



**Wesley Methodist Church  
75 Taranaki Street  
Wellington**

[www.wesleychurch.org.nz](http://www.wesleychurch.org.nz)

**ORDER OF SERVICE  
SUNDAY 17 MAY 2026 - EASTER 7**



Haere mai ki tēnei Whare Karakia  
Welcome to this House of Prayer  
Kia ora koutou katoa — Talofa Lava  
Malo e lelei — Bula Vinaka — Greetings to you all!

We are a multi-racial Christian community: Methodist in affiliation – Ecumenical in intention Diverse in theology – Inclusive in outreach.

**ORDER OF SERVICE**  
**10AM CONGREGATION**  
**SUNDAY 17 MAY 2026 - EASTER 7**

**Leader: Niko Bower**  
**Organist: Colin Scarf**

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTION**  
**SAFETY BRIEFING**  
**CALL TO WORSHIP**

(Congregation reads bolded sections)

**Psalm 68: 1-10,32-35 : The Procession of the Mighty Protector**

Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered! Let those who hate Him flee before His glorious presence.

***As smoke is driven away, so drive them out; as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked vanish before our God.***

But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God. Yes, let them exceedingly rejoice!

***We sing praises to His name! We lift up a song to Him who rides upon the clouds. His name is the Lord; we exult in His presence.***

For our God is a Father to the fatherless and a Defender of widows. He is the one who sets the lonely in families and leads the prisoners out into prosperity.

***When You went out before Your people, O God, the earth shook and the heavens poured down rain. You sent a plentiful rain to refresh Your weary inheritance.***

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord!

To Him who rides upon the highest heavens, who thunders with a mighty voice!

**All: Proclaim the power of God, whose majesty is over Israel and whose strength is in the skies. You are awesome in Your sanctuary, O God; You give strength and power to Your people. Blessed be God! Amen**

### **LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE**

Lord God, Through your son Jesus Christ, all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

As we light this candle, may that light shines brightly in our hearts and may we feel your everlasting presence in our lives.

**Amen.**

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Merciful and everlasting God, we come before You this morning knowing that You are here with us. In Your holy presence, we lift our minds, our souls, and our bodies to You. Lead us, guide us, and fill us, that we may rest in Your peace. Bless this service and every part of it, so that all we do brings glory to Your name. Through Jesus the Christ we pray.

**Amen.**

**HYMN (Himene):                      To God be the Glory,                      H&P 463**

W.H.Doane (1832-1916)

1. To God be the glory, great things he has done|  
So loved he the world that he gave us his son  
Who yielded his life in atonement for sin  
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

#### **Refrain**

**Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let the people rejoice!**

**O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son;  
And give him the glory great things he has done!**

2. Perfect redemption, the purchase of blood  
To every believer the promise of God  
And every offender who truly believes  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives. **Refrain**
3. Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son  
But purer, and higher, and greater will be  
Our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see. **Refrain**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**

Holy God, You call us to trust You, yet we often worry and try to carry our burdens alone. You call us to stand firm in faith, yet we sometimes grow tired, afraid, or distracted. You call us to be one in love, yet we have not always lived in unity, or shown grace to one another.

***All: Forgive us, Lord. Lift us up in Your mercy. Strengthen us by Your Spirit. Make us faithful to the calling You have placed on our lives. Amen.***

## **WORD OF ASSURANCE**

Beloved of God, hear the good news: The Christ who prayed for you still holds you. The God who lifts up the humble still strengthens you. The Spirit Jesus promised still stays with you.

When trials come, you are not abandoned. When worries rise, God's mighty hand is over you. When you feel small, God Himself restores, supports, and makes you strong.

***In Christ, we are protected.  
In Christ, we are never alone.  
In Christ, we are held in everlasting love.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.***

## TE INOI O TE ARIKI (Lord's Prayer in Te Reo)

E tō mātou Matua i te rangi,

Kia tapu tōu ingoa.

Kia tae mai tō rangatiratanga.

Kia meatia tāu e pai ai i te whenua, kia rite anō ki tō te rangi.

Homai ki a mātou āiane he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.

Āwhinatia mātou ki te muru i ō mātou hara,

Me mātou hoki e muru nei i ō te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.

Kaua mātou e kawea kia whakawaia,

Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino.

Nōu hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha, me te korōria, ake, ake, ake.

Āmine.

## HYMN (Himene) **Be Still, for the Presence of the Lord**

Song by David J. Evans (CMP)

### 1. Be still for the presence of the Lord

The Holy one is here

Come bow before him now

In reverence and fear

In Him no sin is found

We stand on Holy ground

Be still for the presence of the Lord

The Holy one is here.

### 2. Be still for the glory of the Lord

Is shining all around

He burns with Holy fire

With splendour He is crowned

How awesome is the sight

Our radiant King of light

Be still for the glory of the Lord

Is shining all around.

### 3. Be still for the power of the Lord

Is moving in this place

He comes to cleanse and heal

To minister His grace

No work too hard for Him

In faith receive from Him  
Be still for the power of the Lord  
Is moving in this place.

## **MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

### **John 17: 6 – 11(NIV) Jesus Prays for His Disciples**

<sup>6</sup> “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. <sup>8</sup> For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. <sup>11</sup> I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

### **Acts 1: 6 – 14 (NIV) Jesus Is Taken Up Into Heaven**

<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

<sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

<sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

**Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas**

<sup>12</sup> Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk[a] from the city. <sup>13</sup> When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew

and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

## **1 Peter 5: 6-11(NIV) To the Elders and the Flock**

<sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. <sup>10</sup> And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. <sup>11</sup> To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

### **CHILDRENS TIME INTRODUCING THE THEME**

#### **PRAYER FOR THE CHILDREN**

Loving God, just as Jesus prayed for His friends, we pray for these children today — the ones gathered here, the ones who could not be with us, and all the children of the world. Keep them safe under Your mighty hand. Fill them with courage when life feels hard. Let them know they are never alone, for Your Spirit is always with them. Surround every child with Your love, Your protection, and Your peace.

**Bless their hearts, guide their steps, and keep them close to You always. Amen.**

**HYMN (Himene): Christ, Be Our Light!**

(Bernadette Farrell, 1993)

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
Light for the world to see.

## **Refrain**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.**

**Shine through the darkness.**

**Christ, be our light!**

**Shine in your church gathered today.**

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice. **Refrain**
  
3. Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed. **Refrain**
  
4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone. **Refrain**
  
5. Many the gifts, many the people,  
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come. **Refrain**

**REFLECTION:        GOD IS WITH US- SO WE STAND STRONG,  
                             STAY TOGETHER, AND SHINE WITH LOVE.**

## **NOTICES & OFFERINGS**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Dear Lord, You are the God who lifts us up in Your perfect time. You are the God who watches over us and never leaves us alone. As we bring these gifts, make our hearts humble, our hands willing, and our lives a blessing to others. Fill us with Your Spirit so we may serve with courage, stand firm in Your love, and shine Your light in our community. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

Holy and Loving God, just as Jesus prayed for His disciples, we lift our prayers for Your people today.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Bless our congregation and Parish, the Methodist Church of NZ and all Christian churches here and around the world. Help Your people stand firm in faith and love. Unite us, strengthen us, and guide our vision.

***Keep us strong in Your Spirit.***

Care for the sick, the vulnerable, those in prisons, and mental health institutions and all who suffer quietly.

***God, Shine Your light, O God***

We pray for our community, divided to by wealth and poverty, exclusion and neglect: gather your people from the ends of the earth, and make us one in your spirit of generosity and care, that we may live in love for one another.

***Use us for Your love.***

Help those who have lost jobs, those seeking work, and all facing financial stress, Comfort the dying and families walking through grief.

***Lord, make a way.***

We pray for those in need, sorrow, loneliness or despair: gather your people from the ends of the earth, and make us one in charity and compassion for one another, that you may be glorified in the lives of your people.

***Lord, be their refuge.***

Bring peace to places torn by war and violence.

***Lord, bring Your peace.***

Bless the Government of the day. Grant wisdom, justice, and compassion in every decision they make.

***Guide them, O God.***

And bless us. When trials come, make us steadfast. When we feel small, lift us up. When we are anxious, remind us that Your Spirit is always with us.

***Hold us in Your mighty hand.  
In Jesus' name. Amen.***

HYMN (Himene)    I'm not ashamed to own my Lord    H&P 677  
*Isaac Watts 1674 - 1748*

- 1    I'm not ashamed to own my Lord,  
     or to defend his cause,  
     maintain the honour of his Word,  
     the glory of his cross.
- 2    Jesus, my God! I know his name,  
     his name is all my trust;  
     nor will he put my soul to shame,  
     nor let my hope be lost.
- 3    Firm as his throne his promise stands,  
     and he can well secure  
     what I've committed to his hands  
     'til the decisive hour.
- 4    Then will he own my worthless name  
     before his Father's face,  
     and in the new Jerusalem  
     appoint my soul a place.

**EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLE**

## **BENEDICTION**

May the God who called you, strengthen you. May the Christ who prayed for you, protect you. May the Spirit who stays with you, guide you. Go in peace, stand firm in faith, and walk in the love that never lets you go.

**Amen.**

We extend a warm invitation to everyone to gather now for kai in the New Hall.

*Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:*

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The Creative worship leader's toolbox – Philip C. Garside

Lectionary Reflections – Jane Williams/ Let Us Pray- Janet Nelson

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