



Wesley Methodist Church
75 Taranaki Street
Wellington

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 26 April 2026

4th Sunday of Easter

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



Living with Trust, Rest and Abundance

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 26 April 2026
4th Sunday of Easter

Leader: Shelly Rao Organist: Vivien Chiu

Acknowledgment

As we gather, we acknowledge Māori, te tangata whenua, the people of this land, and Te Tiriti o Waitangi, [the Treaty of Waitangi] that established our nation, recognising mana [sovereignty] and rangatiratanga [chieftainship] as the right foundation to govern our people with justice and mercy. We seek to honour this commitment in our lives and in our worship.

Safety Briefing, Welcome, and Introduction.

In today's scriptures, Jesus speaks of himself as a gate – a way into rest, trust and abundance, and reminds us of the shepherd who walks with us through every valley.

The readings invite us to listen to the voice that brings life, and to follow it with courage into the world.

May we find in this time a place of safety, restoration and challenge.

A Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 23)

The Good Shepherd is the gate.

Let us enter with thanksgiving and praise!

**The Shepherd restores our souls, satisfies our needs,
and leads us on the right path.**

The Good Shepherd is the gate.

Let us live with courage and conviction not fear and timidity.

**Through valleys and storms, chaos and confusion,
threats and concerns, the Shepherd comforts us with
power and strength, love and compassion, hope and peace.**

The Good Shepherd is the gate.

Let us worship in the presence of the Holy One!

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all

our days of my life. Let us dwell in God's presence forever!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God,

we love you because you first loved us.

With gladness we thank you for the gift of Christ our Lord,
the life-gate through whom all may enter.

Thank you for Jesus' life and teaching,

for the way he walked alongside people and talked along the
way,

for days of laughter and of excitement on the mountain tops,

for times of grief and of suffering in the deepest of valleys,

for His death upon a cross

and for his glorious resurrection

by which we know there is nothing that can ever separate us
from the love of God.

Gladden our hearts with that knowledge that Christ is here!

Thank you for the Spirit who makes us one.

Thank you for all who reflect Christ's light and offer hope.

In gratitude we offer our gifts,
all that we are and have in your service, and for your glory.
In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Lighting the Candle (Said together)

**God of Light,
Help us to live as believers in the resurrection.
May we bring the light of Christ to others.
In the name of Jesus, the risen Christ, we pray.
Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

God of Grace,
You call but sometimes we do not hear.
We have been slow to understand,
distracted and invested by other calls upon our time,
our minds, our hearts and souls.

Neither have we heard the cry of our neighbour,
especially those in need, as we might have done.
Humbly, we ask for your forgiveness, Gracious God.
May your mercy sweep over us,
let us hear those words of Jesus from the cross
that declare 'it is finished'
and we are set free from all that has made us less.

Confident in Christ -
Crucified, Risen and Ascended
who prays at God's right hand for us and all God's children,
grant that we might better love you

and look with renewed compassion upon a hurting world,
bringing the light of your glory to shine
with the hope that is found in you. **Amen**

Hymn: Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord H&P 250

Chorus:

*Alleluia, alleluia
Give thanks to the risen Lord
Alleluia, alleluia
Give praise to His name.*

1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth
He is the King of creation. *Chorus*
2. Spread the good news to all the earth
Jesus has died and has risen. *Chorus*
3. We have been crucified with Christ
Now we shall live for ever. *Chorus*
4. God has proclaimed his gracious gift:
Life eternal for all who believe. *Chorus*
5. Come let us praise the Living God
Joyfully sing to our Saviour. *Chorus*

Prayer of Approach

O God, how good it is to gather in your presence!
More precious than gold or honey

from the comb are your ways, bountiful God.
In this time of worship,
help us set aside all else,
that we may come into your presence with wonder and awe.

You have made us for this,
to enjoy you and praise your holy name.
Gladly we trust you,
seeing you for who you are in Jesus Christ.
Jesus, you have opened the door to heaven,
flung wide the gates,
that all may enter the abundant life that is found with you.

Holy Spirit help us as we pray,
that we may recognise the Shepherd's voice
and understand the meaning of God's word to us today.

Speak to us Good Shepherd,
as individuals, but also as your flock,
Your family gathered here,
that the bonds of fellowship we share may reach out to all.
Amen.

Words of Assurance

The good news of Easter is that death is turned into new life.
The promise we have from God
is that when we acknowledge our brokenness,
God will acknowledge us with grace and forgiveness.

We are a forgiven people. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Introducing the theme/Story time

Waiata: Purea Nei

Hirini Melbourne (1949–2003)

Purea nei e te hau
Horoia e te ua
Whitiwhitia e te ra
Mahea ake nga pōraruraru
Makere ana nga here,
Makere ana nga here.

Scattered by the wind
washed by the rain
and transformed by the sun,
all doubts are swept away
and all restraints are cast
down

E rere wairua, e rere
Ki nga ao o te rangi
Whitiwhitia e te ra
Mahea ake nga pōraruraru
Makere ana nga here,
Makere ana nga here.

Fly, O free spirit, fly
to the clouds in the heavens,
transformed by the sun,
all doubts are swept away
and all restraints are cast
down.

The Shepherd's Path - A Poem based on 1 Peter 2:19-25

When shadows fall and wrong is done,
And grief is born of righteous ways,
Endure in silence, like the Son,
For this is grace in God's own gaze.

He left a path for us to tread,
A sinless life, a quiet tongue;
No threat was uttered, no word said,
When on the cross, the Holy hung.

He bore our sins within his frame,
That we might die to wrong and live
In righteousness, and praise His name,
The great Physician, to forgive.

Once wandering sheep, astray and lost,
With no true Shepherd for the soul,
We're now returned at heavy cost,
To His great charge, who makes us whole.

Gospel Reading

John 10:1-10 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit.

The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again, Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and

bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Reflection: I am the Gate!

Hymn: *The Lord's my Shepherd* H&P 70

1. The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green: he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.
2. My soul he doth restore again;
and me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
ev'n for his own name's sake.
3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear none ill:
For thou art with me; and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.
4. My table thou hast furnishèd
In presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

5. Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me,
And in God's house forever more
My dwelling place shall be.

Community Time

Sharing the Peace

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

Notices

Sharing Joys, Gratitude, Prayers for Sorrows & Concerns

Prayers of Intercession

Praise be to you,
in love you have sought and found us
and brought us home rejoicing!
Lord Jesus, present with us by your Spirit,
You go before us in the adventure of faith.
Thank you that you have given gifts
for the building up of the Body of Christ,
we pray for one another
as you call us to minister in Jesus' name
where we are.

Grant that in our life together
all may find the Good Shepherd's care.
God of Grace,

All: Graciously hear us

Risen Lord Jesus,
whose perfect love chases fear away,
we pray for all who are challenged by life.
Especially we remember people
who are oppressed in our world by war or injustice,
those who suffer because of their faith or beliefs,
people trapped in poverty, hungry or homeless.
We pray for the hurt and broken-hearted,
people who are unwell in body or in mind,
at home or in hospital.
We pray for people in prison and for those
who are the victims of crime.
And in quiet moments we offer prayers
for any for whom we came to pray today.

Lord Jesus,
You are the true Shepherd
who desires only what is good for your flock,
the lamp from your staff gives light for all to see,
Your compassion sets us free and binds up our wounds.
God of Grace,

All: Graciously hear us

Risen Jesus, hopefully, confidently,
because already it has begun in you,
we look to the day when the new earth and heaven
will be complete
and there will be no more dying, or crying, or pain.
Creation itself will be set free from decay!
Until then let us be found faithful,

seeking peace, building bridges, working for justice,
to the glory of your holy name.

God of Grace,

All: Graciously hear us

"Now may the God of peace,
who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep,
by the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you complete in everything good
so that you may do His will,
working among us that which is pleasing in His sight,
through Jesus Christ,
to whom be the glory for ever and ever. **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 aiane
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)

**Blessing of Offering (said together)
God, from you comes every bounty.
Every sacrifice of life that sustains ours
is the sacrifice of your beloved.
As we return a small part of the bounty
you have blessed us with,
We pray that it will be used to forge stronger
connections among all creation
Until the whole world is redeemed by your love. Amen.**

Hymn: To God be the glory, Great things he has done!

H&P 463

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

Chorus:

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. *Chorus*

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 joy and our wonder, when Jesus we see. *Chorus.*

Blessing

Remember this: the world will tell you
the best response to suffering is to turn away.
Yet the Guardian of our souls came near
to our suffering and calls us to do the same.
As we leave this place, how will we
be a healing companion with our neighbours
who are suffering, isolated, and struggling?
May we go in peace to bring peace to all whom we meet.
Amen.

The Grace (said together)

**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.**

Material for this service was sourced from:

L3 - Liturgy, Learning & (purposeful) Life Worship Resources, MediaCom Ed Inc,
Aust.

Words for Worship, MediaCom.

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