



Wesley Wellington

75 Taranaki Street www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 30 March 2025

Lent 4

Josh 5:9-12; Ps 32

Welcome to our Café Church Service



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!**

Coffee & Chat

Ritual of Gathering

All: We are here. We are who we are.

I am here. I am who I am.

All: You are who you are, created by God.

Welcome and Opening

Circle of Praise – *inspired by Psalm 124, James 5*

Blessed be the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth!

Praise be to God, the Giver of many gifts!

Our help is in God's name, the One who calls us here.

We come with songs of praise, with prayers too deep for words.

Blessed be the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth!

Blessed be the Lord!

Opening Prayer

Christ Jesus, we come into your presence from many different places. We come with songs of joy and shouts of gratitude. We come carrying heavy burdens and sighs of suffering.

As you welcome us into your presence, lift our burdens and receive our praise. Salt us with your grace and flavour us with your mercy. Bind us together, that we may be at peace with one another and be strengthened to go forth in service to the world. In your holy name, we pray

Amen

We sing: Morning has Broken (H&P 635)

(Words- Eleanor Farjeon)

Looking into the Bible – 2 Cor 5: 16-21

¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:^[a] The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you

on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin^[b] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Reflection

Discussion 1

- 1. As we explore ourselves this Lent, what Christ is telling us in this text, what can we do to make our Parish better a place to worship?*

Sharing from groups and questions.

Our Prayer (Together we say)

Glorious Loving God may my love for Christ so constrain me, that I choose to live, day by day, in spirit and in truth. May I not pay attention to things in this fallen, failing, finite world, according to the flesh, but may I develop a spiritual perspective in all things. Help me to live godly in Christ Jesus, my risen, ascended, and glorified God and Saviour. In Jesus' name I pray, AMEN.

Reflection on Image and Object of Lent Journey

Looking into the Bible – Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ Then Jesus told them this parable:

Luke 15:11-32

The Parable of the Lost Son

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say

to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

²⁸ "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

³¹ "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

Reflection

Discussion 2

- 1. What steps can we take as a community to encourage one another to stay spiritually active and vibrant?*

Presentation and questions:

Prayer for our Emptiness, Jesus, to point fingers and speak with horror about the darkness in our world, than to live ablaze with light, revealing the truth of systems and situations, bringing the colours of those around us into vibrant life, warming the hearts of all we meet with compassion and love,

But we do not choose what is easy, We ask you to flood us with your light, and make us light-bringers in our world.

It's much easier, Jesus, to separate ourselves from those who believe and act differently from us, to judge and exclude them and preach about the bland lifelessness of our world, than to live with salty spiciness, preserving what is good and true and beautiful, revealing the varied and exciting flavours of different cultures and peoples, healing and cleansing what is wounded and stained,
But we do not choose what is easy, we ask you to fill us with your saltiness, and make us spice-bringers in our world.

We celebrate your grace and truth, your compassion and self-giving, your justice and righteousness, and we offer ourselves to be those who follow your ways, who become light and salt, bringing life, justice and praise wherever we may find ourselves.

In Jesus' Name Amen.

Song – The Lord's Prayer https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QIyK7c_Az8g

Sharing & Caring – Love one another as God has loved us.

Sharing joys or concerns

Notices

10AM Singing Group “Look Upon us Blessed Lord”

Words of closing

As we leave this place, may we go with the understanding that we are called to be the salt of the earth—bringing flavour, healing, and preservation to a world in need.

May our lives reflect the purity and integrity that comes from Christ, keeping our hearts full of peace and our hands full of service.

When the challenges of life threaten to diminish our saltiness, may we turn to God in prayer and lean on one another for strength, knowing that together, we preserve the love, unity, and grace that this world so desperately needs.

So go now—pass the salt! Be bold in your faith, steadfast in your love, and generous with your grace, so that through you, others may taste and see that the Lord is good.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, go in peace and stay salty.

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**

Time in Community

More coffee and chats...

Shake hands? Slip away quietly?

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Liturgy for this service was sourced from:

<https://worshipwords.co.uk/tag/cafe-church-resources/>

<http://www.ministrymatters.com/>

<https://sacredise.com/light-and-salt/> Hymnary.org

<https://hymnary.org/>

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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>