



WESLEY WELLINGTON

75 Taranaki Street

[www.wesleychurch.org.nz](http://www.wesleychurch.org.nz)

28<sup>th</sup> Hongōngoi / July 2024

**Render Your Heart**

*A Liturgy of Lament about the  
Reality of Abuse in the Life of Te Hāhi*



**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**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Hongōngoi / July 2024**

Worship Leader: Rev 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.*

**SAFETY BRIEFING & WELCOME** – Sarah Laurenson

**INTRODUCTION / Tīmatanga Kōrero**

**CANDLE LIGHTING**

**A THOUGHT AS WE GATHER /**  
**Me Whakaaro Tahī Tātou i Tēnei Huihuinga.**

In the winters of life,  
when the flowers and leaves have fallen by the wayside,  
the stripped-back branches reach starkly towards the sky  
and the roots cling to the earth and its rocky foundations  
like a grip of hard-won faith, there is God,  
our company in the questioning,  
the seeker after truth,  
the passion in our indignation,  
always gently, tenderly holding us all in love.

**HYMN / Himene – God weeps**

**Words: Shirley Murray; Music: Ian Render [FFS 30]**

God weeps  
at love withheld,  
at strength misused,  
at children's innocence abused,

and till we change the way we love,  
God weeps.

God bleeds  
    at anger's fist,  
    at trust betrayed,  
    at women battered and afraid,  
and till we change the way we win,  
God weeps.

God cries  
    at hungry mouths,  
    at running sores,  
    at creatures dying without cause,  
and till we change the way we care,  
God cries.

God waits  
    for stones to melt,  
    for peace to seed,  
    for hearts to hold each other's need,  
and till we understand the Christ,  
God waits.

### **GATHERING WORDS/ I Tō Tātou Huihuinga**

We are gathered here  
In grief, shock, sorrow, shame and anger.  
For the Church and its institutions,  
parishes, rohe,  
our school,  
the programmes we ran for the welfare of children  
all should have been safe, welcoming places  
but they were not,  
the Church still is not.  
Behind our walls,  
covered by our good name  
the most terrible breaches of trust have happened.  
Where people should have felt safe and confident

in giving their trust it has been abused.  
Children, Women and Men  
all have suffered,  
and the suffering continues.  
Survivors of abuse continue to carry the pain,  
we acknowledge a truth we perhaps distanced ourselves from,  
played down, minimised.  
We have no choice now other than to face it,  
to acknowledge the truth of it  
to lament it  
and to pray for those who suffered and continue to suffer.  
We are a people who follow Jesus,  
who see in him the life of the Sacred  
and the possibility of a flourishing humanity.  
Sometimes we forget,  
or skim over how he suffered.  
Here was a man who  
despite the cultural and religious prohibitions of his people  
was stripped before a cohort of troops.  
He was exposed, mocked, humiliated, beaten  
and broken and naked  
was put to death.  
We are moved by his suffering and find our compassion  
deepened by it may we show compassion to the victims of abuse  
in Te Hāhi.  
May we lament their suffering and that it happened  
in our parishes, school and the programmes we ran for children.

## **WORDS FROM SCRIPTURE, WHAKATAUKĪ AND POETRY**

**Rupi Kaur From *Milk and Honey***

Our knees  
pried open  
by cousins  
and uncles  
and men  
our bodies touched  
by all the wrong people

that even in a bed full of safety  
we are afraid.

**Psalm 51:1**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.”

**Lamentations 1:12**

“Is it nothing to all you who pass this way? Look and see if  
there is any pain like my pain which was severely dealt out to  
me.”

**Matthew 12:20**

“He will not break a bruised reed or quench a smouldering wick  
until he brings justice to victory.”

**Isaiah 61:3**

“To grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland  
instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the  
cloak of praise instead of a disheartened spirit. So they will be  
called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He  
may be glorified.”

He aroha whakatatō, he aroha puta mai –

Kapau ‘oku foaki ‘a e anga’ofa ‘e fakafoki atu pē ‘a e  
anga’ofa kiate koe.

Āfai na lūlū le aganlelei, ona ‘e maua ai lea o le agalelei.

If kindness is sown then kindness you shall receive.

Kia hora te marino, kia whakapapa pounamu te moana, kia tere  
te kārohirohi i mua i tō huarahi –

Fakatauange ‘e mafola ‘a e nonga, fakatauange ‘e ngingila  
mai ‘a e ‘ōseni hangē ha maka koloa, fakatauange ‘e  
malama mai ‘e e huelo ‘o e maama ‘o tataki ho fononga.

‘Ia falalaua’itele le to’afilemū, ĩa sinasina pea le moana e  
pei o le ma’atāua, ‘ia malamalama pea ou ala  
May the calm be widespread, may the ocean glisten like a  
greenstone, may the shimmer of light dance across your  
path.

## **PRAYER RITUAL / Inoi Whakaritenga**

### **WAIATA**

E te Atua aroha mai,  
E te Atua aroha mai,  
E te Atua aroha mail  
    Ake ake tonu e  
    Ake ake tonu e.

E te Atua manaaki mai,  
E te Atua manaaki mai,  
E te Atua manaaki mail  
    Ake ake tonu e  
    Ake ake tonu e.

E te Atua awhina mai,  
E te Atua awhina mai,  
E te Atua awhina mail  
    Ake ake tonu e  
    Ake ake tonu e.

## **A TIME TO SPEAK / He Wā ki Te Kōrero**

*An opportunity to share thoughts and feelings*

## **OFFERING / Tātou Koha ki te Haahi**

*(We acknowledge offering made by automatic payment and on-line banking)*

**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.**

**HYMN / Himene – People are God’s language**

Words: George Stuart; Tune: Ellers [H&P 643]

People are language through whom God can speak;  
Heard by the list'ners, found by those who seek;  
Heard in a whisper, never in a roar;  
Heard in compassion, not through formal law.

People are language through whom God can care  
With words of comfort when we see despair;  
Spoken in kindness, yet with certainty;  
Heard with delight when calming misery.

People are language through whom God can plead  
For peace and mercy, for the ones in need;  
Spoken in strength, with poise and dignity,  
Calling for justice and for liberty.

Sharing of love with acts of gentleness,  
Sharing the load with deeds of thoughtfulness,  
We can ensure the message can be heard;  
For we are language of God's living word.

**A BLESSING FOR THOSE WHOSE TRUST IS BROKEN /  
He Inoi Mō Te Hunga kua Tūkinotia.**

*James O’Donohue, To Bless the Space Between us*

Sometimes there is an invisible raven  
That will fly low to pierce the shell of trust  
When it has been brought near to ground.

When he strikes, he breaks the faith of years  
That had built quietly through the seasons

In the rhythm of tried and tested experience.

With one strike, the shelter is down  
And the back yoke of truth turned false  
Would poison the garden of memory.

Now the heart's dream turns to requiem,  
Offering itself a poultice of tears  
To cleanse from loss what cannot be lost.

Through all the raw and awkward days,  
Dignity will hold the heart to grace  
Lest it squander its dream on a ghost.

Often torn ground is ideal for seed  
That can take root disappointment deep enough  
To yield a harvest that cannot wither:

A deeper light to anoint the eyes,  
Passion that opens wings in the heart,  
A subtle radiance of countenance:  
The soul ready for its true other.

### **CLOSING WORDS / Ngā Kupu Whakamutunga**

“Let our hearts be stretched out in compassion towards others,  
for everyone is walking his or her own difficult path.” – Dieter F.  
Uchtdorf

May Almighty God bless you,  
The Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of the World.  
**Amen.**

### **AROHANUI BLESSING**

**Words: Joy Cowley; Music: Ian Render [AA 95]**

May the mystery of God enfold us,  
May the wisdom of God uphold us,  
May the fragrance of God be around us,  
May the brightness of God surround us,



May the wonder of God renew us,  
May the loving of God flow through us,  
May the peace of God deeply move us,  
May the moving of God bring us peace.

Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:

Methodist Church of New Zealand, *Render Your Heart*  
McRae-McMahon, D. **Liturgies for Daily Life**. Thornbury. DesBooks, 2001.  
James O'Donohue, **To Bless the Space Between us**. Penguin Random House, 2008  
(AA) **Alleluia Aotearoa. Hymns and Songs for all Churches**. Raumati. New Zealand Hymnbook Trust, 1993.  
(FFS) **Faith forever Singing** Raumati. New Zealand Hymnbook Trust, 2005

Hymns Reproduced under CCL licence # 230381

\* \* \* \* \*

Visit the parish website; <https://wesleychurch.org.nz/>  
Or the 10am Facebook Page to keep up-to-date with services and news:

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