



**Wesley Methodist Church
75 Taranaki Street
Wellington**

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 18 May 2025

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



Worship Leader- Eroni Kito

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!**

GATHERING

On your order of service, (or on the screen) please response with the text in **bold**.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE

God interrupts our plans to call us into new life.

**Christ meets us in the middle of disappointment,
And gives us new purpose.**

The candle is lit

We light this candle to remind us:

God is not confined to our expectations.

When our plans are interrupted,

Grace breaks in.

Call comes anew.

And we are invited to follow – again.

Jesus, light of the world,

Shine in our disrupted lives.

Call us by name.

Feed us with love.

Send us to serve.

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 30)*

Sing praises to the LORD,

and give thanks to God's holy name

for the LORD our God has healed us

when we cried for help

and restored us

in times of deepest despair.

The LORD has turned our sorrow into dancing.

Taken our sackcloth from us and clothed us with joy.

Sing to the LORD without end,

and give thanks to the LORD for ever.

Eternal and ever-present God,

sustain and excite our gathered community.

arouse our expectancy.

subdue our expectations.

Come, silent Spirit, and embrace us.

(together)

Let the words we see and hear and speak and sing

be transformed by the word made flesh,

that our worship may be wholly yours, Lord God.

We pray in the name of the risen One. Amen

HYMN – CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS

(WOV 163)

1. Crown him with many crowns,

the Lamb upon his throne.

Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns

all music but its own.

Awake, my soul, and sing

of him who died for thee,

and hail him as thy chosen king

through all eternity.

2. Crown him the Lord of life,

who triumphed o'er the grave,

and rose victorious in the strife

for those he came to save;

his glories now we sing

who died and rose on high,

who died eternal life to bring,

and lives that death may die.

3. Crown him the Lord of love;

behold his hands and side,

those wounds, yet visible above,

in beauty glorified;

no angels in the sky

can fully bear that sight,

but downward bends their burning eye

at mysteries so bright.

4. Crown him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

OPENING PRAYER OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

(from Psalm 30)

O LORD, a fractured relationship with you is like a death.
Yet your one desire is life – community with you.
With darkness weeping remains,
but joy comes with the hint of morning light.
We've come to take so much for granted in our lives:
"I'm OK – steady as a rock.
In fact, LORD, you've been so good to me
I'm more secure than a strong mountain."
**Then it seemed that you hid your face from me,
and I was terrified.**
I cried out to you, LORD, when things were really grim.
I pleaded with you to restore my good circumstance:
"What profit is there in my weeping, in my going down in the pit?
Will the dust praise you? Will it declare your faithfulness?
Hear me, LORD, and be merciful.
O LORD, be my help."
You transformed my mourning into dance,
and gave me new life.
You have taken my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,
so that my life will praise you and not weep.
O LORD, my God, I will praise you – for ever.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

**In these moments, God of weary mornings, we know how fear contracts
our hearts, how we think our lives are empty of hope, of how like so many
before us, we turn away from your call.**

But you never give up on us, God who sets us free. You never give up anointing us so we can bring good news to the fearful, so we can help in the healing of the world, so we can walk out of all the safe places we love to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, wherever he would lead us. Amen.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Wherever we find ourselves – in the emptiness of our lives, wondering what to do next, walking the shorelines of faithlessness – Jesus meets us, healing us, forgiving us.

This is our good news. We are God's forgiven, grace-filled people. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SO WHAT'S THE STORY..?

Telling time with the children

HYMN – TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE

Frances Ridley Havergal (Tune: NOTTINGHAM) (H&P 705)

1. Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in endless praise,

2. Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,

3. Na ligaqu na Kalou
moni taura tu oqo
me'u sa ogataka ga
ka ni bula vou ko ya.

4. Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

5. Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Matthew 6: 25 – 34

25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? 28 “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Philippians 4: 4 – 9

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

REFLECTION – *STOP WORRYING, START LIVING – ERONI K*

HYMN – Amazing Grace

WORDS: John Newton (WOV 56)

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;

how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;

'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4. The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;

he will my shield and portion be,
as long as life endures.

NOTICES & NEWS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Risen Jesus, in your mercy

hear our prayer

LORD'S PRAYER, *We sing...*

Our Father in heaven, holy be your name.

Your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Do not put us to the test but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory

are yours now and forever. Amen.

OFFERING - *Blessing of offering*

HYMN – O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED

WORDS: John E. Bode TUNE: Angel's Story (WOV 514)

1. O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
Lord be forever near me,
my Master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle
if you art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.

2. O let me feel you near me!
The world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but Jesus, draw me nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

3. O let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will.
Lord, speak to reassure me,
to chasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.

4. O Jesus, you have promised
to all who follow you
that where thou art in glory
there shall your servant be.
And Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;

O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.

BENEDICTION

Go now, not with rigid plans or fixed paths,
but with hearts open to holy interruptions.

May the God who disrupts and redirects
guide our every step.

May Christ, who feeds and restores,
renew our courage.

And may the Spirit, who opens unexpected doors,
send us out in love.

The Lord blesses you and keeps you.

The Lord makes his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lifts up his countenance upon you and gives you peace.

THE GRACE

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

BLESSING

Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:

With One Voice – A Hymn Book for all the churches

The Billabong <https://thebillabong.info/>

Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgy <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

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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>