rocks that arch above
where veils of vapour rise,
are gifts of God, the Lord of love,
the worshipful, the wise.

The running of the river,
the surging of the sea,
the grass that grows high on the hill,
the flower and fruiting tree,
our Saviour sends us, by whose will
all creatures came to be.

The Glory of the Godhead,
the Spirit and the Son,
the Father, faithful down the days:

to them, the Three-in-One,
while life shall last, be perfect praise
and highest honour done!

OPENING PRAYER / Inoi Whakawhetai

Our God,
we seek you in public places and private spaces.
We seek you at the top of mountains and hills.
We seek you in low valleys and the extending plains.
We seek you by the water's edge and in the shelter of the bush.
We feel drawn to you, called to you.
Sometimes the seeking feels distant
and the journey long and hard.
Other times we find you when we least expect it
and were not seeking.
Our seeking pales in comparison to the way you seek us.
Through the landscape of our lives, you are with us.
You are with us in the highest highs and the lowest lows.
You are with us in our moments of splendour
and in our moments of shame.
No matter where we are or what we're doing you are with us.
You find us.
You find us again.
You keep finding us.
We offer our praise to you today.
Amen.

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

WAIATA - Tūrangawaewae

THE SCRIPTURE / Ngā Karaipiture

Psalm 48: 1-11 [NRSV Updated Edition]

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised
in the city of our God.

His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation,
is the joy of all the earth,
Mount Zion, in the far north,
the city of the great King.
Within its citadels God
has shown himself a sure defence.

Then the kings assembled;
they came on together.
As soon as they saw it, they were astounded;
they were in panic; they took to flight;
trembling took hold of them there,
pains as of a woman in labor,
as when an east wind shatters
the ships of Tarshish.
As we have heard, so have we seen
in the city of the Lord of hosts,
in the city of our God,
which God establishes forever. *Selah*

We ponder your steadfast love, O God,
in the midst of your temple.
Your name, O God, like your praise,
reaches to the ends of the earth.
Your right hand is filled with victory.
Let Mount Zion be glad;
let the towns of Judah rejoice
because of your judgments.

Mark 16: 14-18 [NRSV Updated Edition]

Later he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table, and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved, but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany

those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

WHAKATAUKĪ

“Whāia e koe ki te iti Kahurangi; ki te tuohu koe, me he maunga teitei.” Seek that which is most precious, if you are to bow, let it be to a lofty mountain.”

REFLECTION / Whakaaroaro – *Rev Nicola Teague Grundy*

HYMN / Himene – The spring has come

Words: Shirley Murray; **Music:** Colin Gibson [AA 140]

The spring has come,
Let all the Church be part of it!
The world has changed,
And God is at the heart of it!
New light, new day,
new colour after winter grey.
New light, new day,
the spring has come,
let all the Church be part of it!

The sun is warm,
let all God’s children play in it!
The world expands,
let’s spread the Gospel way in it!
New leaf, new thrust,
new greening for the love of Christ.
New leaf, new thrust,
the sun is warm,
let all God’s children play in it!

The spring has come,
new people are the flowers of it.

Through wind and rain,
new life is in the showers of it.
New bud, new shoot,
new hope will bear the Spirit's fruit.
New bud, new shoot,
the spring has come,
new people are the flowers of it!

COMMUNITY TIME

Sharing the Peace

Let's greet each other saying: **"God's peace be with you."**

Notices

Sharing joys, things we are grateful for, sorrows and concerns

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY OF LIFE

/ Ngā Inoi Mō Te Whānau

God of mountains and high places,
we know that it is from a peak
that we gain a much wider perspective;
it is here that we are more able to see the big picture;
and, at the same time,
gain a renewed sense
of our own smallness.

It is on a mountainside
that we can learn humility.

Mountains are often places of prayer,
wonder and contemplation
that can bring us closer to you in ways
that are life-changing.

We can see our lives in a new light,
and see the world in a new light.

From this hallowed place we bring to
you our prayers for the community of life.

We pray for all flora and fauna of the mountains of our motu,
and those entrusted to protect them;
iwi leaders, kaitiaki, DOC staff, statutory bodies and NGOs.

We pray for people who live in the mountainous regions.
Too often their lives are marginal,
as they try to eke out a livelihood in harsh conditions.
With a changing climate their situation is only becoming more
precarious.

We pray for mountain safety and rescue workers,
often risking their lives to save others from life and death
situations; and for mountain guides enabling people
to explore mountainous and glaciated places,
and to deepen their sense of joy and wonder in your creation.

God, we pray for scientists who conduct field research in the
mountains, may their investigations bring us greater knowledge
and wisdom that deepens our respect and care for the
community of life.

Loving God, Maker and Moulder of the mountains and hills
that sustain and inspire our daily lives,
we remember also the metaphorical mountains
that many people face in their lives.
The kinds of mountain that are life-sapping
rather than life-giving.

We pray for young people everywhere, terrified of the mountain
of ecological debt they are inheriting, a future with an
increasingly hostile climate and dwindling biodiversity;
and, leaders whose responsibilities have grown to Himalayan
proportions in the face of climate and ecological justice issues.

Liberating God, help all those caught under these kinds of mountains to find their way to your new life, of freedom, justice and joy. To choose life over death. To be your agents of liberation.

Intimate God,
you are closer to each one of us than we are to ourselves,
May your peace flow through us and wash away our fears and doubts. Where we are stumbling give us the steadiness of a mountain.

In the name of the Christ, we pray.

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 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.**

OFFERING / Tātou Koha ki te Haahi

**We walk by faith,
we live by faith,
we give by faith.**

**God of great gifts,
you have given us so much,
accept these gifts from our hands,
our faithful response to your abundant grace. Amen.**

HYMN / Himene – Where mountains rise to open skies

Words: Shirley Murray **Music:** “*Dunedin*” Vernon Griffiths

Where mountains rise to open skies
your name, O God, is echoed far,
from island beach to kauri’s reach,
in water’s light, in lake and star.

Your people’s heart, your people’s part
be in our caring for this land,
for faith to flower, for aroha
to let each other’s mana stand.

From broken word, from conflict stirred,
from lack of vision, set us free
to see the line of your design,
to feel creation’s energy.

Your love be known, compassion shown,
that every child have equal scope:
in justice done, in trust begun
shall be our heritage and hope.

Where mountains rise to open skies
your way of peace distil the air,
your spirit bind all humankind,
one covenant of life to share!

PARTING WORDS / Ngā Inoi Whakamutunga

The God we worship is never confined to this holy place.
So go and travel with God
who is found in ordinary and surprising places.

The Candle is extinguished

May the peace of first light
on Maunga Hikurangi,
be ours.

May the peace of a still alpine tarn
high above the bushline,
be ours.

May the peace of a mountain daisy
pushing through the snow,
be ours.

May the peace of the silent mountains
where Jesus felt close to God,
be ours,
now and always
Amen.

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 whiwhingatahitanga ki te Wairua Tapu.
Āmine**

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

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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
Turangawaewae <https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/songs-worship>

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