



Wesley Wellington

75 Taranaki Street

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 29 September 2024

Pentecost 19 – Year B (58)

Welcome to our Café Church Service



Living God's Love – Acting for the Common Good

We are a multi-racial Christian community:
Methodist in affiliation – Ecumenical in intention
Diverse in theology – Inclusive in outreach.

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

Open Table *“Pass the Salt, please”*

Coffee & Chat

Ritual of Gathering

All: We are here. We are who we are.

I am here. I am who I am.

All: You are who you are, created by God.

Welcome and Opening

Circle of Praise – *inspired by Psalm 124, James 5*

Blessed be the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth!

Praise be to God, the Giver of many gifts!

Our help is in God’s name, the One who calls us here.

**We come with songs of praise,
with prayers too deep for words.**

Blessed be the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth!

Blessed be the Lord!

Opening Prayer

Christ Jesus,

we come into your presence
from many different places.

We come with songs of joy
and shouts of gratitude.

We come carrying heavy burdens
and sighs of suffering.

As you welcome us into your presence,
lift our burdens

and receive our praise.

Salt us with your grace
and flavor us with your mercy.

Bind us together,

that we may be at peace with one another
and be strengthened to go forth
in service to the world.

In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

We sing: Morning has broken

Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!

Looking into the Bible – *Mark 9:38-50 (NRSV Updated Edition)*

38 John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him because he was not following us.” 39 But Jesus said, “Do not stop him, for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. 40 Whoever is not against us is for us. 41 For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

42 “If any of you cause one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. 43 If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. 45 And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off; it is

better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.
47 And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell,
48 where their worm never dies and the fire is never quenched.

49 “For everyone will be salted with fire. 50 Salt is good, but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

Reflection

Discussion 1

- 1. What does it mean to “have salt in yourselves” according to Mark 9:49-50?*
- 2. In what ways can we lose our “saltiness” in life or faith?*
- 3. How can we restore or maintain our saltiness in our daily walk with God and in relationships with others?*

Looking into the Bible – James 5:13-20 (The Message)

13-15 Are you hurting? Pray. Do you feel great? Sing. Are you sick? Call the church leaders together to pray and anoint you with oil in the name of the Master. Believing-prayer will heal you, and Jesus will put you on your feet. And if you’ve sinned, you’ll be forgiven—healed inside and out.

16-18 Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with. Elijah, for instance, human just like us, prayed hard that it wouldn’t rain, and it didn’t—not a drop for three and a half years. Then he prayed that it would rain, and it did. The showers came and everything started growing again.

19-20 My dear friends, if you know people who have wandered off from God’s truth, don’t write them off. Go after them. Get them back and you will have rescued precious lives from destruction and prevented an epidemic of wandering away from God.

Reflection

Discussion 2

- 1. What role does prayer play in maintaining our spiritual saltiness?*
- 2. How can confession and mutual support keep us from losing our saltiness?*
- 3. What steps can we take as a community to encourage one another to stay spiritually active and vibrant?*

Activity: Salt of the Earth Commitment

- One thing you do to be “salt” in your relationships.
- One prayer to offer someone else in the group or community.

Light and Salt Prayer

It's much easier, Jesus,
to point fingers and speak with horror
about the darkness in our world,
than to live ablaze with light,
revealing the truth of systems and situations,
bringing the colours of those around us into vibrant life,
warming the hearts of all we meet with compassion and love,
**But, we do not choose what is easy,
We ask you to flood us with your light,
and make us light-bringers in our world.**

It's much easier, Jesus,
to separate ourselves
from those who believe and act differently from us,
to judge and exclude them
and preach about the bland lifelessness of our world,
than to live with salty spiciness,
preserving what is good and true and beautiful,
revealing the varied and exciting flavours
of different cultures and peoples,
healing and cleansing what is wounded and stained,
**But, we do not choose what is easy,
We ask you to fill us with your saltiness,
and make us spice-bringers in our world.**

We celebrate your grace and truth,
your compassion and self-giving,
your justice and righteousness,
and we offer ourselves to be those who follow your ways,
who become light and salt,
bringing life, justice and praise
wherever we may find ourselves.

**In Jesus' Name
Amen.**

Song – The Lord’s Prayer

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QIyK7c_Az8g

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.

Sharing & Caring – Pass the salt, please.

Sharing joy or concern

Notices

Song: You Are Salt For The Earth, O People

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cwo9aI3bhLw>

You are salt for the earth, O people:
Salt for the Kingdom of God!
Share the flavour of life, O people:
Life in the Kingdom of God!

*Bring forth the Reign of mercy,
Bring forth the Reign of peace;
Bring forth the Reign of justice,
Bring forth the City of God!*

You are a light on the hill, O people:
Light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people:
Shine for the Kingdom of God!

Bring forth the Reign of mercy,

...

You are a seed of the Word, O people:
Bring forth the City of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
Grow in the Kingdom of God!

Bring forth the Reign of mercy,

...

We are a blest and a pilgrim people:
Bound for the Kingdom of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland:
Love is the Kingdom of God!

*Bring forth the Reign of mercy,
Bring forth the Reign of peace;
Bring forth the Reign of justice,
Bring forth the City of God!*

Words of closing

As we leave this place, may we go with the understanding that we are called to be the salt of the earth—bringing flavour, healing, and preservation to a world in need.

May our lives reflect the purity and integrity that comes from Christ, keeping our hearts full of peace and our hands full of service.

When the challenges of life threaten to diminish our saltiness, may we turn to God in prayer and lean on one another for strength, knowing that together, we preserve the love, unity, and grace that this world so desperately needs.

So go now—pass the salt! Be bold in your faith, steadfast in your love, and generous with your grace, so that through you, others may taste and see that the Lord is good.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, go in peace and stay salty.

The Grace

**Kia tau ki a tātou katoa,
te atawhai o to tātou Ariki o Ihu Karaiti,
me te aroha o te Atua,
me te whiwhinga tahitanga
ki te Wairua Tapu. Amine**

Time in Community

More coffee and chats...

Shake hands? Slip away quietly?

• • •

Liturgy for this service was sourced from:

<https://worshipwords.co.uk/tag/cafe-church-resources/>

<http://www.ministrymatters.com/>

<https://sacredise.com/light-and-salt/>

Hymnary.org <https://hymnary.org/>

Cover image adapted from:

<https://food.ndtv.com/news/who-releases-new-sodium-benchmarks-cautions-against-high-salt-intake-5684756>

• • •

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

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

And the 10am Congregation's Facebook Page:

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