



Wellington Methodist Parish
75 Taranaki Street, Te Whanganui-a-Tara
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Rātapu, te 11 o Whiringa-ā-nuku 2026
Te Rātapu rua tekau o Petekoha (Pentecost 20)

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



Responding to God's invitation

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 is the Masoe family.

10AM Congregation – Order of Service

Worship leader: Hugh Laurenson

Organist: Colin Scarf

As we gather, we acknowledge Ngāti Mutunga and Te Āti Awa, who hold mana whenua of this land. We acknowledge 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 and Safety Briefing

Alan Dine

Call to Worship (Ngā Kupu Whakapūare)

Ko te rā tēnei i hanga i Ihowā. **This is the day that the Lord has made.**

Kia hari, kia koa tatou. **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Beloved, God's never-ending love spills out all around us, drawing us together in beloved community with God, neighbour, and all creation.

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!

God's always-present grace surrounds us, enlivening us to love ourselves and our neighbours just as Christ loves us.

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!

God's persistent peace sweeps through us, guarding our hearts and empowering us to live as agents of God's mercy and justice wherever we go.

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!

May our rejoicing overflow into our families, neighbourhoods, and the whole earth that through our living, working, resting, and playing, God may be glorified.

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!

Lighting the candle (Kānara Whakamāmā)

God invites us into relationship, calling us to whanaungatanga and aroha.

Nau mai, haere mai. We receive your invitation, O God.

Help us respond with open hearts and lives that share your love.

Ka whakautu mātou. Āmine.

Opening Prayer (Inoi Tuatahi)

Bestower of blessings, fling wide the portals of your love as we draw near to you this day.

Bless those keeping watch over the tender moments of letting go, and those waiting with eagerness to cradle new life.

Bless the studious child, the wandering thought, the imagination stretched out beyond what the horizon can hold.

Bless those seeking the light of truth, and the courage to give voice to it.

Bless those who gather community to them, and those who hunger for a place to call home.

Bless the cooks and bottlewashers, the ravenous appetites and the empty stomachs sheltered from our view.

Bless the questions, the mysteries, and the epiphanies that dance among our thoughts and beckon us toward what can be.

Receive our thanks for all that you hold before us and beneath us, for the sake of your mercy and love. **Amen.**

Hymn (Himene): Come down, O love divine (H&P 281)

1. Come down, O Love divine,
Seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing.
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.
2. O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming.
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

3. And so, the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling.
for none can guess its grace,
till Love create a place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

Littledale

Bianco da Siena; tr: Richard Frederick

Prayer of Approach & Words of Assurance (Kupu Kī Pono)

O Christ, you graciously invite us to the feast of your divine life,
but sometimes we are tempted to delay our response to you.

We detour into trivial activities or busy ourselves with commitments which are to our own advantage.

We convince ourselves that we are choosing what is important and that other things can wait until we are ready. Forgive us, Jesus Christ.

Call to us again and give us the wisdom to accept your invitation, we pray.

If we come into your presence clothed in self-righteousness, or with assumptions and certainties which are not arising from your life with us:

Forgive us, Jesus Christ.

When we fail to see what your people must wear in kindness and respect for others and openness to relationship:

Forgive us, Jesus Christ. Call to us again and give us the wisdom which flows from your grace, we pray. Amen.

Over and over again, when we stand in humility, the voice of Christ comes to us in welcome and compassion. **We are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

Introducing the theme - *Responding to God's invitation*

Hymn (Himene): Come, teach us, spirit of our God (FFS 11)

1. Come, teach us, Spirit of our God,
the language of your way,
the lessons that we need to live,
the faith for every day.

2. Excite our minds to follow you,
to trace new truths in store,
new flight paths for our spirit space,
new marvels to explore.
3. Engage our wits to dance with you,
to leap from logic's base,
to capture insight on the wing,
to sense your cosmic grace.
4. Inspire our spark to light from you,
to catch creation's flair,
new artistry to celebrate,
new harmonies to dare.
5. Delight our hearts to worship you,
to learn compassion's code,
to live in context of your love,
great teacher who is God!

Shirley Murray

Ministry of the Word (Ngā Pānui Karaipiture)

Daphne Pilaar

Exodus 32:1-14 (NRSV Updated Edition) - The Golden Calf

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, “Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” Aaron said to them, “Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters and bring them to me.” So, all the people took off the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. He took these from them, formed them in a mould, and cast an image of a calf, and they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it, and Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.” They rose early the next

day and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being, and the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to revel.

The Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation.”

But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Matthew 22:1-14 (NRSV Updated Edition) - The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again, he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed

them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Reflection (He Whakaaroaro) – Responding to God's invitation

Hymn (Himene): I, the Lord of sea and sky (OCP New Dawn Music)

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

*Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.

I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them,
Whom shall I send?

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Daniel L. Schutte

Community Time

Sharing the Peace

Notices

Sharing joys, things we are grateful for, sorrows and concerns

Prayers of Intercession (Ngā Inoi Mō Te Whānau)

We pray for the world You created and the people who share it with us: for countries caught up in war or violent conflict. For those whose homes and lives are threatened by natural disaster. For these and all the other areas in our world where there is need and despair. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for our country and for its people: for our government leaders, national and local. For our judicial system, police forces, and military. For our cities, towns, and rural communities. For employers and employees, for

young and old. For all who form part of the fabric of Aotearoa. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for our local community: the people of our city. For those who are unemployed. For those in prison. For those who are hungry. For those who are alone and afraid. For all our neighbours, both known and unknown to us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation: our siblings in Christ. For those who are ill or whose loved ones are ill. For those who are anxious about the future. For those struggling with their faith. For those who minister among us. For all Your people in this place. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pour out Your Spirit on us! Fix our hearts and minds on what is true and honourable and right. Give us the joy and peace that comes from knowing and doing Your will. Keep us faithful to the call we have received in Christ Jesus, our Lord, extending Your loving invitation to the world around us. **In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer (He Inoi O Te Ariki)

**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 (Tātou Koha Ki Te Hāhi)

(We also acknowledge offerings made by automatic payment and online banking)

Blessing of offerings (said together)

Steadfast Joy, when “always” feels larger than our capacity, you remain nearby. In gratitude, we bring these gifts, signs of love learned from you. Quiet our anxious hearts and turn our attention toward what is true, honourable, and worthy of praise. Shape us into a people whose generosity is gentleness made visible, whose offerings declare we are on the side of our neighbours. Receive what we place in your hands and let it become courage, welcome, and hope. Guard us with your peace as we press on in Christ. Amen.

Hymn (Himene): Take my life and let it be (A&M 787a)

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. O outou o tigaina
Tepa tonu ia Iesu;
Lona alofa tele lava
E maua ai le filemu.
3. Sisu, ke ke ma'u ma'au
'Eku ngaahi mea kotoa;
Taleniti, ngaahi ta'u
Fanau, fale, mo e koloa.
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. Na ligaqu na Kalou
Mo Ni taura tu oqo
Me'u sa ogataka ga
Ka ni bula vou ko ya.

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

Extinguishing the candle (Kānara Whakapoko)

Sending forth/Benediction (Ngā Inoi Whakamutunga)

No matter what kind of a week you are facing,
be it heavy with onerous duties,
or light with pleasures and joys,
or tough with difficult decisions,
your God is more than sufficient for you;
With this faith I bless you!
Amen!

The Grace (said together)

**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**

Please join us for morning tea in the New Hall following the service.
Many thanks to the Garside whānau for providing today's kai and manaakitanga.

Liturgy for this service was sourced from:

[Pilgrim Uniting Church](#), [Disciple Ministries – The United Methodist Church](#), [Bruce Prewer](#)

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Or the 10AM Congregation's Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/wesleywellington.methodistchurch.10am>

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