



Wesley Methodist Church

75 Taranaki Street

Wellington

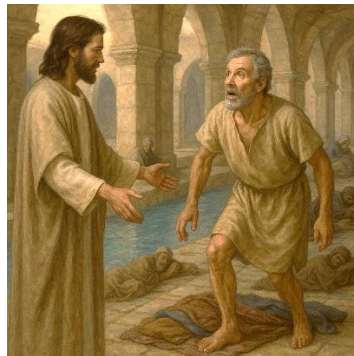
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 25 May 2025

Easter 6

Haere mai ki tēnei Whare Karakia

Welcome to this House of Prayer



“Get Up, Go Out and Open the Door”

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 name

Sunday 25 May 2025

Easter 6

Leader: Philip Garside Organ: Colin Scarf

Welcome & Introduction

Call to Worship

May God be gracious to us and bless us.

May God's face shine upon us.

Let every nation know the saving power of God.

Let all peoples praise the Holy One.

The earth yields its harvest, and justice springs forth.

God's abundance flows to every land.

Let the poor be lifted and the forgotten embraced.

Let all creation rejoice in God's care.

Come, people of God, gather in joy and truth.

We come to worship the One who blesses and sends.

Lighting the Candle

We light this candle for vision and response,

For dreams that lead us beyond what is safe.

We light it for Lydia, bold and generous,

For the Spirit who opens hearts and homes.

We light it for journeys taken in trust.

May its flame guide us into welcome and grace. Amen.

Opening Prayer

God of healing and wholeness, you meet us where we lie.

You speak life into places we thought were dead.

In our waiting and our worry, you come close.

You see us, know us, and invite us to rise.

When despair holds us down, your grace lifts us up.

When rules restrict, your love breaks through.

Move among us now, O Christ.

Call us again to get up and walk. Amen

Hymn: He Came Singing Love AA 59

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. He came singing love
and he lived singing love;
he died singing love.
He arose in silence.
For the love to go on
we must make it our song:
you and I be the singers. | 3. He came singing hope
and he lived singing hope;
he died singing hope.
He arose in silence.
For the hope to go on
we must make it our song:
you and I be the singers. |
| 2. He came singing faith
and he lived singing faith;
he died singing faith.
He arose in silence.
For the faith to go on
we must make it our song:
you and I be the singers. | 4. He came singing peace
and he lived singing peace;
he died singing peace.
He arose in silence.
For the peace to go on
we must make it our song:
you and I be the singers. |

Prayer of Approach

Loving God, you call to us in dreams and in silence.

We come, listening for your voice.

You find us beside pools of despair and rivers of hope.

You see us, even when we feel unseen.

You stir our hearts like Lydia's and invite us to rise like the man on the mat.

In your mercy, give us courage to respond.

Strip away our excuses and awaken our longing.

Unblock what is stuck; unfreeze what is afraid.

Gather us into your story once more.

With faith renewed, we step toward you.

Here we are, God of grace.

Welcome us in, and lead us out.

Words of Assurance

Christ sees us in our waiting, our weariness, and our wanting.

He does not ask us to earn grace, only to receive it.

In every broken moment, healing is already moving toward us.

Get up. Walk in newness and freedom. **Amen.**

Introducing the Theme / Story Time

Hymn: Breathe on me, Breath of God H&P 280 Tune: TRENTHAM

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.

Readings

Acts 16:9–15 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

The Conversion of Lydia

We therefore set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

John 5:1–9 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Bethesda, which has five porticoes. In these lay many ill, blind, lame, and paralyzed people. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” The ill man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am making my way someone else steps down ahead of me.” Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a Sabbath.

Sermon: “Get Up, Go Out, and Open the Door”

Hymn: Take My Gifts and Let Me Love You AA 127

1. Take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter,
gave me life and set me free.
Now because your love has touched me,
I have love to give away,
now the bread of love is rising,
loaves of love to multiply!
2. Take the fruit that I have gathered
from the tree your Spirit sowed,
harvest of your own compassion,
juice that makes the wine of God,
spiced with humour, laced with laughter –
flavour of the Jesus life,
tang of risk and new adventure,
taste and zest beyond belief.
3. Take whatever I can offer –
gifts that I have yet to find,
skills that I am slow to sharpen,
talents of the hand and mind,
things made beautiful for others
in the place where I must be:
take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved 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

God of all nations, stir hearts and leaders toward peace.

May visions of justice replace dreams of domination.

We pray for countries in conflict, and for the courageous peacemakers.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bless Aotearoa with wisdom, integrity, and compassion.

Guide all who govern, legislate, and lead communities.

Let their decisions uplift the vulnerable and serve the common good.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Like Lydia, may we open our hearts and homes to your Spirit.

Strengthen ministers, lay leaders, and congregations
with faith and grace.

Make your church a place of welcome, healing, and justice.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Shine your blessing over neighbourhoods, schools, and workplaces.

Bring renewal where there is weariness, and hope where there is hurt.

Help us walk beside the overlooked and lift up the weary.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We remember those paralysed by pain, grief, or despair.

May your words of life stir them to rise again.

Surround them with kindness, and grant strength for each new day.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give thanks for saints and ancestors,
for faithful companions now at rest.

In their memory, may we live boldly and love generously.

Bring us all, in time, to your river of joy and your healing grace.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer. 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)

When Jesus saw the man by the pool,
he offered healing before it was asked for.
Let us offer freely, trusting that our gifts
can be part of God's work of restoration.
Your free will offering will now be received.

Blessing of Offering (said together)

**Bless these gifts and those who give them.
Let them be signs of compassion and hope.
Use them to lift up the weary and renew what is broken.
In your mercy, may all find strength to rise. Amen.**

Hymn: Where the Road Runs Out AA 156

1. Where the road runs out and the signposts end,
where we come to the edge of today,
be the God of Abraham for us,
send us out upon our way.

Refrain:

Lord, you were our beginning,
the faith that gave us birth.
We look to you, our ending,
our hope for heaven and earth.

2. When the coast is left and we journey on
to the rim of the sky and the sea,
be the sailor's friend, be the dolphin Christ,
lead us on to eternity.
3. When the clouds are low and the wind is strong,
when tomorrow's storm draws near,
be the spirit bird hovering overhead
who will take away our fear.

Benediction / Sending Forth

Go now, as Paul went, guided by vision and Spirit.
Go as Lydia did, with open heart and open hands.
May your home become a place of welcome and witness.
May your life reflect courage, faith, and generosity.
Christ goes before you; the Spirit empowers you.
Walk in grace, and live in peace.

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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Material for this service was sourced from *Worship at Hand*
– Philip Garside Publishing Ltd (2025).

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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>