



Wesley Methodist Church
75 Taranaki Street
Wellington

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 8 September 2024

Pentecost 16 | Creation 2

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



**“A Change
of Heart”**

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!

Order of Service
10am Congregation
Sunday 8 September 2024
Pentecost 16 | Creation 2

Leader: Philip Garside Organ: Vivien Chiu
Guitar: Heather Garside

Welcome & Introduction

Call to Worship

Let us enter this place together,
ready to worship with thanksgiving for the abundance of God
that we experience every day.

God gave us a wide and wondrous world in which to live.

Here, in this holy place, in community,
surrounded by the wonders of God's glorious Creation,
we will worship with prayer, song, hearts, and minds.

This is the day that God has made!
Let us rejoice and be glad!

Lighting the Candle

We light this candle to begin our worship.

This candle is the light in the window
reminding us that God will always welcome us home,
no matter what has happened
or what we have done or left undone.

As we come and worship we are reminded of that vital promise.
We come, knowing that God is here to welcome us.

Opening Prayer: A Prayer for the Warming of Humanity

O Divine Fire,
where the human heart has turned tepid,
or even polar, warm us.

**Awaken us, to the sad irony
that as love for our planet dies within us,
she dangerously, warms.**

It is chilling seeing Canada burning up
Canadians dying in a heatwave,
hearing that it is in the mid-thirties in the Arctic Circle,
seeing the ocean on fire in the Gulf of Mexico
when a gas pipeline ruptured,
seeing wildfires in wet African forests,
seeing regions of our motu aflame.

**Help us to tenderly nurse our Mother Earth
with warmer compassion to cool her fever
and return her to good health.**

In this world of a chillier human heart, O God,
where love for neighbour, love for one another,
love for creation, has dwindled,

**Rekindle our aroha,
For your love's sake.
Amen.**

Hymn: Every day I will offer you AA 36

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, Music: Colin Gibson

1. Every day I will offer you,
loving God, my heart and mind,
Every way I discover you
in the work your hand has signed;
Help me see I'm your image, and
you have dreamed what I might be,
Every day in your Spirit,
I'll find the love and energy!

2. Every day I will look to Christ,
and give thanks for wine and bread,
Through the pain and the emptiness
where your world cries to be fed;
Help me see I can work for change,
and wherever I might be,
Every day in your Spirit,
I'll find the love and energy!
3. Every day I will take your word,
answer your compassion's claim,
Celebrate every sign of hope,
every deed done in your name;
Help me see you are always there,
and your light can shine through me,
Every day in your Spirit,
I'll find the love and energy!

Prayer of Approach: A Prayer for our Humanity

O God,
open our hearts, to your hurting creation,
help us to grieve the damage being done
to our living Earth.
Give us tears, give us voices to cry out
with all who suffer in your creation.
Help us to weep as Jesus wept over Jerusalem.
Save us from numbness and denial.

Liberator,
free us from the voices from without,
that have become the voices within,
that seek to distract us from reality,
and distance us from each other,
and all in the community of life;
those voices that draw us to triviality
and away from deep knowing;
voices that try to convince us

that what we feel is an overreaction.

Save us from numbness and denial.

God of our ancestors,
rekindle within us
the lamentation of Jeremiah,
the anger of Amos,
the defiance of Shiphrah and Puah,
the love of Mary Magdalene.

Save us from numbness and denial.

Healing One,
in the face of hard truths
restore in us our emotions,
the ability you have instilled in us
to feel and to empathise,
to be compassionate,
to live in community,
our sense of connection with all life,
our very humanity.

Make us whole again.

Amen.

Introducing the theme / Story time

Waiata – E te Ariki

E te Ariki whakarongo mai ra kia ma tou

E te Ariki titiro mai ra kia ma tou

Tenei matou o tamariki

E whakapono ana matou ki a koe

Aue! Aue! Aue! Aue!

Te Matua te Tamaiti Wairua tapu e

Te Matua te Tamaiti Wairua tapu e

[Sing three times]

Bible Readings

Proverbs 22: 1-2, 8-9, 22-23 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favour is better than silver or gold.

The rich and the poor have this in common:
the Lord is the maker of them all.

Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,
and the rod of anger will fail.

Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor.

Do not rob the poor because they are poor
or crush the afflicted at the gate,
for the Lord pleads their cause
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

Mark 7:24-37 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

The Syrophenician Woman's Faith

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice. A woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.

Now the woman was a gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." And when she went home, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

Jesus Cures a Deaf Man

Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went by way of Sidon toward the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man

who had an impediment in his speech, and they begged him to lay his hand on him.

He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.

Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one, but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

Sermon: A Change of Heart

Hymn: Loving Spirit AA94

Words: Shirley Erena Murray. Tune: OMNI DIE - WOV 72(i)

1. Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be,
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.
2. Like a mother, you enfold me,
hold my life within your own,
feed me with your very body,
form me of your flesh and bone.
3. Like a father, you protect me,
teach me the discerning eye,
hoist me up upon your shoulder,
let me see the world from high.
4. Friend and lover, in your closeness
I am known and held and blessed;
in your promise is my comfort,
in your presence I may rest.

5. Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.

Community Time

Sharing the Peace

Let's greet each other saying: **"God's peace be with you."**

Notices

Sharing Joys, Things we are Grateful for, Sorrows & Concerns

Prayers of Intercession

To the bidding "*...in your mercy,*" would you please respond
"hear our prayer."

Lord's Prayer

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

(We also acknowledge offerings made by automatic payment and online banking)

Blessing of Offering (said together)

**For the work of volunteers,
we are forever thankful.
For the untold gifts offered in the past,
we are forever grateful.
By the Word made flesh,
we are forever inspired.
Through our praise and our gifts,
we offer this prayer:
May these gifts be used to fulfil the building of
your kingdom here on earth. Amen.**

Hymn: Where Mountains Rise to Open Skies AA 155

Words: Shirley Erena Murray. Music: Vernon Griffiths

1. Where mountains rise to open skies
your name, O God, is echoed far,
from island beach to kauri's reach,
in water's light, in lake and star.
2. Your people's heart, your people's part
be in our caring for this land,
for faith to flower, for aroha
to let each other's mana stand.
3. From broken word, from conflict stirred,
from lack of vision, set us free
to see the line of your design,
to feel creation's energy.
4. Your love be known, compassion shown,
that every child have equal scope:
in justice done, in trust begun
shall be our heritage and hope.

5. Where mountains rise to open skies
your way of peace distil the air,
your spirit bind all humankind,
one covenant of life to share!

Blessing

Like the pīpīwharauora [Shining Cuckoo]
heralding the start of te kōanga, [Spring]
may we go from here announcing
the arrival of God's new age for the Earth.

May we go boldly, living with love,
reconnecting, with the community of life.

May we live wisely, reducing, reusing,
repairing, recycling and regenerating.

May we live justly realigning ourselves,
with all who seek justice.

Amen.

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**

Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:
Season of Creation 2024 resource by Rev Mark Gibson, Te Hāhi Weteriana o
Aotearoa / The Methodist Church of NZ;
Gathering – Pentecost 2 2024 – Uniting Church of Canada
Let Us Pray, Janet Nelson, HarperCollins 1999.

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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>