

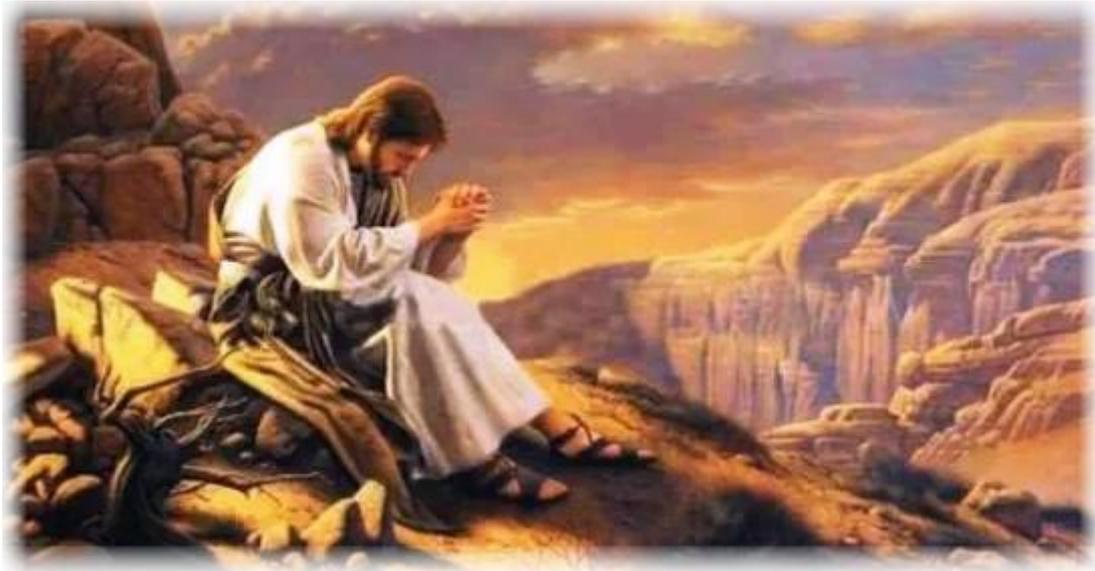


Wesley Wellington
75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

22 Hui-tanguru (February) 2026

LENT 1

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



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 is Daphne.

10AM Congregation – Order of Service

Worship leader: Kula Bower

Organist: Vivien Chiu

❖ *(Please read together the bolded text).*

WELCOME AND SAFETY BRIEFING

Call to Worship

Leader:

In the wilderness, God meets us where we are in our longing, our searching, our hunger for truth.

People:

We come, seeking the One who leads us through trial and strengthens us in weakness.

Leader:

God calls us to walk the path of humility, repentance, and renewed trust.

People:

We come, ready to listen, ready to learn, ready to be transformed.

Leader:

As Christ faced temptation and remained faithful,
so we gather to worship the God who equips us for every test.

People:

Together, we enter this Lenten journey with hearts open to God's grace.

Lighting of the candle

Opening Prayer

Leader:

Holy God, as we begin this Lenten journey,
lead us into Your presence.

Just as Jesus faced temptation in the wilderness,
give us strength to follow Him faithfully.

People:

Create in us clean hearts, O Lord,
and renew Your Spirit within us.

Open our ears to Your Word
and our hearts to Your grace.

Amen.

HYMN (Himene) Great is thy Faithfulness

H&P 66

W.M. Runyan (1870-1957)

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God eternal,
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 has 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

Holy and Merciful God,
In this season of Lent, we come before You aware of our weakness.
Like Adam and Eve, we have listened to voices that twist Your word,
and we have chosen what is pleasing to our eyes rather than what is
faithful to Your will.

We confess that we have crossed lines You have set for our good,
and we have hidden our failures instead of bringing them into Your
healing light.

Have mercy on us, O Lord.

Like the psalmist, we feel the weight of our sins,
the burdens we carry, the guilt we avoid, the truth we resist.
Forgive us for the ways we have turned from Your guidance
and relied on our own strength rather than Yours.

Lord Jesus, You were led by the Spirit into the wilderness
and faced temptation without failing.

We confess that too often we give in easily,
to the desire for comfort,
to the lure of control,
to the pursuit of power or approval.

Teach us to answer temptation with Your Word
and to trust in Your faithfulness above all things.

Gracious God, create in us clean hearts
and renew steadfast spirits within us.
Restore to us the joy of Your salvation
and sustain us with Your Spirit,

that we may walk faithfully through this Lenten journey
and follow Christ with courage and humility.
In His name we pray. Amen.

Lord's Prayer / He Inoi O Te Ariki (said together)

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

Story for the young people – Introducing the theme

HYMN (Himene) Abide With Me

H&P 665

Henry F. Lyte 1847

1. Abide with me, fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim; Its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changes not, Abide with me.

3. I need Thy presence Every passing hour.
What but Thy grace Can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, My Guide and Stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O, abide with me.

4. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

Ministry of the Word (Ngā Pānui Karaipiture)

Tauamiti Johann

First Reading: Genesis 3: 1 – 7

The Fall

³ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

⁴ "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Second Reading: Matthew 4: 1-11

Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

⁴ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The

tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”

⁷ Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Prayer of Intercession

Most merciful God, from whose presence we can stray but never hide, hear the prayers we bring for your people.

We pray for the nations of the world, for all people in places of danger or violence, for the hungry and homeless and for all who bear the responsibility of government.

When we cannot resist the seduction of power, prestige and material possessions,

**When we take more than our share of the world's resources,
whenever we are tempted to sin,
strengthen us to do your will and fill us with your grace.**

**God of all mercy,
hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church, for all communities of faith throughout the world, for those who worship in this place, for our clergy and all who minister in your name.

When we choose to disobey your teaching and follow our own desires, when by our lives we do dishonour to your gospel, whenever we are tempted to sin, strengthen us to do your will and fill us with your grace.

**God of all mercy,
hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are anxious or without hope, the lonely and friendless, the sad and the grief-stricken, the sick and the dying and all who care for them.

When we turn away from those who need us, when we take advantage of the vulnerable and weak, whenever we are tempted to sin, strengthen us to do your will and fill us with your grace.

**God of all mercy,
hear our prayer.**

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.

Reflection: "Into the Wilderness"

Prayer After Reflection

In the wilderness we see our weaknesses revealed,
yet we also discover Your mercy meeting us in every need.
Where temptation feels strong,
give us the courage to answer with Your Word,
as Jesus did in His time of trial.

**In the places where we feel lost or uncertain,
remind us that Christ has walked this path before us
and walks beside us even now.
Teach us to trust Your presence
more than our fears, our impulses, or our doubts.**

Create in us clean and courageous hearts, O God.
Renew our spirits so that this wilderness season
becomes for us a place of transformation,
a journey that leads us closer to obedience, hope,
and the joy of Your salvation.

**We ask this through Jesus Christ,
our companion in the wilderness
and our strength in every trial. Amen.**

Notices

Offering

Offering Prayer

Generous God,
we offer our gifts and our lives;
may the spirit in which they are given
allow them to free, rather than bind,
to heal, rather than wound,
and to serve the reign of the Lord of Life. **Amen.**

HYMN (Himene) I Come to the Garden Alone

C. Austin Miles (1913)

1. I come to the garden alone
while the dew is still on the roses,
and the voice I hear falling on my ear,
the Son of God discloses.

Refrain:

**And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
and he tells me I am his own;
and the joy we share as we tarry there,
none other has ever known.**

2. He speaks, and the sound of his voice
is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
and the melody that he gave to me
within my heart is ringing.

(Refrain)

3. I'd stay in the garden with him
though the night around me be falling,
but he bids me go; thru the voice of woe
his voice to me is calling.

(Refrain)

Extinguishing the candle

Benediction:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May He lift our eyes above every distraction, every burden, and every fear, and fix them firmly on Jesus, the Author who began our story, and the Perfecter who will bring it to completion.

May His joy be our strength,
His endurance our example,
and His victory our hope.

We receive this blessing with grateful hearts, and commit ourselves anew to the path set before us.

May we run with perseverance, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith.

By His grace, may we walk in obedience, serve with joy, and finish our race well.

To God be the glory, now and forever. Amen.

HOSPITALITY

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

Thank you to the Philippa Conway, Bill Ryan, Deborah Wiltshire
for providing refreshments this morning.

Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:

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[Lectionary-Year-A-2025-2026_A5.pdf](#)

[19C – Lent 1C – The Billabong](#)

Prayer of Intercession

Let Us Pray (Janet Nelson)

Offering Prayer

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Hymns: Psalms & Hymns

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