



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

Sunday 7th January 2024
Epiphany 1

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!

ORDER OF SERVICE – COMBINED SERVICE
Worship leader – Rev Utumau’u Pupulu
Organist – Colin Scarf

WELCOME

INTROIT (All)

Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me!
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me!
Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me!
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me! *(Sing Twice)*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the very beginning, God separated the darkness and the light.
God called the Light "Day" and the Darkness, God called "Night".

We were once people who dwelled in darkness, but God has given us the true Light, Jesus Christ.

God has blessed us and adopted us as God’s own beloved children, through the sacrament of Baptism.

The water of baptism brings to us healing and reconciliation; it is a symbol of nourishment and cleansing.

This day is the day of the remembrance of Jesus’ Baptism.

As we hear the words of his baptism, let us be reminded of our own adoption by God and celebrate the joyous connection to the Almighty God.

Amen.

HYMN: Come, Holy Ghost, Our Hearts Inspire
(H&P 469) Words: Charles Wesley

1. Come, Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire,
Let us thine influence prove,
Source of the old prophetic fire,
Fountain of life and love.

2. Come, Holy Ghost, for moved by thee
The prophets wrote and spoke,
Unlock the truth, thyself the key,
Unseal the sacred book.
3. Expand thy wings, celestial Dove,
Brood o'er our nature's night;
On our disordered spirits move,
And let there now be light.
4. God, through the Spirit we shall know
If thou within us shine,
And sound, with all thy saints below,
The depths of love divine.

OPENING PRAYER

God of power and majesty, you call forth creation,
acting with strength and power.

We praise you, as we stand in awe of your glory.

You are mighty and powerful, and yet you care for us,
pouring your Spirit of love upon us,
recreating us for your work in the world.

You are at work in our midst,
offering a new day of hope and possibility.

Open our hearts to the sound of your voice.

Send the power of your Spirit among us,
that we might become agents of your love and peace. **Amen.**

HYMN (*Samoan language*)

Samoan Choir

PRAYER OF YEARNING

Rev. Simote Taunga

God, we are so tired.

The holidays were a wonderful busy time,
as we celebrated the birth of Jesus.

As we return to life without festive celebrations,
we long to avoid feeling let down or discouraged.

Teach us to listen for your gentle voice.

Help us awaken to the quiet stirrings of new life,
in our hearts and in our communities.

**As your children, called into being by your word,
remake and renew us,
that we may follow you with joy.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

You are God's child,
God's beloved creation.
Receive God's offer of new life and new beginnings.
Amen.

10AM SINGING GROUP

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Genesis 1: 1-5

Samoan

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Mark 1: 4-11

10am

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

REFLECTION –

AFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Please stand*)

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living he declared your love,
gave us grace and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life,
we who drink his cup bring life to others,
we whom the spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Rev. Nicola Teague Grundy

Loving God, we bring to you our prayers for the whole world and for the church.

At the dawn of time your spirit hovered over the waters of the deep and brought form and life to your creation: overshadow your world today and give to us a new sense of wonder and responsibility for this planet and all its creatures.

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

In the days of the great flood, you saved Noah from the waters of death and made a covenant with Noah and his descendants: look with compassion today on catastrophes that we inflict ourselves.

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

In ancient times you brought your chosen people from slavery to freedom through the waters of the Red Sea; liberate your people today who are held in

the bondage of cruelty, oppression or injustice, so they may live in dignity, freedom: and hope.
God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

In the waters of the river of Jordan, your son Jesus Christ was baptized with those he came to save: bring your people today to seek the salvation that your offer we may turn away from all that holds us in the power of evil.
God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Through the waters of baptism, you seal us as your own and make us one with all who bear your name: empower us with your spirit to faithfully serve you and proclaim your good news of injustice, peace, redemption and love.

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

At Jesus' baptism, you named him your beloved son and anointed him with power for ministry: bring healing today to those who are sick, hope to those in despair and comfort to the lost and lonely ones of our community.

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Loving God, by the death and resurrection of your son you bring us to new and everlasting life: may we so pattern our lives on your son, that we, also, may be found pleasing in your eyes and take our place with your beloved daughters and sons of every time and nation.

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

(Let us say together the Lord's Prayer in the language of your choice)

HYMN (Tongan language)

Tongan Choir

THE MINISTRY OF SACRAMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Sokopeti Sina

Over and over, God's creating Spirit.
 blows through our lives.
In our giving, we respond to this Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

**God of strength and glory, you created all that is.
You continue to sustain the world with the power of your love.
You give us life and hope,
 and with grateful hearts we bring these gifts to you.
May they bring forth your realm of peace for all peoples.
Amen.**

THANKSGIVING

God of beginnings, you are always creating.
At the very beginning, you sent your Spirit,
 to bring order out of chaos.
You spoke and there was light.
You named the light day,
 and the darkness you called light.
It was the first morning, a new beginning.
You continued your active presence in our world,
 over and over calling forth newness.

**With power and might,
 you spoke through the wind and storm,
 washing away past sorrow
 as you cleaned the world and began anew.**

You never gave up on us,
 but kept on reaching out to us,
 through the power of your Spirit.

**And so, we join the great chorus of heaven and earth,
praising you forever.
Holy, holy, holy, God of glory and strength!
Holy, holy, holy, God of power and majesty!**

**Heaven and earth are filled with your splendour.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed in Jesus, who comes in your name.
Hosanna in the highest.**

As Jesus faced condemnation and death,
he gathered his friends for a meal.
He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it,
and gave it to his friends, saying:
“This is my life, offered to you.
When you eat this, remember me.”

When the meal was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you
and offered it to his friends, saying:
“This is the cup of forgiveness,
poured out in abundance.
When you drink it, remember me.”

**And so, as we remember Jesus
and his ministry of love and forgiveness,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ was. Christ is. Christ will be.**

God of glory, send your Spirit upon these gifts of bread and cup.
May they become a new beginning for our lives,
by feeding us for your work in the world.
Send your Spirit upon us, gathered at this table.

**May we become the living body of Christ,
expressing your love in word and deed.
Through your Son Jesus,
and by power of your Holy Spirit in your Church,
all glory and strength, power and majesty are yours, now and
forever.**

Amen.

BREAKING BREAD

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
The cup of blessing for which we give thanks is a
sharing in the blood of Christ.

“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”

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

PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ,

**We thank you with all our heart for your mercy and grace.
Grant us now and in the days to come a living hope in you;
and as we serve you in the world,
help us look and work for that day
when at your name every knee shall bow
and every tongue confess you Lord,
to the glory of God. Amen**

HYMN: As the wind song through the trees Words: Shirley Erena Murray

1. As the wind song through the trees,
 As the stirring of the breeze,
 So it is with the Spirit of God,
 As the heart made strangely warm,
 As the voice within the storm,
 So it is with the Spirit of God.
Never seen, ever known
Where this wind has blown
Bringing life, bringing power to the world,
 As the dancing tongues of fire,
 As the soul's most deep desires
 So it is with the Spirit of God.

2. As the rainbow after rain,
 As the hope that's born again,
 So it is with the Spirit of God,
 As the green in the spring,
 As a kite on a string,
 So it is with the Spirit of God,
Making worlds that are new,
Making peace come true,
Bringing gifts, bringing love to the world,
 As the rising of the yeast,
 As the wine at the feast,
 So it is with the Spirit of God.

BENEDICTION

May the God of love strengthen you,
to serve creation with joy

May God Bless you with deep peace.

Named as God's beloved,

go forth, building new communities of blessing for others.

AMEN.

THE GRACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

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.

Mā te Atua Tamaiti rā,

Mā te Wairua Tapu hoki,

Rātou, Atua kotahi nei.

Tātou katoa e whakapai.

Amine.

Please join us in the new hall for refreshments following the service.