



Wesley Methodist Church

75 Taranaki Street
Wellington

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 19 January 2025

Epiphany 2

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



Worshipping God's Glory

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 19 January 2025
Epiphany 2**

**Leader: Shelly Rao Organ: Colin Scarf
Guitar: Heather Garside**

Acknowledgment

As we gather, we acknowledge Māori, te tangata whenua, the people of this land, and Te Tiriti o Waitangi, [the Treaty of Waitangi] that established our nation, recognising mana [sovereignty] and rangatiratanga [chieftainship] as the right foundation to govern our people with justice and mercy. We seek to honour this commitment in our lives and in our worship.

Welcome & Introduction

Call to Worship (Response in the bold words)

Be still for a moment.

What do you hear? What do you smell?

What do you feel under your feet? Beloved, God is here.

In the familiar and unfamiliar, God is here with us.

Take a moment to look around. Whom do you notice?

Who isn't here that you expected to see?

Whether this community feels brand new or familiar to you, God is here.

In the familiar and unfamiliar, God is here with us.

Take a deep breath.

We share this air, this space, this worship together.

In our breathing and worshiping in this time and place, God is here.

In the familiar and unfamiliar, God is here with us.

God *is* here.

May we pay attention and discern how God brings us together in the familiar and the unfamiliar to be and become the Body of Christ.

May we notice and join in God's work of forming us for community as we worship today. Amen.

Lighting the Candle (Said together)

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

Gracious God,
Your love is steadfast, unending, and faithful.
Your love is always there for us, in good times and bad.
Your love never lets us go.

Your love reaches to the skies.
It is as vast as the heavens,
Immeasurable, immense, boundless.

Your love protects us,
Covering us like a mother hen covers her chicks,
Guarding them from harm,
Keeping them safe.

Your love is precious to us,
A priceless treasure to be cherished.
Yet you give it freely because you are Love.

As we go about our day today, Lord,
May your love go before us,
May it surround us and support us.
May your love fill us,
So that we might share it with others,
With our family and friends,
With our neighbours and colleagues,
And even with those who believe they're our enemies.

Thank you for loving us through Jesus Christ,
Whose love claims us,
Transforms us,
Inspires us,
And fills us.

Amen.

Hymn: Great is thy Faithfulness H&P 66 (adapted)

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God eternal,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand has provided –

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,

Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Prayer of Approach – A Prayer for Humanity

Let us acknowledge our frailty and our flaws before God.

We acknowledge there are times when we have not loved God.

May we know your grace, O God.

We acknowledge there are times we have not loved our neighbours, human and other-than-human.

May we know your grace, O God.

We acknowledge there are times when we have not loved ourselves.

May we know your grace, O God.

Your steadfast love, O God, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.

Your justice is like great mountain ranges,
your judgements are like the vast deep;
you save humans and animals alike.

May we know your grace, O God. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hear these words of Assurance:

God is gracious.

God is faithful.

God calls us again to follow the path of love.

We know your grace, O God.

Help us to walk in your ways.

Introducing the theme / Story Time

'To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.' ~ 1 Cor 12:7

Hymn: Spirit of the Living God

D Iverson H&P 295

Spirit of the living God,

Fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God,

Fall afresh on me.

Break me, melt me,

Mould me, fill me.

Spirit of the living God,

Fall afresh on me.

(Sung twice)

Readings

1 Corinthians 12: 1 -11 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be ignorant.

You know that when you were gentiles you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak.

Therefore, I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says, "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

John 2: 1 -11 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.

Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet.” So they took it.

When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.”

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

Sermon: Worshipping God's Glory

Hymn: We are one in the Spirit/They'll know we are Christians

P. Scholtes, Voices Together 387

1. We are One in The Spirit,
We are One in The Lord.
We are One in The Spirit,
We are One in The Lord.
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Refrain

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
By our Love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

2. We will work with each other,
We will work side by side.
We will work with each other,
We will work side by side.
And we'll guard each man's dignity
And save each man's pride.

3. We will walk with each other,
We will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other,
We will walk hand in hand.
And together we'll spread the News
that God is in our land.

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, Prayers for Sorrows & Concerns

Prayers of Intercession – Prayers for Ourselves and Others

Ever-bountiful God, in your mercy,
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)

**Generous God, who turns water into wine and scarcity into abundance,
we offer our gifts to you with grateful hearts. May these offerings be**

transformed, just as you transform our lives with your grace. Guide us to use these resources to meet the needs we see around us, to share your love, and to build your kingdom. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn: Jesu, Jesu, Fill us with your Love H&P 145

Tune: CHEREPONI from Ghana. Words: T.S. Colvin (1925-2000)

Refrain:

Jesu, Jesu,

Fill us with your love,

Show us how to serve

The neighbours we have from you.

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends,
Silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them.
2. Neighbours are rich folk and poor,
Neighbours are black folk and white
Neighbours are nearby and far away.
3. These are the ones we should serve,
These are the ones we should love.
All these are neighbours to us and you.
4. Kneel at the feet of our friends,
Silently washing their feet
This is the way we should live with you.

Blessing

Go now, with your trust in Christ
who has quenched your thirst with the wine of God's love.
Do not be silent about God's faithful love,
but shelter in the warmth of God's wings

and keep your hearts honest.

And may God rejoice over you and call you “My Delight”;
May Christ Jesus bring out the best in you, to his glory;
And may the Spirit equip you all with gifts for the common good.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Grace (said together)

**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**

Material for this service was sourced from:

L3 - Liturgy, Learning & (purposeful) Life Worship Resources, MediaCom Ed Inc,
Aust.

Words for Worship, MediaCom.

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>