



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

Sunday 4th February 2024
Commissioning and Covenant Service

Haere mai ki tēnei Whare Karakia
Welcome to this House of Prayer



**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!**

Combined Service
Wesley Methodist Church 75 Taranaki Street
4th February 2024

This morning we commission Tahī Kato as student supply and receive Simulata Pope who is transferring her membership to Wellington Methodist Parish.

A special welcome to all who join us for worship. Your presence enriches our gathering and contributes to the creative evolution of community.

*Prior to the service beginning the Tongan young people will
Lead our Praise in Worship*

WELCOME AND SAFETY BRIEFING - *Leatuavao Leatuavao*

INTROIT – *Fijian Choir*

NGĀ KUPU WHAKAPUARE / OPENING WORDS

Lower North Island Synod Superintendent - Rev Nicola Teague Grundy

INOI / Prayer

God be with us and all for whom we pray.

God be among us

God be beside us,

God go before us and

God stand behind us,

For you are the way, the truth and the life,

Forever and ever.

Let us worship God

Who has established an everlasting covenant

And calls us through Jesus Christ to be a faithful people.

Amen.

KĀNARA WHAKAMĀMĀ / Candle Lighting

Eternal God, you have broken into our darkness

Giving us light for our path and a lamp for our way

Eternal God, you have entered our history

Giving us Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Eternal God, your Spirit leads us on

Giving us light for this year's journey. Amen.

The candle is lit

HIMENE – ‘In the name of Christ we gather’

Words: Shirley Murray; Tune: Westminster Abbey [H&P 485]

In the name of Christ we gather,
in the name of Christ we sing,
celebrate new vows, new promise
of a life's whole offering,
here ordained to lead God's people
to the Gospel's beckoning.

Sons and daughters of the Spirit –
these are called to teach and care,
called as were the first disciples,
commonwealth of Christ to share,
by the bread and wine and water
sacraments of grace declare.

In the ministry of preaching
may the Word spring into life;
in the time of doubt and challenge
may its truth affirm belief;
in the day of pain and darkness
heal the hurt of guilt and grief.

Now within this solemn moment
we invoke the power of God –

by the hands laid on in blessing
be there strength to take the load,
be there faithfulness in loving,
be there courage for this road.

Word of joy, enlivening Spirit,
more than lover, parent, friend,
born in Jesus, born in Mary,
born in us that love extend,
grow within your chosen servant,
life of God that has no end.

During the hymn Tahi Kato accompanied by his whānau, and members of the Palmerston North Wesley Tongan Parish come forward.

Palmerston North Whanau:

In recognition that none of us stands alone, and that a new partnership in ministry is about to begin we present to you Tahi Kato.

Tahi Kato has been a member of our parish and is training for ordained ministry in the Methodist Church of New Zealand. We bring him to be commissioned to be a student supply here in the Wellington Methodist Parish.

We ask that you care for Tahi, Sesilili, Hau'alofa, Salesi, Siekina, Mele and 'Aisake, nurture them and encourage them in ministry here in Wellington.

Waiata: Palmerston North Wesley Tongan Parish.

Tahi is greeted by the Wellington Ministry team.

Whanau and friends return to their seats

TE WHĀKINGA HARA / Prayer of Thanksgiving and Confession

Let us pray
For the mystery of creation
For the wonderful diversity of the natural world

For the beauty of the land and sea which nurture us:

We praise you, O God.

For Jesus Christ who lived and died and lives again;
for the power of his suffering love in the midst of life;
we are called to proclaim;

We praise you, O God.

For the Holy Spirit who strengthens us; for the love that
fulfils our deepest needs and calls us to love and serve
others; for the joy of Christian hope which gives
meaning to the future.

We praise you, O God.

For the church and the love that has made us your people;
for your coming reign when all shall be one in Christ.

We praise you, O God

Silence

Let us seek God's forgiveness:

Silence

Forgive us, God

**when we forget to praise you,
when we turn your love into legalism,
your freedom into slavery,
your promises and gifts
into demands and duties.**

**Forgive us when we forget
we are your people
and make church exclusive.**

**Forgive us when we forget
that you are active here and now,
and try to lock you up
in forms and customs
words and structures.**

Silence

God is rich in mercy

In the name of Jesus Christ

We are forgiven.
Amen, thanks be to God

TE 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 aianei
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.**

HE KŌMIHANA / The Commissioning -

Tahi Kato and the Parish Superintendent come forward

Leader: Tahi, you have been placed in this parish as part of your training towards ordination in the Methodist Church of New Zealand, Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa. During this year you will work with the Ministry Team of this parish, you will lead in worship, preach the Gospel of Christ. You are called to encourage by word and action, to reflect constantly, and share your reflections. You are called to care for the people and to serve them in witness to the world.

Do you accept this placement as being God's call to you?

Tahi: I do.

I will equip myself for this ministry placement through prayer, study and reading of the Bible. By God's grace, I will preach the Word of God, I will love and serve these people.

Leader: Rev Utumau'u, as Parish Superintendent of the Wellington Methodist Parish do you and the Ministry Team receive Tahi as a member of your team?

Utumau'u: We do. It is with joy and in hope we welcome Tahi as part of our Ministry Team, and I pledge to you our prayers, encouragement and support to become the people God wants us to be.

Wellington Methodist Parish members please stand

Leader: Members of Wellington Methodist Parish, do you welcome Tahi and his whānau into the life of this parish, offering your support to them and encouraging Tahi in his ministry.

All: **We do.
We promise Tahi, Sesilili and their whānau our prayers, our loving support and our lively participation in ministry.**

Please sit

Leader: As the Superintendent of the Lower North Island Synod, and with the endorsement of the Principal of Trinity Theological College, I commission you Tahi to work in this parish, alongside the Ministry Team for 2024.

May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you as you continue your journey towards ordination in Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa.

WAIATA – 10AM Singing Group

Tahi Kato, sits - with the Ministry Team.

WHAKAURU MEMATANGA / Transfer Of Membership

Simulata Pope and whānau come forward

Utumau 'u: Simulata you have transferred from Auckland where you are a member of the Papatoetoe Tongan Methodist Parish.

Do you now wish to be a member of the Wellington Methodist Parish?

Simulata: I do.

Utumau 'u: Simulata, we receive and welcome you into the Wellington Methodist Parish as a member of the Methodist Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. May God's grace fill you with peace.

Simulata, I ask you now to respond to God's love and grace by making these promises.

Do you commit yourself with us to Christian life of worship and service, and to be open to the renewing power of God.

Simulata: I do.

Utumau 'u: Will you continue to seek the strength of God's Spirit as you follow Jesus Christ in your daily life?

Simulata: With God's help I will.

Members of Wellington Methodist Parish, please Stand

Utumau 'u: Members of the body of Christ, we rejoice to welcome Simulata. Will you maintain the Church's life of worship and service and build each other up in love as we follow Christ?

All: With Gods help we will.

Ministry Team and Parish Stewards extend the hand of fellowship.

NGĀ KARAIPITURE / The Scriptures

Jeremiah 31: 31-34 [NRSVUE] (To be read in Tongan)

A New Covenant

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them

by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

John 15: 1-8 [NRSVUE]

(To be read in Fijian)

Jesus the True Vine

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

HE WHAKAAROARO / Reflection

Rev Nicola Teague Grundy

NGARINGARI /Anthem: Tongan Choir

NGĀ INOI MŌ TE WHĀNAU / Prayers Of Intercession

Rev Simote Taunga

We pray for one another, for our families and friends and all those through whom we learn to love and to be loved. Thank you for all who care for us. Give us grace to serve Christ by serving our neighbours and our community, loving others as he loves us.

silence

We thank you for the unfailing love you hold out to everyone in Jesus Christ. Comfort and heal those in sorrow, need, sickness or any other trouble. Give them courage and hope in their distress, and bless those who minister to them.

silence

We remember with gratitude your many gifts to us in creation and the rich heritage of these islands. Help us and people everywhere to share with justice and peace the resources of the earth. Give wisdom to those in authority among us and all leaders of the nations.

silence

We pray for your church throughout the world, thanking you for all who serve Christ and his kingdom. By your spirit strengthen your people for their work and witness in the world. Unite us in your truth and love, that we who confess your name will also reflect your glory.

silence

We remember with thanksgiving all who have died in Christ, and we rejoice at the faithful witness of your saints in every age, praying that we may enter with them into the unending joy of your heavenly kingdom.

silence

Merciful God, you look with compassion on all who turn to you. Receive the prayers of your people. Amen.

HE KAWENATA / The Covenant – *Rev Utumau'u Pupulu*

In Covenant God chose Israel to be a servant people.

Through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, God has declared the covenant to be with all who trust in Christ.

We stand within this covenant and we bear Christ's name.

On one hand, God promises to give us new life in Christ:

On the other, we pledge to live not for ourselves but for God.
Today we meet, as generations before us have met,
to renew the covenant which bound them
and which now binds us to God.

Let us claim this covenant for ourselves and take again the yoke of
Christ upon us.

To take this yoke upon us means that we are willing for Christ to
appoint us our place and work, and for Christ alone to be our reward.

**Christ has many services to be done:
some are easy, others are difficult;
some bring honour, others bring reproach;
some are suited to our natural inclinations
and material interests, others are contrary to both;
in some we may please Christ and please ourselves;
in others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves.
Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ who
strengthens us.**

Loving and holy God,
With joy we take upon ourselves the yoke of obedience
And for love of you commit ourselves to seek
and do your perfect will.
We are no longer our own, but yours.

**I am no longer my own but yours.
Your will, not mine, be done in all things,
wherever you may place me,
in all that I do and in all that I may endure;
when there is work for me and when there is none;
when I am troubled and when I am at peace.
Your will be done when I am valued
and when I am disregarded;
when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking;
when I have all things, and when I have nothing,**

**I willingly offer all I have and am to serve you,
as and where you choose.
Glorious and blessed God
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
you are mine and I am yours.
May it be so forever.
Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven.
Amen.**

HIMEME / Hymn – Lord of creation

Words: Jack Winslow; Tune: Slane [H&P 699]

During the singing of the hymn our offering will be collected.

Lord of creation, to you be all praise!
Most mighty your working, most wondrous your ways!
Your glory and might are beyond us to tell,
And yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.

Lord of all power, I give you my will,
In joyful obedience your tasks to fulfil.
Your bondage is freedom; your service is song;
And, held in your keeping, my weakness is strong.

Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind,
Rich truth that surpasses my knowledge to find;
What eye has not seen and what ear has not heard
Is taught by your Spirit and shines from your word.

Lord of all being, I give you my all;
If e'er I disown you, I stumble and fall;
But, led in your service your word to obey,
I'll walk in your freedom to the end of the way.

TĀTOU KOHA KI TE HAAHI / Offering

Holy God, with confidence we come to you and bring you what is yours. **Accept us and these gifts for your service and glory. Amen.**

TE HĀKARI TAPU / Ministry of the Sacrament

The spirit is here

God's hope is in us

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to God

Let us give thanks to the God of peace

It is right to offer thanks and praise

Here today, through bread and wine,
we renew our journey with Jesus and his disciples.

We renew our unity with one another,
and with all those who have gone before us.

We renew our communion with the Earth and
our inter-wovenness with the broken ones of the world.

We take bread,
symbol of labour, symbol of life.

We will break the bread because Christ, the source of life, was broken
for the excluded, exploited, and downtrodden.

We take wine,
symbol of blood, spilt in war and conflict,
symbol too of new life.

We will drink the wine because Christ, the peace of the world,
overcomes violence.

Now bread and wine are before us,
the memory of our meals,
our working, our talking;
the story that shapes us;
the grieving and the pain,
the oppressor who lies deep in our own soul,
the seeking and the loving.
And we give thanks for all that holds us together.

Therefore, with the disciples, and with all the faithful
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
forever praising you and saying:

**Holy, Holy, Holy one,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Bless the one who comes in the power of love.
Hosanna in the highest.**

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread;
when he had given thanks,
he broke it, gave it to his disciples and said:
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;
do this to remember me.

(Break the bread saying)

The bread of life, broken for you.

After supper he took the cup;
when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them and said:
Drink this all of you, for this is my blood which brings new life;
Do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

(Pour the wine saying)

The cup of blessing, poured out for you.

We celebrate this meal
– a meal of faith and hope, God’s love, shared among us.

These are the gifts Jesus Christ gave us.

Let us partake in them.

The gifts of God, for the people of God.

Please come and let us share this meal, for all is now ready.

(The Samoan Choir will sing during today’s communion and are invited to come forward first. Please approach by the centre aisle and return down each side)

Prayer After Communion:

Filled with a spirit that calls us and the entire world beyond what we ever thought was possible, we leave this table strengthened with food for the journey and a vision of life as it can be; one diverse family living in justice and peace.

HIMENE / Hymn – E Te Atua Kua Ruia Nei

Tune: Amazing Grace. *To be sung unaccompanied.*

1. E te Atua, kua ruia nei,
O purapura pai,
Hōmai e koe he ngākau hōu,
Kia tupu ake ai.

2. E Ihu, kua e tukua,
Kia whakangaromia,
Me whakatupu ake ia,
Kia kitea ai ngā hua.

3. A mā te wairua tapu rā
Mātou e tiaki,
Kei hoki ki te mahi hē,
Ō mātou ngākau hou.
Āmine

NGĀ INOI WHAKAMUTUNGA / Parting Words

As people of faith we have gathered for worship.

As people of faith we now return to the world.

Go out to share the story of faith,
the story of life, with the world around you.

**We share the faith in word and in deed,
in speech and in action.**

As you go out to give a living witness,
as you go out to testify to God's love active in the world,
go knowing that God goes with you,
sharing the laughter and the hope, the fears and the tears.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Ma te Marie (Sung unaccompanied)

Mā te mārie a te Atua
Tātou katoa e tiaki;
Mana anō e whakaū
O tātou ngākau ki te pai

*The peace of God
keep us all.
He will confirm our
hearts in goodness.*

Mā te Atua Tamaiti rā
Mā te Wairua Tapu hoki
Rātou, Atua Kotahi nei.
Tātou katoa e whakapai.
Amine.

*May the Son of God
and the Holy Spirit
too, one God,
Bless us all.
Amen.*

* * * * *

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