



Wesley Methodist Church

75 Taranaki Street
Wellington

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 13 July 2025

Pentecost 5

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



“The Plumb Line and the Road – Measuring True Faithfulness”

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 13 July 2025
Pentecost 5

Leader: Philip Garside **Organ:** Colin Scarf

Welcome & Introduction

Call to Worship

God stands among us, holding a plumb line.

We gather to measure our hearts against God's justice.

The Spirit calls us to listen – to prophets, to neighbours, to strangers.

We gather to hear the unsettling truth and the liberating word.

Though power may resist and the comfortable may turn away,

We gather with courage, seeking God's wisdom.

Christ invites us to see beyond boundaries and old divisions.

We gather to love boldly, crossing every road.

The Holy One stands beside us, not in judgment alone,

But in invitation – to realign our lives.

Come, beloved people, let us worship the God of justice and mercy.

We gather, ready to be transformed. Amen.

Lighting the Candle

We light this candle for the prophets who still speak.

Their words may unsettle but they reveal the way.

We light this candle for those who cross the road in compassion.

Their actions embody the law of love.

We light this candle for ourselves – seeking courage to live true.

The flame shines as both challenge and hope. Amen.

Opening Prayer

O God, you call us to stand straight and true.

Shape us to reflect your justice.

You summon us to cross barriers and love boldly.

Strengthen us with compassionate courage.

We confess the times we avoid uncomfortable truths.

Forgive us and renew our purpose.

In worship, may we encounter your Spirit afresh.

Align us with your mercy and mission. Amen.

Hymn: In this familiar place. Alleluia Aotearoa 72

1. In this familiar place
I know the mystery of your grace.

Refrain:

For the love that I receive, for the truth that I believe,
I praise and thank you for this here and now.

2. In halting song and word
the music of your voice is heard.
3. Among these friends of mine
I taste the company divine.
4. Within this narrow sphere
I learn that you are everywhere.

Prayer of Approach

Holy One, you hold the plumb line beside our lives.

We come, seeking to stand upright in your sight.

You call us to honesty about the world's crooked walls.

We come, ready to name injustice and neglect.

You invite us to set aside excuses and self-interest.

We come, surrendering our need for comfort.

You remind us that love knows no legal loopholes.

We come, embracing your law of compassion.

You stir us to prophetic courage.

We come, willing to speak truth in love.

You promise transformation, even when the task is hard.

We come, trusting in your grace.

Draw us close, O God.

Renew us for faithful living.

Words of Assurance

God's mercy stands firm, even when we falter.

Our crooked places can be straightened.

Forgiveness is not withheld but freely given.

We are beloved, called, and empowered anew. **Amen.**

Introducing the Theme / Story Time

Hymn: Master Speak, Thy servant heareth H&P 535.

Words: FR Havergal (1836-79) Music: WA Mozart (1756-1791)

1. Master speak, Thy servant heareth,
waiting for Thy gracious word.
Longing for Thy word that cheereth
Master let it now be heard.
I am list'ning Lord, for Thee.
What hast Thou to say to me.
2. Speak to me by name, O Master,
let me know it is to me.
Speak that I may follow faster
with a step more firm and free.
Where the shepherd leads the flock
in the shadow of the Rock.
3. Master speak, though least and lowest,
let me not unheard depart.
Master speak, for O Thou knowest,
all the yearning of my heart.
Knowest all its truest need.
Speak! and make me blest indeed.

4. Master speak and make me ready,
when Thy voice is truly heard.
With obedience glad and steady,
still to follow every word.
I am list'ning, Lord, for Thee.
Master, speak! O speak to me.

Readings

Amos 7:7-17 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. And the Lord said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"See, I am setting a plumb line
in the midst of my people Israel;
I will spare them no longer;
the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

Amaziah Complains to the King

Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very centre of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said,

'Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.'"

And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there, but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet nor a prophet's son, but I am a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

"Now therefore hear the word of the Lord.
You say, 'Do not prophesy against Israel,
and do not preach against the house of Isaac.'

Therefore thus says the Lord:
Your wife shall become a prostitute in the city,
and your sons and your daughters shall fall by the sword,
and your land shall be parcelled out by line;
you yourself shall die in an unclean land,
and Israel shall surely go into exile away from its land.”

Luke 10:25-37 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbour as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’

Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Sermon: The Plumb Line and the Road – Measuring True Faithfulness

Hymn: O God, Each Day You Bless Us.

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (2004). Tune: Ellacombe.

1. O God, each day you bless us with gifts of your shalom:
You give us peace and justice, you welcome lost ones home.
You care for your creation and set your people free;
You offer us salvation and build community.
2. You make us sons and daughters baptised and reconciled!
You show us: Each peace-maker is blest as your own child.
You fill us at your table with strength for each new day;
Then Spirit-filled we're able to live your peaceful way.
3. We'll worship, pray, and study, to learn new skills for peace;
We'll work as one strong body so justice will increase.
We'll build new global friendships, seek peace in every land,
Protect the earth you gave us and give with outstretched hand.

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

For the peoples of the world,
Where division, greed, and violence silence the vulnerable,
Where power is hoarded and peace is fragile,
Where the cries of the oppressed rise like a storm,
God, align us with your justice and peace.

For our country and its leaders,
Facing crossroads between self-interest and the common good,
Tempted by easy answers and fearful silence,
Yet called to serve with wisdom, courage, and compassion,
God, align us with your justice and peace.

For our church and its leaders,
Challenged to speak prophetic truth with grace,
To welcome the outcast and lift up the weary,
To embody love that crosses every boundary,
God, align us with your justice and peace.

For our local communities,
Where wealth and poverty dwell side by side,
Where hope flickers in acts of daily kindness,
And where your Spirit stirs quiet revolutions of care,
God, align us with your justice and peace.

For those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit,
The sick, the grieving, the exiled, the unheard,
Those burdened by fear, injustice, or despair,
And all who long for healing and dignity,
God, align us with your justice and peace.

For those who have gone before us,
Whose courage and faith still light our path,
Whose struggles remind us of love's resilience,
And who now rest in your eternal peace,
God, align us with your justice and peace. Amen.

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)

As Amos spoke boldly, and the Samaritan acted with compassion,
so we offer what we have, trusting in God's transforming work.
Your free will offering will now be received.

Blessing of Offering (said together)

Bless these gifts and those who give.

Shape them into acts of mercy and justice.

Use them to mend what is broken.

Let them reflect your reign of hope. Amen.

Hymn: Song of faith that sings forever Faith Forever Singing 57

1. Song of faith that sings forever
through God's people, ages long,
Word that holds the world together
when our hearts take up the song
always, always somewhere sounding,
though the source we do not see,
counterpoint to all despairing,
it is hope that the key.

2. Song of faith in exultation,
rising through the vaults of prayer,
tune of simple celebration
offered up in air,
song in chapel and cathedral,
descant to our daily tone,
song from sickbed or in prison:
faith must often sing alone.
3. And when life would overwhelm us,
when there no song to sing,
hear the constant voice of courage
out of fear and suffering:
all who've loved and trusted Jesus,
all who lift us to be strong,
endless, endless are the voices
of the faith that makes the song.

Benediction / Sending Forth

Go now, with the plumb line of God's justice before you.
Speak truth, even when it challenges the powerful.
Cross the road to show mercy, even when it costs you.
Walk in the courage of Amos and the compassion of the Samaritan.
May Christ's love guide you, the Spirit empower you,
and God's peace go with you always.

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.

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

And the 10am Congregation's Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/wesleywellington.methodistchurch.10am>

We are now livestreaming 10am Congregation services on YouTube here:
<https://www.youtube.com/@WellingtonMethodistParish>