Wesley Methodist Church
75 Taranaki Street
Wellington
www.wesleychurch.org.nz
Sunday 15 November 2026

Pentecost 25

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



Faith with Confidence

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 15 NOVEMBER 2026
PENTECOST 25

LEADER	**Reverend. Suiva'aia Te'o**
ORGANIST	**Vivien Chiu**

WELCOME & SAFETY BRIEFING

CANDLE-LIGHTING LITANY

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of Christ's presence among us.
All: Christ our light, strengthen our faith.

The candle is lit.

Leader: When fear holds us back, lead us forward in hope.

All: Christ our light, give us courage to serve.

Leader: May your light shine through our worship and our living.

All: We place our confidence in you. Amen.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, people of God, bringing your hopes and your uncertainties.

All: We come to worship the God who is faithful.

Leader: God calls us to listen, to trust, and to respond.

All: Open our hearts, Lord, and strengthen our faith.

Leader: God has entrusted each of us with gifts to share.

All: Help us to offer what we have in love.

Leader: Let us worship with confidence in God's grace.

All: With thankful hearts, we praise our living God!

OPENING PRAYER

Faithful and loving God,
we thank you for bringing us together today.

You know the journey each of us has travelled this week: our joys and disappointments, our responsibilities and our worries. Receive us as we are and renew us through your presence.

As we worship, quieten the voices that tell us we have nothing to offer. Help us to recognise your gifts within us and your calling before us.

Give us Deborah's courage to listen and speak faithfully. Give us willing hearts to use what you have entrusted to us.

Through your Holy Spirit, deepen our confidence in your love, so that our faith may become visible in acts of kindness, justice, generosity, and service.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

HYMN Great Is Thy Faithfulness (H&P 66)

Thomas O. Chisholm 1866-1960

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Trusting in God's mercy, let us bring our lives honestly before God.
Silence.

All:
Merciful God,
you give us life, love, and opportunities to serve,
yet we confess that we sometimes hold back.

We allow fear to silence our voices.
We compare ourselves with others
and overlook the gifts you have given us.
We leave kindnesses undone,
delay the help we could offer,
and protect our comfort when you call us to act.

Forgive us, loving God.
Free us from pride, fear, and indifference.
Renew our trust in you,
and give us courage to live our faith.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news: in Jesus Christ, God meets us with mercy. When we turn to God, we find forgiveness and the grace to begin again.

In Christ, we are forgiven. Receive God's peace and walk in the freedom of God's love.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME / CHILDREN'S STORY

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Judges 4:1–7

Again, the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, now that Ehud was dead. So the Lord sold them into the hands of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. Sisera, the commander of his army, was based in Harosheth Haggoyim. Because he had nine hundred chariots fitted with iron and had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, they cried to the Lord for help.
Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided. She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, 'The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you: 'Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun

and lead them up to Mount Tabor. I will lead Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River, and give him into your hands.

Reader: For the word of God in Scripture,
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 25:14–30

14 Again, it will be like a man going on a journey who called his servants and entrusted
his wealth to them. 15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to
another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man
who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained
five bags more. 17 So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. 18 But the man
who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's
money.

19 After a long time, the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with
them. 20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he
said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'
21 His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful
with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's
happiness!'

22 The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with
two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'
23 His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful
with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's
happiness!'

24 Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew
that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you
have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground.
See, here is what belongs to you.'

26 His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So, you knew that I harvest where I
have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should
have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned, I would have
received it back with interest.
28 So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. 29 For
whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not
have, even what they have will be taken from them. 30 And throw that worthless servant
outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Reader: For the Gospel of Christ,
All: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN Be Thou My Vision (H&P 378)

Irish traditional Melody Harmonised by Irik Routley 1917-82

1. Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
   Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
   Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
   Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

2. Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
   I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
   Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
   Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

3. Be Thou my battle Shield, Sword for the fight;
   Be Thou my Dignity, Thou my Delight;
   Thou my soul's Shelter, Thou my high Tower:
   Raise Thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

4. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
   Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
   Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
   High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

5. High King of Heaven, my victory won,
   May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'n's Sun!
   Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
   Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

SERMON Faith with Confidence

HYMN Take My Life, and Let It Be (H&P 705)

Frances R. Havergal 1874

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. Take my hands, and let them move
   at the impulse of thy love;
   take my feet, and let them be
   swift and beautiful for thee.

3. Take my voice, and let me sing
   always, only, for my King;
   take my lips, and let them be
   filled with messages from thee.

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. Take my will and make it thine;
   it shall be no longer mine.
   take my heart, it is thine own;
   it shall be thy royal throne.

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.

COMMUNITY TIME

The Peace of God be with you
And also, with you
(share the sign of peace with one another)

NOTICES

OFFERING AND PRAYER

The offering is received.

Generous God,
everything we offer begins with your generosity towards us.
Receive these gifts of money, together with our time, abilities, and willingness to serve.

Bless those who give and those whose circumstances make giving difficult. Guide your Church to use these resources wisely, to care for people, strengthen community, and share the hope of Christ.

Take what we bring and make it fruitful in your service.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Leader: Let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who need God's care.

After each prayer, we respond:
Faithful God, strengthen us to love and serve.

God of every nation,
we pray for people living with war, oppression, and fear. Protect those in danger. Sustain those working for peace. Give leaders courage to pursue justice and protect the vulnerable.

Leader: God, in your mercy,
All: **Faithful God, strengthen us to love and serve.**

God of the Church,
we pray for the Methodist Church of New Zealand, our President and Vice-President, our ministers, lay leaders, and congregations.

Help us to listen carefully to your Spirit and to one another. Give us humility in disagreement, wisdom in our decisions, and courage to follow Christ.

Leader: God, in your mercy,
All: **Faithful God, strengthen us to love and serve.**

God of our community,
we pray for Wesley Wellington Parish and all who make their home among us.

Bless our children and young people, our families and elders, newcomers and long-standing members. Help us recognise one another's gifts and make room for everyone to contribute.

Leader: God, in your mercy,
All: **Faithful God, strengthen us to love and serve.**

God of compassion,
we pray for people struggling to afford food, housing, and other necessities; for those seeking employment; and for those carrying heavy responsibilities.

Bless community organisations and all who offer practical help. Show us how to share what we have and work for fairer conditions.

Leader: God, in your mercy,
All: **Faithful God, strengthen us to love and serve.**

God of healing,
be near to those who are unwell, lonely, anxious, or grieving. Strengthen carers, health workers, and all who accompany people through difficult days.

In silence, we name before you those especially on our hearts.

Silence.

Leader: God, in your mercy,
All: **Faithful God, strengthen us to love and serve.**

Creator God,
teach us to care for the earth entrusted to us. Guide our choices so that our use of land, water, and resources protects life and honours generations to come.

Leader: God, in your mercy,
All: **Faithful God, strengthen us to love and serve.**

Faithful God,
receive these prayers and shape our responses. Where we can offer help, make us willing. Where we need help, give us courage to receive it.

We gather our prayers together in the words Jesus taught us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (said together)

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 aianei
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.

FINAL HYMN Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go H&P 381

Charles Wesley 1707-88

1. Forth in thy name O Lord I go
   My daily labour to pursue,
   Thee only thee resolved to know
   In all I think, or speak or do.

2. The task thy wisdom has assigned
   O let me cheerfully fulfil
   In all my works thy presence find
   And prove thy good and perfect will.

3. Thee may I set at my right hand,
   Whose eyes my inmost substance see,
   And labour on at thy command
   And offer all my works to thee.

4. Give me to bear thy easy yoke,
   And every moment watch and pray
   And still to things eternal look
   And hasten to thy glorious day.

5. For thee delightfully employ
   Whate'er thy bounteous grace has given
   And run my course with even joy
   And closely walk with thee to heaven.

BLESSINGS & DISMISSAL

Leader: Go with confidence in God's faithfulness.

All: We will trust God and put our faith into action.

Leader: Share your gifts, encourage one another, and serve your neighbours in love.

All: With Christ beside us, we go in peace. Amen.

BENEDICTION

May the God who calls you strengthen your faith.
May Jesus Christ gives you courage to love and serve.
May the Holy Spirit guide you in using the gifts entrusted to you.
And may the blessing of God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
rest upon you and remain with you,
today and always. Amen.

THE GRACE

ALL

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,
āke ake ake. Āmine.

Please join us for morning tea in the New Hall following the service.



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To keep up to date with services and news, visit the Parish website: https://wesleychurchorg.nz/

And the 10am Congregation's Facebook Pages:

https://www.facebookcom/weleywellington.methodistchurch.10