



**Wesley Methodist Church**  
**75 Taranaki Street**  
**Wellington**  
[www.wesleychurch.org.nz](http://www.wesleychurch.org.nz)

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

***Easter 3***

***Combined Service for 10 AM, Samoan and Fijian***



**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

Today is the third Sunday after Easter. We remember the death and resurrection of Christ, who with haste gave everything to die on the cross so we can be rescued away from our sins. But he rose from the dead after 3 days to signify his glory and sanctify that he is the Son of God. We gather to continue this celebration and sing praises that Jesus is the Son of God and he lives.

We continue to live with his glory and continue to worship his relationship with each of us.

Although you live alone, you are not alone; you are with Jesus all the time.

## WELCOME AND NOTICES

**Samoaan**

## LIGHTING THE CANDLE

We light this candle, a  
small and fragile light  
and we remember:  
the one who is the light of the world,  
light from light, light no darkness  
could overcome.

**Christ is the light of the world.**

## INTROIT

**Fijian Choir**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Gracious God, once again you have called us  
together in this place and at this moment.

**Here we open our hearts and lives before  
you, here we seek to hear Your life-giving  
Word.**

God in this time of song and prayer and speech,  
open our very souls to receive your challenge,  
**open our wills to accept your instruction.**  
**Turn our mourning into dancing, replace our  
sackcloth with garments of joy.**

And when our time of worship is ended,  
**lead us back out into the world to share the  
Good News with the world around us.**

We pray in the name of the One who brought  
Your healing love, Jesus of Nazareth.

**Amen.**

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Loving God, shine your light in  
our hearts.

Help us to “see” with our whole being, not  
just with our eyes.

help us to see with our ears and  
our hearts and our minds, to  
know you are always with us.

**Help us to see your beauty in one another and in  
the world around us,  
help us to look for places where we can bring your love.**

**Amen**

### **HERITAGE HYMN    ‘Now thank we all our God’ (WOV 14)**

1

Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands, and voices,  
who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms,  
hath blest us on our way with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.

2

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

3

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given, the Son, and Holy Ghost,  
one Lord in highest heaven: the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

*Martin Rinkart*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We justly deserve Your judgment.

**For our sake, and the sake of your son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways that lead to glory. In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

(Prayer for the People of the UMC)

## Children's Time and Prayer

### Children's Hymn - The Lord of the Dance (WOV 183)

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth:  
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,  
But they would not dance, and they wouldn't follow me;  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;  
They came with me and the dance went on:

*Refrain*

*Dance, then, wherever you may be,  
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame:  
The holy people said it was a shame.  
They whipped, and they stripped, and they hung me on high,  
And they left me there on a cross to die:

Refrain

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.

They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;  
But I am the dance, and I still go on:

Refrain

They cut me down and I leapt up high;  
I am the life that'll never, never die.  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:  
I am the Lord of the dance, said he.

*Refrain*

*Sydney Carter*

## **PRAYER FOR FAMILIES and OTHERS**

Loving God, we come to you today as  
your family, those you have united in  
Christ. And as we come, reminded of  
your love, we give you thanks for all the  
families, to which we belong.

**Creative God, join us together in love.**

We think of the families among whom we have been raised –  
those with whom we have shared so much,  
to whom we are especially close, and who will  
always be uniquely precious to us.

**Friend of all, join us together in love.**

We think of the family of this church – the  
fellowship we find here, the friends we have  
made, committees we belong to, and the  
encouragement we give to one another.

**Encouraging God, join us together in love.**

We think of the family of the communities of Wellington  
specially those who are living rough, depending on others,  
government agencies and charitable organisations.

**Creator of all, join us together in love.**

We think of the family of humankind, the common bond that ties us together, the variety of people and nations of which we form a part, the diversity of culture, customs.

**Diverse God, join us together in love.**

Loving God, we thank you that we share something in common with all people near and far.

**Helper of all, join us together in love, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen**

*(Nick Fawcett; Prayer for all Season)*

## **Lord Prayer in Te Reo**

**E tō mātou Matua i te rangi**

**Kia tapu tou Ingoa**

**Kia tae mai tou rangatiratanga.**

**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 whakawaia;**

**Engari whakaorangia mātou, i te kino:**

**Nou hoki te rangatiratanga,**

**te kaha, me te kororia,**

**Ake, ake, ake. Āmine.**

## **Offering**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

#### **Dedication**

Generous God, you have given us life, a place to live in, and people to live with. Open our eyes to each other and to all our brothers and sisters, especially the poor, the oppressed, the alienated.

Bless all that we bring to you – our time and talents, money, and food to share:

**We offer our gifts this day praying that they may be turned into an abundance of fruit: the fruit of healing, compassion, and justice. Amen**

## **Bible Readings**

### **Acts 9:1–20**

**10 AM**

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. 3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. 6 "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

7 The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. 8 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. 9 For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

10 In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

11 The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. 12 In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

13 "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. 14 And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

15 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. 16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, 19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul in Damascus and Jerusalem

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. 20 At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

### **John 21:1–19**

**Fijian**

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 3 “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So, they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

5 He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”

“No,” they answered.

6 He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. 8 The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. 9 When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

10 Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” 11 So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Jesus Reinstates Peter

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

16 Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

17 The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. 18 Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will



stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” 19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

## **REFLECTION**

### **AFFIRMING OF FAITH**

**We believe in the God of love, who seeks  
a deep communion with us, and who  
calls us to reject all idols.**

We believe in the God of creation who calls us  
into partnership in shaping the future in justice,  
peace and joy.

**We believe in the God who is not remote but  
who is immersed in the life of this world  
sharing its hope and feeling its pain.**

We believe in the God who identifies  
with the poor and the oppressed and  
those who long for faith and calls us  
to stand with them.

**We believe in this God, revealed in Jesus whose  
love is vulnerable, whose heart is aching and whose  
covenant with all people and creation, is  
unshakable.**

*(Rev Dr Terry Wall)*

### **COMMUNION HYMN ‘Now to your table spread’ (AA100)**

1 Now to your table spread we come, each one, in faith  
that you alone provide the words of life and death:  
in wine and bread, in promised food  
we find your loving heart, O God.

2 Hands of the world stretch out, your mystery to touch

in longing to believe a truth beyond our reach,  
to sing in joy, to cry in grief, to know your meaning for our life.

- 2 Here is our common wealth in sharing what is good,  
as though all humankind around one table stood,  
his bread to break, this wine to taste -  
one people in the name of Christ.

*Words © Shirley Murray*

## **The Peace**

How can we claim to love God, who we cannot see, if  
we do not love our neighbour, who we can see?  
The peace of God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Sharing the peace of God one another ... "Peace be with you."*

## **BLESSING**

Blessed are you, God of all Creation.  
through your goodness we have gifts to offer, which earth has  
given and human hands have made.

**Blessed be God forever.**

God be with you,

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts and rejoice.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us, with all our hearts, give thanks.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Living God, we offer you our prayers of thanksgiving.  
Above all, on this Easter Season we offer our thanks  
for the reality and promise of resurrection. Your  
beloved son has risen from the grave and the tomb of  
our world is opened wide.

Jesus was raised in power and was revealed first to women.  
They had come to offer him the rituals of the dead, he showed  
them a life beyond all dying.

Therefore, with the women who found an empty tomb  
with the men and women who later saw the risen Lord,  
and with people in every place and generation, who  
have lived out the truth of Resurrection we say;

**Holy, holy, holy, Resurrection God, heaven  
and earth are full of your glory: hosanna in  
the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God; hosanna in  
the highest.**

Blessed is our brother Jesus,  
Who walks with us the road of our grief, and is known again in the  
breaking of bread;

who, on the night he was handed over, took  
bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:

**“This is my body, broken for you. Do this to remember me.”**

In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying:

**“This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this  
whenever you drink it, and when you do,  
remember me.”**

Let us proclaim the mystery at the heart of our faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come  
again.**

Come now, disturbing Spirit of God, breathe on these bodily  
things and make us one body in Christ. Open our graves, remove  
what binds us and name us here,

touch and heal all that has been buried in us,  
that we need not cling to our pain but may go forth with power to  
release resurrection into the world. **Amen**

### **The Breaking of Bread**

This bread we break, this cup we share,  
every grace in our lives, is a gift and  
promise of resurrection.

Te Haahi Weteriana/The Methodist Church of New Zealand keeps an open table.

Any person present who feels called  
to receive the Sacrament is very welcome to join us at the Table.

### **An Invitation to the Table**

Come to this table where the living Christ  
offers us bread broken for our journeying and  
wine poured out for our tears.

Share together in this meal where loss finds comfort in promise  
and despair is transformed into hope, whoever you are, whatever  
you bring.

***Come, the Table of the Lord is now ready. Come as you are!***

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

God of life, may this meal nourish us, may it feed our souls and  
nourish the work you have begun in us. We ask this in the name of  
Jesus, whose resurrection is a promise of your kingdom.

**Amen**

### **HYMN      ‘Now let us from table rise’ (WOV 405)**

1. Now let us from this table rise renewed in body,  
mind and soul; with Christ we die and live again,  
his selfless love has made us whole.

3. To fill each human house with love,  
it is the sacrament of care;

the work that Christ began to do,  
we humbly pledge ourselves to share.

*The earth is your dwelling,  
live in us Lord, let us live in you.  
Settle in our hearts at home in our wills,  
at rest in our minds, at ease in our strength,*

2

With minds alert, upheld by grace,  
to spread the Word in speech and deed,  
we follow in the steps of Christ,  
at one with all in hope and need.

4

Then give us courage, living God,  
to choose again the pilgrim way,  
and help us to accept with joy  
the challenge of tomorrow's day.

*Words: Frederik Herman Kaan (Adapt.)*

*Tune: 'Niagara'*

*Reproduced from WOV 450*

## **BLESSING**

That we may reside in peace, live in joy, abide in love, and  
inhabit eternity. Go in Peace and Go in Love. **Amen**

## **The Grace**

Kia tau ki a tātou katoa,

te atawhai o tō tātou Ariki o Ihu Karaiti,  
me te aroha o te Atua,  
me te whiwhingatahitanga  
ki te Wairua Tapu. Āmine

**Sources:** Rootsonwebsite 2024; 2022 o of s; L3 for Pentecost 1 2024;  
“Family means nobody gets left behind or forgotten.” by David Ogden Stiers.  
“**We cannot help conforming ourselves to what we love.**”

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