



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

**24<sup>th</sup> Whiringa-ā-rangi / November 2024**



**Our vision – A church united in faith  
Where all are respected, accepted and belong**

**Kia ora koutou katoa — Talofa Lava  
Malo e lelei — Bula Vinaka Greetings to you all!**

# ORDER OF SERVICE

24<sup>th</sup> Whiringa-ā-rangi / November 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

## WELCOME

## WORDS OF BEGINNING / Ngā Kupu Whakapūare

This is the place  
And this is the time;  
Here and now God waits  
To break into our experience:  
**To change our minds,  
to change our lives,  
to change our ways;**

To make us see the world  
And the whole of life  
In a new light;  
**To fill us with hope,  
Joy, and certainty  
for the future.**

This is the place  
as are all places;  
this is the time,  
as are all times.  
**O God of this place,  
and every place,  
God of this time,**

**and all time,  
here and now,  
we praise you.**

**HYMN / Himene – Now thank we all our God**

Words: Martin Rinkart; Tune: Nun Danket [H&P 566(i)]

Now thank we all our God,  
with hearts and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things hath done,  
in whom his world rejoices;  
who from our mother's arms  
hath blest us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us in his grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills  
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given,  
the Son, and Holy Ghost,  
one Lord in highest heaven:  
the one eternal God,  
whom earth and heaven adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

God of all blessings,  
source of all life,  
giver of all grace:

We thank you for the gift of life:  
for the breath that sustains life,  
for the food of this earth that nurtures life,  
for the love of family and friends  
without which there would be no life.

We thank you for the mystery of creation:  
for the beauty that the eye can see,  
for the joy that the ear may hear,  
for the unknown that we cannot behold  
filling the universe with wonder,  
for the expanse of space that draws us  
beyond the definitions of our selves.

We thank you for setting us in communities:  
for families who nurture our becoming,  
for friends who love us by choice,  
for companions at work who share our burdens and daily tasks,  
for strangers who welcome us into their midst,  
for people from other lands  
who call us to grow in understanding,  
for children who lighten our moments with delight,  
for the unborn who offer us hope for the future.

We thank you for this day:  
for life and one more day to love,  
for opportunity and one more day to work for justice and peace,  
for neighbours and one more person to love  
and by whom to be loved,  
for your grace and one more experience of your presence,  
for your promise:  
to be with us, to be our God,  
and to give salvation.  
For these, and all blessings,  
We give you thanks, eternal, loving God,  
through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

## SO WHAT'S THE STORY ... INTRODUCTION

### PREPARING ...?

We come now to prepare our hearts for the journey towards Christmas. This we symbolise in the preparation of a cake to be enjoyed at Christmas.

Various ingredients will be presented and added to the mixture. In just the same way, we different as we are, are blended together to be a community of faith.

As we approach Christmas once again, we must make ready. Many tasks must be done. The festive time will surely involve eating and drinking appreciating the good things provided.

**So we thank God for all that nourishes us both physically and spiritually, individually and together as people of faith.**

### BUTTER AND SUGAR

Our first ingredients are butter and sugar, items of sweetness that reminds us of the psalmist's words: "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth"

*Psalm 119: 103*

**Lord, may our lives too show a sweet character as we seek to live out qualities of love and caring; kindness and sharing.**

*Butter and sugar mixture are brought forward – the mixture is stirred as we sing the response.*

### SUNG RESPONSE

Words: Dale Peach; Music: Autumn, by Francois Hippolyte Barthelemon

Stir us up to be your people  
Stir us up to love more

Stir us up in preparation  
For the advent journey now.  
We are different people gathered  
Mix us up as one in you  
We have come with faith and questions  
Stir us up to seek your truth.

## **ADDING THE EGGS**

*The eggs are brought forward – those who bring forward the eggs break them into the mixture and keep stirring.*

Our next ingredient are the eggs. Eggs are more often associated with Easter than with Advent. They are a symbol of resurrection, of new life breaking forth from the tomb.

Therefore, these eggs remind us that death is not the end, that Christ brings light and hope in the midst of darkness and despair.

Reminding us that into the shadows of that Bethlehem night  
A glorious radiance shone for all to see.

We present these eggs, broken and added to our mixture,  
Recalling the words of hope declared by the prophet Isaiah:  
“Then your light will break forth like the dawn and your healing  
will quickly appear.” (*Isaiah 58:8a*)

**Lord, may our lives reveal the risen Christ  
As we seek to follow his new and perfect way, offering  
ourselves in service.**

## **SUNG RESPONSE**

Words: Dale Peach; Music: Autumn, by Francois Hippolyte Barthelemon

Stir us up to be your people  
Stir us up to love more  
Stir us up in preparation  
For the advent journey now.  
We are different people gathered

Mix us up as one in you  
We have come with faith and questions  
Stir us up to seek your truth.

## **FLOUR AND WINE**

Our next ingredients are flour and wine, as familiar to the people of Jesus' day as they are to us.

Flour reminds us of the prayer the Lord taught us in which we ask that our daily bread might be provided. We also recall that Christ himself was known as the "Bread of life" and that feeding from him our lives can be full.

*Bring forward the flour and wine. Flour is sieved in first and stirred. Then the wine is added to the mixture and stirred.*

We present this flour and wine, symbols of another meal held in an Upper Room many years ago. As Jesus shared these elements he offered for us his body and blood.

**Lord thank you for that last supper  
and for the fact that we can still experience your presence  
whenever we celebrate Holy Communion.**

## **MIXED FRUIT**

Our ingredients are dried fruit and nuts, also common in biblical days. This mixture reminds us of those dry times we can experience when God seems rather remote and distant.

The hardness of nuts also reveals something about us at times, the fact that our hearts can become hard when we fail to live in harmony with each other.

**We present this mixed fruit and in doing so seek forgiveness  
for our faults. We are sorry for selfish thoughts and actions  
and ask for your help to live as we should.**

*Dried fruit and nuts are brought forward – the fruit is stirred  
into the mixture. Keep stirring continuously.*

Recognising that these ingredients, while small, are each important to the final taste and texture. Help us to realise that it is often the little things that we do, or don't do, that make the biggest difference in our lives.

## **MARMALADE, SPICES AND ESSENCE**

We also present marmalade and spices, with their different tastes and flavours. Reminding us of the variety of people who make up our church community.

**Lord, may we take pleasure in the fact that we are each unique and different.**

*Marmalade and spices are brought forward – people keep stirring the mixture as we continue to hold the service. Once everyone has stirred the mixture – the mixture is covered.*

## **SUNG RESPONSE**

Words: Dale Peach; Music: Autumn, by Francois Hippolyte Barthelemon

Stir us up to be your people  
Stir us up to love more  
Stir us up in preparation  
For the advent journey now.  
We are different people gathered  
Mix us up as one in you  
We have come with faith and questions  
Stir us up to seek your truth.

## **THE SCRIPTURE / Ngā Karaipiture**

### **John 18: 33-38 (Inclusive Text)**

'Are you the King of the Jews' Pilate asked.  
Jesus replied,  
'Do you ask this of your own accord,  
or have others spoken to you about me?'

Pilate replied,  
'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests



who have handed you over to me:  
what have you done?'

Jesus replied,  
'My reign is not of this world; if my reign were of this world,  
my servants would have fought to prevent my being  
surrendered to the people.

'But my reign is not of this kind.'

'So you are a king then?' said Pilate.

'It is you who say it' answered Jesus. 'Yes, I am a king.  
I was born for this, I came into the world for this:  
to bear witness to the truth;  
and all who are on the side of truth  
listen to my voice.'

Pilate said, 'What is truth?'

## **PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT**

We present our annual report highlighting the offering of ourselves in the last year. We acknowledge the work of all the people of our congregation – those who lead our music, our singing, our flowers, cleaning, those who administer our resources and prepare our documents, those who greet and welcome, those who share our stories.

- Minutes of 2023 AGM
- Receiving the Annual report
- Election of officers
- Any other business

## **A CELEBRATION OF FAITH**

In response to our presentation of the Annual report, let us stand and share together a celebration of faith.

**We are grounded in a deep awareness  
of the holy within and around.  
We are challenged and committed  
to living the way of Jesus.  
We recognise the sacred interconnected  
and interdependent nature of all life.  
We are open to the wisdom of  
prophetic voices ancient and new.  
We seek to embody and proclaim that  
which is life affirming within our faith tradition.  
We are responding to the calling of all creation for love,  
respect and justice by evoking positive change collectively.**

### **HYMN/Himene – God, Composer and Conductor**

Words: Jocelyn Marshall; Tune: Regent Square [H&P 13(ii)]

God, composer and conductor  
of earth's matchless symphony,  
makes from silence glorious music,  
from discordance, harmony;  
brings forth joy from deepest sorrow,  
ecstasy from agony.

God, the architect and artist  
of earth's colours, textures, forms,  
gives new wonder to our vision,  
light in even darkest storms,  
teaches that with understanding,  
faith redeems and love reforms.

God of science, healer, teacher,  
pushes out the boundaries  
of capacity and knowledge,  
challenges and gently frees  
from the limits that restrain us,  
offers opportunities.

God, creative spirit in us,  
inspiration, force sublime,  
leading us to new endeavour,  
you, our living paradigm,  
may we know your constant presence  
now, and to the end of time.

## **OFFERING**

You do not ask for much, Lord of life, only our humility,  
and our open hearts. We make our offering to you along with  
our hopes of a better world and our hands to serve you.

### **Offering prayer:**

**Gracious God, these gifts we bring, hopeful that what we  
offer expresses our gratitude. May these gifts help to show  
and share and celebrate your love throughout the world. In  
Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS FOR OTHERS / Ngā Inoi Mō Te Whānau**

O God, we pray this day:  
for all who have a song they cannot sing,  
for all who have a burden they cannot bear,  
for all who live in chains they cannot break,  
for all who wander homeless and cannot return,  
for those who are sick and for those who tend them,  
for those who wait for loved ones and wait in vain,  
for those who live in hunger  
and for those who will not share their bread,  
for those who are misunderstood,  
and for those who misunderstand,  
for those who are captives  
and for those who are captors,  
for those whose words of love  
are locked within their hearts

and for those who yearn to hear those words.  
Have mercy upon these, O God.  
Have mercy on us all.

### **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 - 'Christ is the Truth, the Way'**

Words: Ruth Duck. Tune: *Diademata* [H&P 255]

Christ is the truth, the way,  
the endless light of life.  
Christ shares the struggles of our day,  
our earthly joy and strife,

Redeeming what is lost,  
and healing human pain,  
Christ walks the valley of the cross,  
that all may rise again.

Christ is the living bread  
and source of grace outpoured;  
our deepest hungers shall be fed  
and life will be restored.  
All those who thirst rejoice,  
by living water filled.  
The good shall welcome with one voice  
the justice God has willed.

Christ sends the Spirit now,  
that we may all be one,  
All people joining hands in love  
that justice will be done.  
The lion shall lie down  
in peace beside the lamb.  
The mighty shall lay down their crowns  
before the great "I am."

Christ is the gift of love,  
forgiveness, joy, and grace,  
that all may live in unity  
and hope in ev'ry place.  
We go where Jesus led  
When others' pain we bear;  
Responding to our neighbours' needs,  
Christ's cross and crown we share.

### **PARTING WORDS / *Ngā Inoi Whakamutunga***

May this land of Aotearoa  
its peoples  
its cultures  
their travails

their hopes  
be for all of us  
the very dwelling place of God.

**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**

This morning our service will be in a café style  
in the New Hall. Refreshments will be served during the service.

Many thanks to the Tevita family  
for providing today's kai and manaakitanga

\* \* \* \* \*

Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:  
**The late Rev Dr Jannet Mudavanhu and Rev Dale Peach** – Stir it up  
liturgy

**Inclusive Readings. Year C.** Brisbane. Inclusive Language Project.  
Prayer of Thanksgiving from **“Prayers of our Hearts”** © 1991 Vienna  
Cobb Anderson

**Ann Weems** from “Kneeling in Jerusalem,” quoted in “Greeting the Day  
– Morning Prayers and Meditations from Around the World,” edited by  
Brian Wrigh

**Image:** “Stir it up” produced through Canva

\* \* \* \* \*

To keep up-to-date with services and news, visit the parish  
website:

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

Or the 10AM Congregation's Facebook Page:

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