



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

25th Here-turi-kōkā / August 2024



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

25th Here-turi-kōkā / August 2024

Worship Leader: Nicola Teague Grundy

Organist: Vivien Chiu

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

LIGHTING THE CANDLE / Kānara Whakamāmā

We light this candle as a symbol of the creativity of our faith.

The candle is lit

**Surprising God,
whose love leads us to new experiences,
help us to be open to your presence amongst us.
Let us sense your presence
in the sights and sounds of this day.**

WORDS OF BEGINING / Ngā Kupu Whakapūare

A morning mist,
the gleam of a new day,
faintly we discern the possibilities that are before us.

Women

**Energy rising, plans turning to action,
we build our every yesterday
from the living of our days.**

May we live our hope into tomorrow.

Men

**May we wrap our lives around
the challenges of today.**

And in the quiet of this sacred space,
may we listen at the centre of our being
for the truth of our inner voice
that sets before us the purpose of this day.

(pause)

Creating God, extend our vision to perceive
that this is your world.

You are in it.

You pervade it.

You enfold it.

It is immersed in you.

Open our eyes to see in the depth of reality
your grace
your goodness
your glory.

To see that we dwell in you.

May it be so.

HYMN / Himene – Praise to the Living God

Words: Curtis Beach; **Tune:** “Diademata” [H&P 255]

Praise to the living God, the God of Love and light,
Whose word brought forth the myriad suns
 And set the worlds in flight;
Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,
Pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.

*Praise to the living God, from whom all things derive,
Whose Spirit formed upon this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
Who caused them to evolve, unwitting toward God’s goal,
Till humankind stood on the earth, as living, thinking souls.*

Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain,
Who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane.
God toils where'er we toil, in home and mart and mill;
And deep within the human heart God leads us forward still.

Praise to the living God, around, within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as Love.
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to the way, O source and goal of life.

OPENING PRAYER / Inoi Whakawhetai

Ancient of Days,
Holy Mystery,
El Shaddai ...

God, we call on You
by the names we have,
taking on our lips
words that cannot contain You.

You are always more
and as we turn to You,
You have already turned to us
and called on us:
My people!
My beloved!
To wait before You
and meditate on You –
this is what restores us.
To know again
that You are the Living God –
this is what reawakens our hope.

So we gather in Your presence
and offer You our love and thanks
for keeping the world turning,

for infusing all that exists with the breath of Your Spirit,
for looking on us with warmth and pride
because we are Yours.

We pray in the names
of Your Community of Love –
Source, Saviour, Sustained.
Amen.

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

WAIATA – E te Ariki

E te Ariki
Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou,
E te Ariki,
Titiro mai rā ki a mātou,
Tēnei mātou, ō tamariki,
E whakapono ana mātou,
Ki a koe
Auē! Auē!
Te Matua te Tamaiti .
Wairua tapu e.

THE SCRIPTURE / Ngā Karaipiture

Wisdom from World Religious Traditions

Stirred by Goodness

Stirred by a yearning after goodness,
we scan our environs,
searching for signs of its presence
in what we find there.

In much, we find beauty;
in much, there is truth;
in neither is goodness bound to exist.

And so our quest is ongoing,
a constant assessing, filtering, and distilling
of what we encounter
and of what we gain.

May we ever be attentive
to those things that offer us goodness.
May it enter our hearts
and work to make us
vessels of the goodness
for which others seek.

As those who would offer
truth, beauty, and goodness,
we continue the quest.

John 6: 56-69 [Contemporary English Version]

If you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you are one with me,
and I am one with you.

The living Father sent me, and I have life because of him. Now everyone who eats my flesh will live because of me. The bread that comes down from heaven isn't like what your ancestors ate. They died, but whoever eats this bread will live forever.

Jesus was teaching in a synagogue in Capernaum when he said these things.

The Words of Eternal Life

Many of Jesus' disciples heard him and said, "This is too hard for anyone to understand."

Jesus knew that his disciples were grumbling. So he asked, "Does this bother you? What if you should see the Son of Man go up to heaven where he came from? The Spirit is the one who gives life! Human strength can do nothing. The words that I have spoken to you are from that life-giving Spirit. But some of you refuse to have faith in me." Jesus said this, because from the

beginning he knew who would have faith in him. He also knew which one would betray him.

Then Jesus said, “You cannot come to me, unless the Father makes you want to come. That is why I have told these things to all of you.”

Because of what Jesus said, many of his disciples turned their backs on him and stopped following him. Jesus then asked his twelve disciples if they also were going to leave him. Simon Peter answered, “Lord, there is no one else that we can go to! Your words give eternal life. We have faith in you, and we are sure that you are God's Holy One.”

REFLECTION / Whakaaroaro – *Rev Nicola Teague Grundy*

HYMN / Himene – O God, Each Day you Bless Us

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (2004). **Tune:** *Ellacombe* [H&P 208]

O God, each day you bless us with gifts of your shalom:
You give us peace and justice, you welcome lost ones home.
You care for your creation and set your people free;
You offer us salvation and build community.

You make us sons and daughters baptised and reconciled!
You show us: Each peace-maker is blest as your own child.
You fill us at your table with strength for each new day;
Then Spirit-filled we're able to live your peaceful way.

We'll worship, pray, and study, to learn new skills for peace;
We'll work as one strong body so justice will increase.
We'll build new global friendships, seek peace in every land,
Protect the earth you gave us and give with outstretched hand.

COMMUNITY TIME

Passing the peace with each other

Notices

OFFERING / Tātou Koha ki te Haahi

Take a moment to think of the gifts you have to offer God, not just your financial gifts, although those are necessary and appreciated, but all gifts you have: your personality, your skills and time. Imagine taking those gifts and placing them in your hands, and when you are ready, offer them up to God.

Gracious God, bless the gifts that we give and the gifts that we are. May each step of our journey lead us closer to you and may our lives reveal your love to the world.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION / Ngā Inoi Mō Te Whānau

Multi-talented, Multi-tasking God!

It is from You

that we derive our creative instincts.

We are makers and crafters,

designers and builders

of relationships and social systems,

of ideas and projects,

of agreements and policies,

of tools and artworks.

Thank You that our lives are the better

for what has been made by hands and minds

in our own generation and those older and younger.

Thank You for those whose skill and faith,

time and money have brought into being houses of prayer;

sanctuaries of worship.

Thank You for all the ways that cathedrals, temples,

monasteries, churches, marae, have served Your purposes,

making visible a glimpse of Your glory and grandeur;

moving people into an encounter with You;

speaking of the longer story we are part of.

Today we pray for our brothers and sisters across the world who long for the freedoms we take for granted – to worship together in a dedicated building, or anywhere.

Bring Your comfort and protection to those who have lost loved ones and are themselves at risk of injury, torture or death because of objections and opposition to the faith they profess and practise.

We cry out to You for a world able to live and let live; a world able to celebrate the diverse strands of belief and ritual, affirming our common ground of treating others as we wish them to treat us.

Give us a curiosity for other ways of understanding You.
Surprise us with the insights of other paths to You.
You are Mystery,
You are Intimacy,
give Yourself to us
that we may give ourselves to You,
and bring alive Your kindness and compassion
in all we do.

These and all the concerns we carry in our hearts today,
we bring in Jesus' name and in whose name we pray ...

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 – Here I am, Lord (I, the Lord of Sea and Sky)

Words: Daniel L Schutte **Music:** OCP New Dawn Music

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them,
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

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

As we go from here,
may God go with us
Keeping us close,
keeping us connected,
keeping us a community of faith.

May God bless us in the days ahead,
Deepening our trust,
encouraging our hope,
amplifying our love.
Amen.

THE 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 whiwhinga tahitanga
ki te Wairua Tapu.
Āmine**

Please join us for morning tea in the New Hall following the service.
Many thanks to Heather and Philip Garside for providing today's kai
and manaakitanga.

* * * * *

Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:
Vosper, G. **Another Breath. Prayers for Celebration and
Reflection.** Brisbane.

The Centre for Progressive Religious Thought Brisbane, 2009/2010.

Hunt, Rex. <https://www.rexaehuntprogressivelgy.com/pentecost14b2582024>

Love Joanna, *Wild Goose Resource Group*,

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>

Hymns Reproduced under CCL licence # 230381

* * * * *

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>