



Wesley Methodist Church

75 Taranaki Street
Wellington

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 27 April 2025

2nd Sunday of Easter

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



Believing into Christ

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 27 April 2025
2nd Sunday of Easter
Leader: Shelly Rao Organist: Colin Scarf

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

A Call to Worship

In the rising of the morning sun, the Lord speaks:

You are my children. Shine!

In the greening of the Earth and blooming of creation, the Lord speaks:

You are my children. Grow!

In the mountains reaching toward the sky, the Lord speaks:

You are my children. Stand with strength!

In the darkness of the winter days, the Lord speaks:

You are my children. Trust!

In the presence of the skies that float above us and the assurance of the Earth beneath us

And with the calm of the Spirit within us, the Lord speaks:

You are my children. Live!

Lighting the Candle (Said together)

God of Light,
Help us to live as believers in the resurrection.
May we bring the light of Christ to others.
In the name of Jesus, the risen Christ, we pray.
Amen.

Opening Prayer

God of peace,
in the experience of resurrection
your cross turns the violence of our world on itself.
The peace you give to your disciples
We too need, and ask for.

The deep peace of the glacial lake,
the serene peace of light in the snowflake,
the broad peace on the horizon at dawn,
the rolling peace of the green valleys,
We too need, and ask for.
Jesus, who appears behind the doors of our fear,
grant us your peace.

Heavenly Father

On this 2nd Sunday of Easter, we commend to your mercy the soul of Pope Francis.

We thank you for his faithful service, leadership and example of compassion.

Grant him the reward of a life well-lived and may he rest in your loving peace. Comfort those who mourn and guide them under your Holy Spirit's light.

Amen.

Hymn: Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord H&P 250

Chorus:

*Alleluia, alleluia
Give thanks to the risen Lord
Alleluia, alleluia
Give praise to His name.*

1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth
He is the King of creation
2. Spread the good news to all the earth
Jesus has died and has risen
3. We have been crucified with Christ
Now we shall live for ever
4. Come let us praise the Living God
Joyfully sing to our Saviour.

Prayer of Approach

Open to me the gates of the Temple;
I will go in and give thanks to the Lord!

**This is the gate of the Lord;
only the righteous can come in.**

I praise you, Lord, because you heard me,
because you have given me victory.

**The stone which the builders rejected as worthless
turned out to be the most important of all.**

This was done by the Lord;
what a wonderful sight it is!

**This is the day of the Lord's victory;
let us be happy, let us celebrate!**

Save us, Lord, save us!
Give us success, O Lord!

**May God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
From the Temple of the Lord we bless you.**

The Lord is God; he has been good to us.
With branches in your hands, start the festival
and march around the altar.

**You are my God, and I give you thanks;
I will proclaim your greatness.**

Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good,
and his love is eternal. **Amen.**

Words of Assurance

The good news of Easter is that death is turned into new life.
The promise we have from God
is that when we acknowledge our brokenness,
God will acknowledge us with grace and forgiveness.
We are a forgiven people. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Introducing the theme / Story Time

Waiata: Purea Nei

Hirini Melbourne (1949–2003)

Purea nei e te hau
Horoia e te ua
Whitiwhitia e te ra
Mahea ake nga pōraruru
Makere ana nga here,
Makere ana nga here.

Scattered by the wind
washed by the rain
and transformed by the sun,
all doubts are swept away
and all restraints are cast down

E rere wairua, e rere
Ki nga ao o te rangi
Whitiwhitia e te ra
Mahea ake nga pōraruru
Makere ana nga here,
Makere ana nga here.

Fly, O free spirit, fly
to the clouds in the heavens,
transformed by the sun,
all doubts are swept away
and all restraints are cast down.

Readings

Acts 5: 27 – 32 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.”

But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree.

God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

John 20:19-31 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So, the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Reflection: *Moving from Doubt to Delight*

Hymn: *He Is Lord, He Is Lord!* H&P256

He is Lord, he is Lord!

He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord. (2x)

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

Rejoicing in God's promise of new creation,
let us pray to the Maker of heaven and earth,
saying: God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church . . .

Empower us, by your Holy Spirit,
to seek the grace and peace of Christ
in the church and in the world.

God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world . . .

Heal this scarred and wounded earth
so that the whole creation may praise you
with one breath and one voice.

God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this Parish and community. . .

Make us better neighbours to one another.
Unlock the doors we close in fear
and teach us to transcend dividing walls.

God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for loved ones . . .

Save those who are sick or in trouble.
Hold them in your powerful hand
and deliver them from danger.

God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, keep us working and praying
for the coming of your holy realm of peace,
when we will share abundant life with you;
through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **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)

Blessing of Offering (said together)

**God, from you comes every bounty.
Every sacrifice of life that sustains ours
is the sacrifice of your beloved.**

**As we return a small part of the bounty you have blessed us with,
We pray that it will be used to forge stronger connections among
all creation**

Until the whole world is redeemed by your love. Amen.

Hymn: To God be the glory, Great things he has done!

H&P 463

1. To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that gave us his Son,
Who yielded his life as atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Chorus:

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son

And give him the glory, great things he has done!

2. Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,
But purer and higher and greater will be
our joy and our wonder, when Jesus we see. *Chorus.*

Blessing

Go from here as witnesses of what we have seen and heard.
Share God's love with those we meet.
Bring hope to those who are in despair.
Live lives of gratitude and praise.
And may the love of God,
the peace of Jesus Christ,
and the ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit
be within us and among us until we meet again.
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>