



Wesley Wellington
75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday, 28 January 2024
Epiphany 4

Haere mai ki tēnei whare karakia
Welcome to this house of prayer



Search for a prophet amongst us

Living God's love – acting for the common Good

Kia ora koutou katoa — Tālofa lava
Mālō e lelei — Bula vinaka — Greetings to you all!

Welcome to today's service. A special welcome to visitors. We hope you will enjoy worshipping with us this morning and will join us again.

Welcoming you today are Seine Samia and Carol Dale.

10AM Congregation – Order of Service

Worship leader: Hugh Laurensen

Organist: Vivien Chiu

Welcome and Safety Briefing

Leatuavao Leatuavao

Call to Worship (Ngā Kupu Whakapūare)

Ko te rā tēnei i hanga i Ihowā

This is the day which the Lord has made

Kia hari, kia koa tātou

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

God will raise up a prophet when God needs a courageous word spoken.

Like our families, our loved ones and friends.

God will raise up a prophet from among us

Like coaches who care and teachers who pray

For athletes and students like they would their own.

Like barbers and beauticians who ask the right question at the right time

To pull us back to safety before we commit some crime.

God will raise up a prophet to speak God's word to us.

And anyone who doesn't listen will have to deal with God.

Lighting the candle (Kānara Whakamāmā)

By lighting this candle

We are reminded to be your lamp in this dark world.

And to share your warmth with others.

We are reminded of lights that have gone before.

And of lights that even now grow dim.

We are reminded to bring our prayerful offering.

And to go from this place in joy.

Opening Prayer (Inoi Tuatahi)

Kia noho a Ihowa ki a koutou. **The Lord be with you.**

Ma Ihowa koe e manaaki. **The Lord bless you.**

Haere mai te Wairua Tapu. Aio ki te whenua. **Come Holy Spirit. Deep peace to the earth.**

Haere mai te Wairua Tapu. Aio ki te moana.

Come Holy Spirit. Deep peace to the sea.

Haere mai te Wairua Tapu. Aio ki ngā tangata.

Come Holy Spirit. Deep peace to the people.

Haere mai te Wairua Tapu. Aio kia tātau.

Come Holy Spirit. Deep peace to us all.

Hymn (Hīmene): 'O, for a thousand tongues to sing' (H&P 744)

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread thro' all the earth abroad
the honours of your name.

To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heaven.

Charles Wesley

Prayer of Approach & Words of Assurance (Kupu Kī Pono)

God, we thank you for this extraordinary world and its reminders of resilience, grace, hope and life: for when grass shoots break through concrete, when the sun emerges after storms, for when people offer laughter in deep sadness
In these moments we see glimpses of who you are – and we are grateful.
Yet if we reduce you to being like the cycle of nature or the best of humankind, we diminish your power to make the impossible real: to break apart the impenetrable evils of oppression, to cast out the very real fears that paralyse us, to banish the insidious demons of judgement and worthlessness
Forgive us God when we do not trust you to deal with the unspeakable awfulness in our lives and world.

In the silence we name the parts of our lives and our world that we believe are too broken to ever be made whole

Cast out our demons, Lord: **Make us new again**

Forgive us when we contribute to the brokenness of the world and the lives of people around us. In the silence we name the things we have done that separate us from you and from others

Cast out our demons, Lord: **Make us new again**

Forgive us when we trust darkness more than we trust your light.

In the silence we name the things we think we need to keep hidden.

Cast out our demons, Lord: **Make us new again**

Scripture says that those who are in Christ are a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, the new has come! Hear then Christ's word of grace to us: 'Your sins are forgiven'. **Thanks be to God.**

Introducing the Theme (Tīmatanga Kōrero)

Hymn (Hīmene): 'Brother, sister, let me serve you' (AA 8)

Brother, sister let me serve you.

Let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
'til we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister let me serve you.
Let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too. *Richard Gillard*

Ministry of the Word (Ngā Pānui Karaipiture)

Alan Dine

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 (NRSVUE) - A New Prophet Like Moses

“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ Then the LORD replied to me, ‘They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’

Mark 1:21-28 (NRSVUE) - The Man with an Unclean Spirit

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Reflection (He Whakaaroaro)

Hymn (Himene): 'Deep in the human heart' (HIOS 19)

Deep in the human heart
The fires of justice burn;
With visions of a world renewed
Through radical concern.
As Christians we are called
To set the captives free,
To overthrow the evil powers
And end hypocrisy.

This is our task today,
To build a world of peace;
A world of justice, freedom, truth,
Where kindness will increase;
A world from hunger freed,
A world where people share,
Where every person is of worth
And no-one lives in fear.

Taking the step of faith,
We leave the past behind
And move into the future's world
With open heart and mind.
By grace we work with Christ,
As one community,
To bring new hope and fuller life
To all humanity. *William Wallace*

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 of Intercession (Ngā Inoi Mō Te Whānau)

Most holy Friend, Saviour of those who call on you, please give us more of the compassion and authority of Jesus. Embolden us to heal the multiple diseases that afflict humanity and drive out the demons that afflict our contemporary world. Hear us, O God. **Loving God, in your abundant grace, hear our prayers.**

Send your agents to lands that lie under darkness and oppression; where government is corrupt, justice is rare, abuse is endemic, and the weak and the poor have nowhere to turn for hope. Please increase the spiritual authority of the Red Cross, Amnesty, and Christian World Service, to more adequately become your ready channels of compassion, justice, practical aid, reconciliation and peace. Hear us, O God. **Loving God, in your abundant grace, hear our prayers.**

Send your messengers to situations where diseases are reaping a grim harvest. Especially we pray for the afflicted nations of the world. Please give authority to people of disciplined compassion, to provide pharmaceutical help, nursing care, and better health education that will drive out the demons of superstition and fatalism. Hear us, O God. **Loving God, in your abundant grace, hear our prayers.**

Send your servants into places where food is scarce and crops are poor. Please strengthen the authority of those local leaders and outside advisers, who seek to empower the people to conserve water, dig new wells, plant trees, grow new food crops, farm fish, start new cottage industries, and obtain better prices for their goods. **Hear us, O God. Loving God, in your abundant grace, hear our prayers.**

Send your human angels of mercy into situations, both here and abroad, where there is neglect, illness, sorrow, frustration and anger. Please give some of the compassionate authority of Jesus to chaplains in hospitals and prisons, to nurses and ambulance offices, physicians and surgeons, social workers and foster parents, police officers and counsellors. Hear us, O God. **Loving God, in your abundant grace, hear our prayers.**

Send your gifts of comfort and great joy among the many congregations of your church. May more of the spiritual authority of Jesus empower every ordinary church member, and the wisdom and compassion of Christ enlarge the ministries of lay leaders and ordained pastors. By the grace of Christ, may our deeds more adequately match our creeds, and our love expand to embrace those misfits who appear lonely and unlovable. Hear us, O God. **Loving God, in your abundant grace, hear our prayers.**

God, our most holy Friend, in your mercy may we go from strength to strength in things of the spirit, and become the lovers and the agents of that holy awe which is the beginning of true wisdom. **Through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen!**

Lord's Prayer (He Inoi O Te Ariki)

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 Hāhi)

(We also acknowledge offerings made by automatic payment and online banking)

Blessing of offerings (said together)

Gracious and eternal Lord God, to whom we turn in every need; receive the gifts we offer, and let our lives give glory and praise; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn (Hīmene): 'God of the Bible' (FFS 25)

God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,
hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,
you are our centre, daylight or darkness,
freedom or prison, you are our home.

Refrain:

*Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change,
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.*

God in our struggles, God in our hunger,
suffering with us, taking our part,
still you empower us, mothering Spirit,
feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.

Those without status, those who are nothing,
you have made royal, gifted with rights,
chosen as partners, midwives of justice,
birthing new systems, lighting new lights.

Not by your finger, not by your anger
will our world order change in a day,
but by your people, fearless and faithful,
small paper lanterns, lighting the way.

Hope we must carry, shining and certain
through all our turmoil, terror and loss,
bonding us gladly one to the other.
till our world changes, facing the Cross.

Shirley Murray

Extinguishing the candle (Kānara Whakapoko)

Sending forth/Benediction (Ngā Inoi Whakamutunga)

Go out into the world in peace
Be of good courage
Uphold the faint hearted
Strengthen the weak
Love and honour everyone

As you go from this place, may God bless you with open hearts to recognise the gifts and graces in one another and in your neighbours, open minds ready to dream with the Spirit, and open doors ready to welcome the reign of God's love right here and right now. 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 the Leatuavao family for providing today's kai and manaakitanga.

Liturgy for this service was sourced from:

'Psalms for the Road' – Joy Cowley (2001)

[The Billabong](#)

[Pilgrim Uniting Church Australia](#)

[Discipleship Ministries - The United Methodist Church](#)

[Life in Liturgy](#)

[Bruce Prewer](#)

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Or the 10AM Congregation's Facebook Page:

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