



Wesley Wellington
75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

23 o Huitānguru (February) 2025
Te Rātapu rima o te Whakaaturanga (Epiphany 7)

Haere mai ki tēnei whare karakia - welcome to this house of prayer



THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS

Living God's love – acting for the common good

Kia ora koutou katoa — Tālofa lava
Mālō e lelei — Bula vinaka — Greetings to you all!

Welcome to today's service. A special welcome to visitors. We hope you will enjoy worshipping with us this morning and will join us again.

Welcoming you today are Masoe Family.

10AM Congregation – Order of Service

Worship leader: Niko Bower

Organist: Vivien Chiu

WELCOME AND SAFETY BRIEFING:

Call to worship

A Psalm of David .

Leader: Do not fret because of evildoers,
Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.
For they shall soon be cut down like the grass,
And wither as the green herb.

Congregation: **Trust in the Lord, and do good;
Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.
Delight yourself also in the Lord,
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.**

Leader: Commit your way to the Lord,
Trust also in Him,
And He shall bring it to pass.
He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light,
And your justice as the noonday.

Congregation: **But the salvation of the righteous is from the
Lord; He is their strength in the time of trouble.
And the Lord shall help them and deliver them;
He shall deliver them from the wicked,
And save them,
Because they trust in Him.
Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men
with whom He is pleased!
Amen**

Lighting of the candle:

Prayer for candle lighting:

All: God of light, this flickering flame reminds us of your constant presence in our lives. May it be a beacon of hope, guiding us on our journey of faith. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Loving God, as we gather for worship on this seventh Sunday of Epiphany, we give thanks for the continuous revelation of your glory. The light of your Son, Jesus Christ, continues to shine brightly, illuminating our path and guiding our steps. We pray that we may be open to your ongoing revelation, that we may see your presence in the everyday moments of our lives, and that we may be bold in sharing your love with the world. May your Spirit fill this place and transform our hearts as we worship you together. **Amen.**

Hymn WOV 10 All people that on earth do dwell

1. All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice:
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;
come ye before him and rejoice.
2. Know that the Lord is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make:
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.
3. Enter then his gates with praise,
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.
4. For why the Lord our God is good;
his mercy is for ever sure;

his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

William Kethe d.1594

Prayer of Confession and Response

Confession:

Merciful God, we come before you acknowledging our sins. We confess our failures in thought, word, and deed. We confess our selfishness and pride. We have sought our own glory above yours, placing our desires and ambitions before your will. We have been quick to boast and slow to admit our faults. We have clung to our own understanding, refusing to listen to your guidance or the wisdom of others. We have been unthankful for your blessings and unyielding in our self-reliance. Forgive us, Lord, for our arrogance and grant us humility. We have fallen short of your glory and have not lived up to the calling you have placed upon our lives. Forgive us, O Lord, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Response: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Word of Assurance

Lord you reminded us the completeness of your forgiveness in Psalm 103:12:
"As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us."

Response: to the Word of Assurance

**Thank you, Lord. We are so grateful for your love and faithfulness.
We trust in your promises, Lord. We know that you are with us, guiding and protecting us.**

Our Father's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Introducing the theme: “The very recognition and admission that we are debtors, trespassers produces within the human heart a genuine humility that opens our whole being to the presence and Person of God Himself”

Hymn WOV 320 Breathe on me breath of God

1. Breathe on me, breath of God,
 fill me with life anew,
 that I may love what thou dost love
 and do what thou wouldst do.
2. Breathe on me, breath of God,
 until my heart is pure,
 until with thee I will one will,
 to do and to endure.
3. Breathe on me, breath of God,
 till I am wholly thine,
 until this earthly part of me
 glows with thy fire divine.

4. Breathe on me, breath of God;
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.

Edwin Hatch 1835-89 alt.

Ministry of the Word

Genesis 45: 3-11, 15 (New International Version)

³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵ And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. ⁶ For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. ⁷ But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

⁸ “So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. ⁹ Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay. ¹⁰ You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’

Genesis: 45:15 (NIV)

¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

Luke 6:27 – 38 (New International Version)

Love for Enemies

²⁷ “But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Judging Others

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Reflection: The gift of forgiveness

Hymn WOV 531 When we walk with the Lord

1. When we walk with the Lord
 in the light of his word
 what a glory he sheds on our way!

While we do his good will
he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.

*Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus
but to trust and obey.*

2. Not a shadow can rise,
not a cloud in the skies
but his smile quickly drives it away;
not a doubt nor a fear,
not a sigh nor a tear,
can abide while we trust and obey.

3. But we never can prove
the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay,
for the favour he shows
and the joy he bestows
are for those who will trust and obey.

4. Then in fellowship sweet
we will sit at his feet,
or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do,
where he sends we will go,
never fear, only trust and obey.

John Henry Sammis 1846 - 1919

Notices & Offerings

Offertory Prayer

Almighty God, we present these gifts as a symbol of our willingness to sacrifice for the sake of your kingdom. May these offerings represent our commitment to serve you and our neighbors, to share your love and grace with those who are less fortunate. Accept our humble gifts, Lord, and use them to build your church and to bring hope to a world in need. **Amen.**

Prayers of the people

God our Creator, at the beginning of time you breathed life into your creatures: hear our prayers for your world and its people. We pray for all whose lives are bound by war, disaster or oppression; for the hungry, the homeless, the refugees; for the leaders of the world and for all who work for justice and peace. Breathe on your children your spirit of hope and possibility.

O God, put your spirit within us,

and we shall live.

God our Redeemer, you hold before us the choice of life or death: hear our prayers for your worldwide church. We pray for places where it is bound by division, discord or lack of resources; for those persecuted for their faith and for those whose faith is weak.

Breathe on your church your spirit of passion and power.

O God, put your spirit within us,

and we shall live.

God our Companion, you have shown to your people the way of true love: hear our prayers for the communities in which we live. We pray for all whose lives are bound by bitterness, jealousy, resentment or mistrust; for those who are victims of intolerance, violence or abuse; for our places of work, our neighbours, our families and our friends. Breathe on your children your spirit of reconciliation and love.

O God, put your spirit within us,

and we shall live.

God, your glory fills the heavens, yet you answer your people when they call on you. We pray for your world, in need of your gospel of peace and justice: for

victims of conflict, exploitation and greed; for those who suffer from famine, drought or disease. Your gospel gives us hope to leave behind all that divides nation from nation; give us grace to believe and tell this good news.

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for your church, in need of your spirit of freedom and truth: for leaders of churches, theologians and teachers; for members of councils and synods of the church; for this parish and all who minister here in your name. Your gospel sets us free to leave behind the rigidity of law and tradition; give us grace to believe and tell this good news,

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for our community, in need of your spirit of love and forgiveness: for the homeless, and those without the support of caring relationships; for those estranged from families and those whose lives are without joy; for ourselves, our families, our neighbours and our friends. Your gospel gives us courage to leave behind resentment, bitterness and hurt; give us grace to believe and tell this good news. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer. Amen

Hymn WOV 520 Take my life and let it be

1. Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.

Take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless 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. Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee.
4. Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.
5. 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.
6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Frances Ridley Havergal 1836-79

Words of mission and blessing

As you leave this place, remember the call to serve others with humility and compassion. Let your lives be a testament to God's love, showing mercy and kindness to all you encounter. Go forth, strengthened by the Holy Spirit, with courage and faith. Do not be afraid to face the challenges that lie ahead, for God is with you always.

May God's grace be with you, empowering you to be instruments of His peace and justice in the world.

Let us all say together the Aaronic Blessing:

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. **Amen.**

HOSPITALITY

We extend a warm invitation to everyone to gather now for kai in the New Hall.

Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:

Let Us Pray – Janet Nelson

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