



**Wesley Methodist Church
75 Taranaki Street
Wellington**

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

**ORDER OF SERVICE
SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2026 - PENTECOST 17**



'Grace beyond measure'

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 20 SEPTEMBER 2026 - PENTECOST 17

Leader: Kisione Finau
Organist: Vivien Chiu

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

SAFETY BRIEFING

LIGHTING A CANDLE

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of Christ's presence among us.
Jesus Christ is the Bread of Life, who nourishes us with grace.
Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, whose love shines upon everyone.

All: Come, Lord Jesus. Fill us with your light, feed us with your grace, and make us generous in love. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, all who are hungry for hope.

People: **God provides bread for the journey.**

Leader: Come, all who are tired and burdened.

People: **God welcomes us with abundant grace.**

Leader: Come, those who arrived early and those who have come late.

People: **God's generous love is offered to us all.**

Leader: Let us worship the God whose mercy cannot be measured.

All: **We come with grateful hearts to worship and praise our gracious God.**

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and loving God,
we gather in your presence with thanksgiving and praise.
You provided bread for your people in the wilderness.
You called workers into your vineyard and treated them with generosity.
You continue to provide for us—not because we have earned your goodness,
but because your nature is love.

Open our hearts as we worship.
Quiet our complaints and calm our anxious thoughts.
Help us recognise the blessings that surround us and teach us to rejoice when
your grace is shown to others.

May our prayers, songs, listening and reflection bring glory to you.
Renew us through Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, in whose name 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. O 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

Let us come before God, trusting in the abundance of divine mercy.

Generous God,
you give us more love than we deserve, yet we sometimes complain about
what we do not have.

You provide what we need, yet we find it difficult to trust you.
You bless our neighbours, yet we sometimes compare ourselves with them.
You welcome everyone, yet we draw boundaries around your grace.

Forgive us when jealousy prevents us from celebrating the blessings of others.
Forgive us when we believe we are more deserving than those around us.
Forgive us when we forget that everything we have is a gift from you.

Give us grateful hearts, generous spirits and renewed faith.
Help us receive your grace joyfully and share it freely with others.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news: God's grace is not measured by our failures or limited by
our weaknesses. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, welcomed and made new.

Leader: Friends, receive the generous grace of God.

People: Thanks be to God. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME / CHILDREN'S TALK

HYMN (Himene):

Amazing Grace

(H&P 215)

John Newton 1725-1807

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

2. Through many dangers, toils and snares.
I have already come.
God's grace has brought me safe thus far,
And He will lead me home.
3. The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.
4. And when this heart and flesh shall fail
And mortal life shall cease
I shall possess within the veil
A life of joy and peace.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 16:2–15

² In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. ³ The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death."

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. ⁵ On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days."

⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?" ⁸ Moses also said, "You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD."

⁹ Then Moses told Aaron, “Say to the entire Israelite community, ‘Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.’”

¹⁰ While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud.

¹¹ The LORD said to Moses, ¹² “I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.’”

¹³ That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴ When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat.

Matthew 20:1–16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ² He agreed to pay them a denarius^[a] for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

³ “About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. ⁴ He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ ⁵ So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. ⁶ About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

⁷ “‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

⁸ “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

⁹ “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰ So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ¹² ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’ ¹³ “But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. ¹⁵ Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to Christ, the Word of life.

SERMON ‘GRACE BEYOND MEASURE’

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Generous and compassionate God,
you hear the cries of your people and provide bread in the wilderness. Trusting
in your grace, we bring before you the needs of your world.

We pray for your Church throughout the world.
Make us a community of welcome, generosity and grace. Deliver us from
jealousy, competition and division. Help us to recognise the gifts of others and
to rejoice when new people are called into your vineyard.

**God of grace,
hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world, especially those affected by war,
violence, hunger and injustice. Guide those who govern and hold positions of

authority. Turn hearts away from greed and cruelty and towards peace, compassion and justice.

**God of grace,
hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who do not have enough food, secure housing or income. We remember those searching for employment and those who feel overlooked or rejected. Challenge systems that create poverty and inequality, and show us how to share the resources entrusted to us.

**God of grace,
hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick, grieving, lonely or anxious. We remember silently those known personally to us.

Silence

Surround them with your healing presence. Give strength to caregivers and wisdom to all who serve in places of healing.

**God of grace,
hear our prayer.**

We pray for our families, children, young people and older members. Help us to listen patiently, speak kindly, forgive freely and love one another generously.

We pray for ourselves. When we travel through wilderness experiences, give us faith to trust you one day at a time. Free us from the need to compare ourselves with others, and teach us to receive every day as a gift of grace.

We offer these prayers through Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life and hope of the world. Amen.

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 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 re rangatiratanga
Te kaha, me te kororia,
Ake, ake, ake, Āmine.

Offering & Offertory Prayer:

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

Generous God,

everything we have comes from your gracious hand.

Receive these gifts and receive our lives. Use them to feed the hungry, welcome the overlooked, strengthen your Church and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

Teach us to give, not reluctantly or out of obligation, but with grateful and joyful hearts. May our generosity reflect the immeasurable grace you have shown to us.

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

COMMUNITY TIME

NOTICES

FINAL HYMN (Himene):

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

(H&P 66)

by 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 will be.

Refrain

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand has provided
Great I 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.

Refrain

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

Refrain

BENEDICTION

Go now, trusting in the God who provides bread for the journey.

Go, rejoicing in the grace of Jesus Christ, which is freely offered to all.

Go, strengthened by the Holy Spirit, to welcome the overlooked, feed the hungry and share God's generosity.

**And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, now and always.**

Amen.

Please join us for Refreshments in the New Hall

CCLI Licence #230381

To keep up to date with services and news, visit the Parish website:

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

and the 10am Congregation's Facebook Page:

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