



Wesley Wellington
75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Rātapu, te 15 o Poutū-te-rangi (March) 2026
Te Rātapu tuawhā o Rēneti (Lent 4)

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



Walking as Children of Light

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 are Joy Grove & Melina Takau-Samson

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

Daphne Pilaar

Call to Worship (Ngā Kupu Whakapūare)

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

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

Beloved, the journey of grace takes us to still waters, the valley of the shadow of death, even to tables surrounded by our enemies. We gather to worship God, our Shepherd, who guides us on the journey.

The journey of grace points us toward the Light so that we may bear the fruit of the Light in all that we do. We gather to be formed by grace so that our lives may bear the fruit of all that is good and right and true.

The journey of grace calls us to pay attention, to discern what is pleasing to God.

We gather to listen to the Spirit, who empowers us to go from this place to work together to do what is pleasing to God.

Come, let us worship God who provides, inspires, and empowers us on the journey of grace. Come, let us worship God as we journey in grace together! Amen.

Lighting the candle (Kānara Whakamāmā)

The Lord is our shepherd; we shall not want. Even in the darkest valley, God is with us.

We light this candle in trust, for God leads us beside still waters and restores our souls.

Once we lived in darkness, but now we live in the light of Christ.

We will walk as children of light, seeking what is good and right and true.

The light shines in the darkness and reveals the path before us.

With God as our shepherd and Christ as our light, we walk together in hope and faith. Amen.

Opening Prayer (Inoi Tuatahi)

We give you all thanks and praise, O God, for you do not judge us by outer appearances, but make visible the secret places of our hearts and commission us as children of the light.

Once there was darkness, but you created the light. With your touch the world was begun, and when you spoke to Moses and the prophets, you gave guidance to keep us on sure paths.

In your servant, David, the least of his family, you saw a King who could shepherd your people. In your child, Jesus Christ, you gave us one whose light could open blinded eyes and guide us safely through death's dark valley. When he was killed, you awoke him, raising him from the dead. Now he spreads a rich table before us, filling our cup with goodness and love that we may live forever in your house.

Therefore, with our hearts lifted high, we offer you thanks and praise always through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.

We thank you for giving us your Son, Jesus Christ, whose light opens blinded eyes and guides us safely through death's dark valley, that we may live forever in the light of your house and feast at the rich table where you fill our cup with goodness and love. Amen.

Hymn (Himene): *Immortal, invisible (H&P 9)*

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,

Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render, O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Walter C. Smith

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

God of love, you have loved us first and continue to love us. We come this morning longing to love you in return. We hunger for your healing love in our lives as we long to love ourselves and our neighbours. Fill our longing hearts as we join to worship you, through Christ our Lord.

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Everything exposed by the light becomes light. You have brought your sin into the light of Christ.

Sisters and Brothers, your sins are forgiven; rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Introducing the Theme (Tīmatanga Kōrero)

Hymn (Hīmene): *The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want (H&P 70)*

The LORD's my Shepherd, I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
in pastures green; He leadeth me the quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again; and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness, e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk thro' death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
for Thou art with me, and Thy rod and staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished in presence of my foes;
my head Thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me:
and in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.

Francis Rous

Psalm 23: The Divine Shepherd - A Psalm of David (NRSV Updated Edition)

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

Ephesians 5:8-14 (NRSV Updated Edition)

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore, it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Reflection (He Whakaaroaro)

Hymn (Himene): *Praise to the Lord! the Almighty, the King of creation! (H&P 16)*

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!

Come, all who hear; now to his temple draw near,
join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, above all things so wondrously reigning;

sheltering you under his wings, and so gently sustaining!

Have you not seen all that is needful has been

sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
if with his love he befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen sound from his people again;
gladly forever adore him.

Joachim Neander

Community Time

Sharing the Peace

Notices

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

Prayers of Intercession (Ngā Inoi Mō Te Whānau)

Loving God, you taught your disciples love for one another—love which would manifest itself in selflessness and servanthood in the best and worst of times. Hear the prayer of your people for our world and all who dwell in it.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this time of great stress and the threats of health and safety of many, we lift to you the nations, that they may be responsive to human need, and may be rebuilt in justice and in peace. We lift to you this earth, which you so lovingly created, that as stewards of your gifts we might thankfully use its resources for the good of all. We pray for this city and for cities and villages around us, that all might work together to strengthen and improve the lives of their citizens. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your church—both here in this faith community and around the world—that this season of Lent might be a time of renewal in faith and mission on your behalf, and

that together we may learn the path of servanthood toward all humanity. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves and our own needs, and the needs of those around us, whose lives are closely linked with our own. To those who are sick and sorrowful, bring your healing and hope. To the grieving, bring your peace. And to the dying bring the joy of your promise to us of eternity with you. For these and all our prayers we offer you, trusting in your goodness and your strength, in the name and spirit of Jesus the Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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)

Radiant Shepherd, you walk beside us through valleys and over mountaintops, guiding us with grace and guarding us with love. In your presence, we lack nothing that truly matters. Even in a world clouded by shadows, your light shines through—inviting us to live as children of the day. Receive these gifts, O God, as signs of our desire to walk in your ways, to live as your people, and to shine with the goodness, justice, and truth that reflect your image. Amen.

Hymn (Himene): *And can it be, that I should gain (H&P 216a)*

And can it be that I should gain an int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be That Thou, my God, should die for me?
Amazing love! how can it be That Thou, my God, should die for me!
'Tis mystery all! Th'Immortal dies! Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries to sound the depths of love divine!
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore, let angel minds inquire no more,
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore, let angel minds inquire no more.

He left His Father's throne above, so free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free; For, O my God, it found out me,
'Tis mercy all, immense and free; For, O my God, it found out me.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray, I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth and followed Thee,
My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold, I approach th'eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own,
Bold, I approach th'eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Charles Wesley

Extinguishing the candle (Kānara Whakapoko)

Sending forth/Benediction (Ngā Inoi Whakamutunga)

Go now and live as children of the light. Seek what is pleasing to the Lord.
Expose the unfruitful works of darkness and commit yourselves to the works of God who sends you.
And may the Lord be your shepherd and be all that you need. May Christ open your eyes and guide you along sure paths. May the Spirit Holy revive your spirits and tend you with goodness and love every day of your life.

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 Samoa Saleupolu Heger whānau for providing today's kai and manaakitanga.

Liturgy for this service was sourced from:

[Life in Liturgy](#)

[Laughing Bird](#)

[Disciple Ministries – The United Methodist Church](#)

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<https://wesleychurch.org.nz/>

Or the 10AM Congregation's Facebook Page:

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

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