



Wesley Methodist Church
75 Taranaki Street
Wellington

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 19 July 2026

Pentecost 8

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



Trusting God in the In-Between

Living God's Love – Acting for the Common Good

We are a multi-cultural 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 19 July 2026
Pentecost 8

Leader: Philip Garside **Organ:** Colin Scarf
Guitar: Heather Garside

Welcome & Introduction

Call to Worship

Come, all who find themselves between what was and what will be
We come to worship the God who meets us on the road

Come, all who carry questions, consequences, hope, and fear
We come to the One who is present in uncertainty

God is not waiting only at the end of the journey
God is here, in this place, before we even know it

Christ walks with us through fields of wheat and weeds
Christ teaches us patience, humility, and trust

The Spirit breathes through tangled roots and unfinished stories
The Spirit helps us nurture what is good and life-giving

Come, beloved people, into this sacred rhythm of grace
We come to worship, to be changed, and to trust God's love. Amen.

Lighting the Candle

We light this candle
for Christ, the light in every in-between place,
for the God who meets us on the road,
and in the field where all things grow together,
for patience in complexity,
and hope that love will have the final word. **Amen.**

Opening Prayer

God of the journey, you meet us where we are

Renew us in trust and wonder

Christ of the field, you walk with us through complexity

Renew us in patience and compassion

Spirit of wisdom, you teach us to wait without despair

Renew us in courage and humility

Holy One, gather our worship into grace

Renew us for love, justice, and hope. Amen.

Hymn: O God Each Day You Bless Us.

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (2004). Tune: Ellacombe

1. O God, each day you bless us with gifts of your shalom:
You give us peace and justice, you welcome lost ones home.
You care for your creation and set your people free;
You offer us salvation and build community.
2. You make us sons and daughters – baptised and reconciled!
You show us: Each peacemaker is blest as your own child.
You fill us at your table with strength for each new day;
Then Spirit-filled we're able to live your peaceful way.
3. We'll worship, pray and study, to learn new skills for peace;
We'll work as one strong body so justice will increase.
We'll build new global friendships, seek peace in every land,
Protect the earth you gave us and give with outstretched hand.
4. You give your church a vision, a way of life, a prayer:
Your will is done in heaven; now bring in your reign here!
And when we wonder, grieving, at what the nations do,
God, may we work, believing there's hope in serving you.

Prayer of Approach

God of the open road, we come tired and searching

Meet us in this place

We come with stones for pillows and questions for prayers

Meet us in this place

We come from conflict, uncertainty, and unfinished stories

Meet us in this place

We come wanting clear answers and tidy fields

Meet us in this place

We confess our urge to judge too quickly

Teach us patience

We confess our need to control what is tangled

Teach us trust

We long to notice your presence in ordinary ground

Open our eyes to your grace

Words of Assurance

God is not absent from your wilderness.

God is not ashamed of your unfinished story.

In Christ, you are already held, forgiven, and beloved.

Grace meets you here, and love will have the final word. **Amen.**

Introducing the Theme / Story Time

Song: Dance with us. Words and music: Philip Garside (2015)

1. When you are troubled,
have no fear, have no fear.
Christ has a message
we want to share:

Refrain:

Come and dance with us,
sing with us,
walk along our way.
Help us bring alive God's kingdom
on earth today.

2. Leave behind hatred,
turn away, seek the light.
Love one another
no need to fight:

3. Hear one another,
loving care, kindness shared.
Hearts and hands open,
world in our care:

Readings

Genesis 28:10-19 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

Jacob's Dream at Bethel

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said,

“I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!” And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

So, Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

The Parable of Weeds among the Wheat

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the

wheat and then went away. So, when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Jesus Explains the Parable of the Weeds

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

Sermon: Trusting God in the In-Between

Hymn: Loving God of Aotearoa.

Words: Philip Garside (2010). Tune: Thaxted – Gustav Holst (1918)

1. Loving God of Aotearoa,
hear now our call to you,
We have gathered in your presence,
to celebrate anew!
We have come from many places,
speaking, thinking differently,
But in you we are united
one whole, strong family.

Refrain

Let us heed your call to service and follow lovingly,
May we be compassionate people, alive in you and free.

2. Scripture tells of faithful people,
who spread your light and love
Now inspire, lead, direct us,
so we can be like them.
May the Way that Christ has taught us,
and the power of your Word,
Set a fire burning in us,
for justice and for love.
3. Rimu tall with tui singing,
proclaim your majesty,
You who care for all creation,
will always care for me.
Matariki's spirit guide us,
rise within us all the year.
Help us live and speak forgiveness,
your people want to hear.

Community Time

Sharing the Peace

Let's greet each other saying: **"God's peace be with you."**

Notices

Sharing Joys, Things we are Grateful for, Sorrows & Concerns

Prayers of Intercession

We pray now for ourselves and others...

For the peoples of the world,
where conflict, displacement, and fear leave many in the wilderness,
where wheat and weeds grow tangled in systems of power and pain,
may your justice rise with patience, courage, and hope.

God of the in-between, meet us with grace.

For Aotearoa and all who lead,
in times of social, political, and environmental complexity,
give wisdom beyond quick judgement and easy division,
and shape decisions that honour dignity, whakapapa,
and the common good.

God of the in-between, meet us with grace.

For your church and its leaders,
when we are tempted to sort, label, exclude, or rush,
teach us to read scripture with honesty and compassion,
and to nurture justice, inclusion, and care for creation.

God of the in-between, meet us with grace.

For our local communities,
where neighbours live with uncertainty, loneliness, and change,
help us notice your presence in homes, workplaces, schools, and streets,
and grow small acts of kindness into signs of your Kingdom.

God of the in-between, meet us with grace.

For those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit,
those waiting for healing, clarity, shelter, justice, or peace,
be present in their waiting and gentle in their struggles,
and surround them with companions who do not give up.

God of the in-between, meet us with grace.

For those who have gone before us,
whose lives remind us that faith grows through wilderness and wonder,
hold them in your eternal love, and keep us rooted in hope,
until all things are gathered into your peace.

God of the in-between, meet us with grace. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

E tō mātou Matua i te rangi
Kia tapu tou Ingoa
Kia tae mai tou rangatira-tanga.

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 whaka-waia;
Engari whaka-orangia mātou, i te kino:
Nou hoki te rangatira-tanga,
te kaha,
me te kororia,
Ake, ake, ake. Āmine.

Offering

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

We give because God is present in the ordinary places of life.
We offer our gifts to nurture what is good, just, and life-giving.
Your free will offering will now be received.

Blessing of Offering (said together)

Bless these gifts, O God of the road and field.

Use them to grow compassion, justice, and hope.

Bless the givers with patient and generous hearts.

May all we offer serve your Kingdom of love. Amen.

Hymn: Where the road runs out

Alleluia Aotearoa 156

1. Where the road runs out and the signposts end,
where we come to the edge of today,
be the God of Abraham for us,
send us out upon our way.

Refrain:

Lord, you were our beginning,
the faith that gave us birth.
We look to you, our ending,
our hope for heaven and earth.

2. When the coast is left and we journey on
to the rim of the sky and the sea,

be the sailor's friend, be the dolphin Christ,
lead us on to eternity.

3. When the clouds are low and the wind is strong,
when tomorrow's storm draws near,
be the spirit bird hovering overhead
who will take away our fear.

Benediction / Sending Forth

Go now, trusting the God who meets you on the road.
Go gently, through fields where wheat and weeds grow together.
Go with patience, humility, and courage for the work of love.
May Christ be your light in every in-between place.
May the Spirit help you nurture what is good.
And may God's peace lead you onward in hope.

The Grace

Kia tau ki a tātou katoa,
te atawhai o to tātou Ariki o Ihu Karaiti,
me te aroha o te Atua,
me te whiwhinga tahitanga
ki te Wairua Tapu. Amine.

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Material for this service was sourced from *Worship at Hand*
– Philip Garside Publishing Ltd 2026.

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

And the 10am Congregation's Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/wesleywellington.methodistchurch.10am>

We are now livestreaming 10am Congregation services on YouTube here:
<https://www.youtube.com/@WellingtonMethodistParish>