



WESLEY WELLINGTON

75 Taranaki Street

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

7<sup>th</sup> Paenga-Whāwhā /April 2024

Te Rātapu tuarua o te Aranga

*Haere mai ki tēnei Whare Karakia*

*Welcome to this House of Prayer*



**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**  
**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Paenga-Whāwhā /April 2024**  
**Te Rātapu tuarua o te Aranga**

Worship Leader: Nicola Teague Grundy  
Preacher: Tahi Kato  
Organist: Colin Scarf

*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** – *Alan Dine*

**INTROIT** – *Fijian Choir*

**GATHERING / Emi mai ki taua karakia** – *Nicola Teague Grundy*

**LIGHTING THE CANDLE / Kānara Whakamāmā**

Fear was present but subsided –  
Doubt was present but subsided –  
So, fearless and sure of Christ's risen presence,  
We draw near to God in worship:  
**For Christ is Risen!**

*Christ candle is lit.*

We light our Christ candle as a celebration  
of the light of the risen Christ among us,  
and as a reminder of the call for us to be a community  
in which, and through which,  
the light of God's grace and justice shines.  
**For Christ is among us!**

## **WAIATA – ‘Purea ne’**

Hirini Melbourne (1949-2003)

Purea nei e te hau  
Horoia e te ua  
Whitiwhitia e t era  
Mahea ake nga pōraruraru  
Makere ana nga here.  
Makere ana nga here`

E rere wairua, e rere  
Ki nga ao o te rangi  
Whitiwhitia e t era  
Mahea ake nga pōraruraru  
Makere ana nga here,  
Makere ana nga here.

## **WORDS FOR BEGINNING / Ngā Kupu Whakapuare**

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

When the disciples saw the Lord,

**They were very joyful.**

The joy of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **OPENING PRAYER / Inoi Whakawhetai**

Breathe

The rhythm of breath – drawing air in, and sighing it out –  
pulses in all of creation, O Lord

It is a simple sign of the resurrection;  
of the life that cannot be quenched,  
even by death itself.

We know what it is to breathe, Jesus  
our lives depend on it  
even as they depend on You  
Risen, Alive and Present;

So, breathe into us again, Lord Jesus, we pray  
breathe the life that never dies,  
breathe the hope that never despairs  
breathe the courage that never turns back  
breathe the joy that never stops singing  
Breathe into us, Lord Jesus, and teach us to sing,  
to worship, with every breath  
And to live the inspiration that is Your resurrection.  
Amen.

### **HYMN / Himene – God – The Dance**

Words: George Stuart; Tune: 'Camberwell' 65.65D - H&P 74(ii)

Do we have a picture of what God may be?  
Is it one of power and authority?  
Does it help inspire more discovery?  
Can we think of dancing metaphorically?

*God is Love* – can help us into Jesus' mind;  
For this Jewish rabbi is a dance, we find  
All his life reminds us what love's all about;  
Dancing in the gospels, he would sing and shout.

Jesus shows us dancing in a loving way;  
Costly yet fulfilling; never just display;  
Sometimes it's not easy; we may need a prod;  
For to dance with Jesus is to dance with God.

Love is never static, always finds a way  
To be kind and gentle; to be warm each day;  
Like a dance with rhythm, love is never still;  
Lightens every burden and prolongs each thrill.

God, the Love Dance, call us – use your energy  
To live every moment in a dance with Me.  
Dancing solo can be quite a misery.  
Dancing with Me helps you find your destiny.

## **SO WHAT'S THE STORY ...?**

### **10AM SINGING GROUP – Jesus, I sing your praise**

#### **PRAYERS OF WHO WE ARE – *Nicola Teague Grundy & Tahi Kato***

It would be wrong, Lord,  
for us to say that we have no doubts,  
for this world is trying  
to deny all we hold dear,  
and is insistent in its cry.  
There are days when  
Like Thomas, your dear friend  
we need to reach out  
and touch the hand  
that has led us these long years,  
see the place  
where spear and nails  
have made their marks.  
Forgive our doubts  
And in times of tempting  
Be our confidence,  
So close that like Thomas  
We might joyfully declare  
'My Lord and my God'.

#### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

- NG* This is Good News:  
God does not mock us when we fail to trust,  
But invites us into a deep, more intimate relationship.
- TK* Put your finger here. Look at my hands.  
Put your hand in my side.  
Trust me!
- NG* God does not shame us when our faith waivers,  
But challenges us to be strengthened by God's promises.

*TK* Happy are those who don't see ... and yet trust!

*NG* God's purpose is not to tear us down ... but to build us up ...  
Forgiven ... refreshed ... and renewed!

**Thanks be to God!**

## **MINISTRY OF THE WORD / Ngā Karaipiture**

**1 John 1: 1-2: 2 (CEV) – Norbert Nziramasanga**

The Word that gives life  
was from the beginning,  
and this is the one  
our message is about.  
Our ears have heard,  
our eyes have seen,  
and our hands have touched  
this Word.

The one who gives life appeared! We saw it happen, and we are witnesses to what we have seen. Now we are telling you about this eternal life that was with the Father and appeared to us. We are telling you what we have seen and heard, so you may share in this life with us. And we share in it with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing to tell you these things, because this makes us truly happy.

Jesus told us God is light and doesn't have any darkness in him. Now we are telling you.

If we say we share in life with God and keep on living in the dark, we are lying and are not living by the truth. But if we live in the light, as God does, we share in life with each other. And the blood of his Son Jesus washes all our sins away. If we say we have not sinned, we are fooling ourselves, and the truth isn't in our hearts. But if we confess our sins to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away.

If we say we have not sinned, we make God a liar, and his message isn't in our hearts.

My children, I am writing this so you won't sin. But if you do sin, Jesus Christ always does the right thing, and he will speak to the Father for us. <sup>2</sup> Christ is the sacrifice that takes away our sins and the sins of all the world's people.

**John 20: 19-31 (CEV) – Fijian reader**

The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders, and on the evening of that same Sunday they locked themselves in a room. Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group. He greeted them and showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they became very happy.

After Jesus had greeted them again, he said, “I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me.” Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they will be forgiven. But if you don't forgive their sins, they will not be forgiven.”

Although Thomas the Twin was one of the twelve disciples, he wasn't with the others when Jesus appeared to them. So they told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But Thomas said, “First, I must see the nail scars in his hands and touch them with my finger. I must put my hand where the spear went into his side. I won't believe unless I do this!”

A week later the disciples were together again. This time, Thomas was with them. Jesus came in while the doors were still locked and stood in the middle of the group. He greeted his disciples and said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at my hands! Put your hand into my side. Stop doubting and have faith!”

Thomas replied, “You are my Lord and my God!”  
Jesus said, “Thomas, do you have faith because you have seen me? The people who have faith in me without seeing me are the ones who are really blessed!”

**ANTHEM** - *Samoan Choir*

**REFLECTION** – *Rev Tahi Kato*

**HYMN / Himene – In praise of doubt**

Words: George Stuart; Tune: Forest Green (H&P 113(i))

Some people say, “To doubt is wrong”  
We should not doubt at all;  
To question our beliefs, they say  
Could bring about our fall;  
But doubt permits an honest stance  
In those who are devout;  
For those who think about beliefs  
Can sing in praise of doubt.

The Thomas’ story has been used  
To judge, condemn, deplore;  
But Thomas shows he is sincere;  
He wanted to be sure.  
For doubt can help and not deter  
A vital turnabout;  
Yes! Those who care about beliefs  
Can sing in praise of doubt.

If our beliefs prevent our search  
For new and different creeds;  
Let us beware of narrow views  
Where dogma often breeds;  
With new, exciting facts we learn  
Much love can come about;  
Yes! Those who grow in their beliefs  
Can sing in praise of doubt.



## **PRAYERS FOR OTHERS – Rev Utumau 'u Pupulu**

Loving God, as Christ remained present to his disciples after the resurrection, teaching them to love all people as neighbours, make your presence known to us, always.  
As his disciples in this age, we offer our prayers on behalf of the universe in which we are privileged to live and our neighbours with whom we share it.  
We pray for those who, like the disciples may be Wrestling with doubt and fear. May the light of Your truth dispel the shadows, bringing reassurance and peace.  
Strengthen them and grant them courage to walk boldly in your light.

We pray for those who feel isolated or lonely, yearning for connection. Wrap them in the warmth of Your love and guide us to be instruments of companionship and support.  
May we actively seek out those in need and extend the hand of friendship.

Loving God, we bring before you  
The broken relationships within our communities.  
Heal wounds reconcile hearts, and inspire forgiveness.  
May the love that binds us together overcome any discord,  
And may our unity reflect the unity found in you.

We pray for those facing adversity, illness or distress.  
Embrace them with your comforting presence  
And grant them strength to endure.  
Use us, Your church, as channels of Your love,  
Bringing practical help and compassion to those in need.

And now loving God, we bring before You the names and situations that lie heaviest on our heart.

*Pray in silence*

Open our hearts to your power moving  
around us and between us and within us,

until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and enemy, in communities transformed by justice and compassion, and in the healing of all that is broken.

And all through Jesus Christ, in whose words we say together,

**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 Haahi**

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

Receive these gifts, O God,

And transform us through the giving,

That we may have eyes to see and hearts to understand

Not only what you do on our behalf,

But what you call us to do

So that your will be done on earth.

**Amen.**

## **COMMUNION / *Kai Hapa***

### **The Invitation – *Rev Nicola Teague Grundy***

Through light and the word, through bread and wine,  
We recall Christ's death and resurrection,  
We share Christ's triumph over sin and death,  
And with invincible hope we renew our faith  
In Christ's presence at this table and in our lives.  
Come, for all are welcome.

### **Remembering the Life and Words of Jesus – *Rev Tahi Kato***

Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed!**

Let's celebrate this irrepressible life;  
Let's open our hearts to the joy and wonder of infinite  
possibility, of unquenched hope,  
Of eternal resurrection.

**We celebrate, we raise our voices and our hearts in worship  
and thanksgiving to the God who lives.**

Resurrection happened because Christ was first prepared to die.  
Defying death, he refused to release his hold on life and love.  
So now, as he encouraged us, we choose to remember  
So that we too can truly live.

At the supper on the night before he died  
Jesus took bread and blessed it.  
Then he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying:  
This is my body, broken so that you may know life.  
Eat it and remember me.

After the meal Jesus took wine and blessed it.  
Then he gave it to his disciples saying:  
This is my blood, shed so that you may know life.  
Drink it and remember me.

So, now, Lord of Life, we share in this meal,  
we celebrate together, and we remember you.  
And we will continue to do this until resurrection  
Has flooded the whole creation.

**The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving** – *Rev Nicola Teague Grundy*

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Open your hearts.

**We open them to God.**

Let us give thanks and praise.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God,  
for you meet us in our doubts  
and fill us with life and peace.

You are the one who was and is, and is to come  
- the beginning and the end –  
who breathed life into the earth and its creatures.  
Our ancestors put their trust in you  
and celebrated your mighty acts of salvation.

You sent your child, Jesus  
as a faithful witness to your goodness and love.  
He was killed by the powerful,  
but you raised new life through him.  
Appearing behind the locked doors of our fear  
Christ breathes Holy Spirit into us  
and commissions us  
to carry words of peace and mercy to the world.

**Prayer of Consecration** – *Rev Nicola Teague Grundy*

Let this food and drink be breath and Spirit to us,  
empowering us to live and serve as your faithful ones. Amen.

## **Communion is shared**

*(The Tongan choir will sing during today's communion, and are invited to come forward first. Please approach by the centre aisle and return by the side.)*

## **Prayer after Communion**

If we have been afraid,

**This meal has restored our courage.**

If we have been unsure,

**this meal has confirmed our hopes.**

Thank you, loving God, for refreshing us at this table.

**Amen.**

## **HYMN / Himene – We shall go out with hope of resurrection**

Words: June Boyce-Tillman: Tune: Londonderry Air (H&P 65(i))

We shall go out with hope of resurrection;  
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;  
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;  
tales of a love that will not let us go.

We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;  
we'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed;  
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united  
within the vision of new life who sets us free.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;  
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;  
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,  
expressive love alive in every heart.

We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping,  
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,  
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story  
including all in circles of our love.

## **PARTING WORDS** (*Ngā Inoi Whakamutunga*)

Time has now come for us to leave this sacred place.  
As we do, may we embrace the challenges  
of our lives and our world ...

*The candle is extinguished*

Go now to love and forgive,  
For as God sent Christ,  
So now Christ is sending us.  
Obey God above any other authority  
And bear witness to Christ's resurrection life.

And may God continue the work of salvation in us;  
May Christ Jesus meet us in our doubts and fears;  
And may the Holy Spirit fill us with peace  
And speak through us with mercy.

And may the peace of Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## **MA TE MARIE** (Sung unaccompanied)

Mā te mārie a te Atua	Mā te Atua Tamaiti rā,
Tātou katoa e tiaki;	Mā te Wairua Tapu hoki,
ana anō e whakaū	Rātou, Atua kotahi nei.
O tātou ngākau ki te pai.	Tātou katoa e whakapai.
	Amine

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Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:

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**Van de Laar, John** – *Sacredise* - <https://sacredise.com/easter-2b/>

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