



Wesley Methodist Church

75 Taranaki Street

Wellington

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 3 May 2026

5th Sunday of Easter

Haere mai ki tēnei Whare Karakia

Welcome to this House of Prayer



“Into Your Hands”

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!**

Welcome to this Gathering as a community of Faith
ORDER OF COMBINED & HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE
10am

Leader: Rev. Joeli Ducivaki Organist: Colin Scarf

WELCOME & BRIEFING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Gracious God, once again you have called us together in this place
and at this moment to worship you.

Here we are, we open our hearts and live before you.

Here we seek to hear Your life -giving Word.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE

We light this candle,
a small and fragile light
and we remember:
the one who is the light of the world,
light from light,
light no darkness could overcome.

Christ is the light of the world.

OPENING PRAYER

God in this time of song and prayer and speech,
open our very souls to receive your challenge,
open ourselves to accept your instructions.

**Turn our mourning into dancing,
replace our sack cloths with garments of joy.**

And when our time of worship is ended,
lead us back out into the world to share the Good News
with the world around us.

**We pray in the name of the One who brought Your healing love,
Jesus of Nazareth. Amen**

Psalm 118:14 -21 (NIV)

HYMN 'Stand up, stand up for Jesus' – H & P 721 (George Duffield 1818 -1888
Reproduced from WOV 509)

1. Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Ye soldiers of the cross;
lift high his royal banner,
it must not suffer loss;
from victory on to victory
his army he shall lead,
till every foe is vanquished
and Christ is Lord indeed.

2. Stand up! stand up for Jesus!
The trumpet call obey
Forth to the mighty conflict
In this His glorious day
Ye that are His, now serve Him
Against unnumbered foes
Let courage rise with danger
And strength to strength oppose

3. Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
stand in his strength alone;
the arm of flesh will fail you,
you dare not trust your own.
Put on the gospel armour,
each piece put on with prayer;
where duty calls, or danger,
be never wanting there.

4. Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
the strife will not be long;
this day the noise of battle,
the next the triumphant song.
To him that is victorious
a crown of life shall be;
he with the King of Glory
shall reign eternally.

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Living God, long ago, faithful men and women
proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection,
and the world was changed forever.

We change because we believe.

Teach us to keep faith with them,
that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep,
and our faith as true.

We believe in the change s Christ brought.

We believe as his words proclaimed his Kingdom,
as the world revealed the alternative beliefs,
we are the believers of God the Father, God the Son
and God the Holy Spirit?

We believe in one true God ; Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

Sanctify, our hearts so we hear the Word and plant it within our heart,

**so we can glorify the Son as the true Son of God, Christ Lives.
Christ Lives as expressed in his Words. Amen**

Lord's Prayer (He Inoi O Te Ariki)

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 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 whakawaia;
Engari whakaorangia mātou, i te kino:
Nou hoki te rangatiratanga,
te kaha, me te kororia,
Ake, ake, ake. Āmine.

CHILDREN STORY AND PRAYER

FIJIAN YOUTH

BIBLE READINGS New International Version (NIV)

Act 7 : 55 – 60 (Samoan)

⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

⁵⁷ At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸ dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he said this, he fell asleep.

1 Peter 2 : 13 – 22, (Fijian)

¹³ Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ¹⁵ For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. ¹⁶ Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God’s slaves. ¹⁷ Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

¹⁸ Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. ¹⁹ For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

²² “He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”^[a]

Jn 14 : 1 – 14 (Fijian)

Jesus Comforts His Disciples

¹⁴ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God^[a]; believe also in me. ² My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Jesus the Way to the Father ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know ^[b] my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

⁹ Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the work I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

10 AM SINGING GROUP

REFLECTION - “Into Your Hands”

HYMN ‘Rescue the Perishing’ - *Fanny Crosby/ Reproduced from MHB 338*

1. Rescue the perishing, care for the
dying, snatch them in pity from sin
and the grave; weep o’er the
erring one, lift up the fallen, tell
them of Jesus, the mighty to save.

2. Though they are slighting him, still
he is waiting, waiting the penitent
child to receive; plead with them
earnestly, plead with them gently:
he will forgive if they only believe.

[Refrain]

Refrain:

Rescue the perishing, care for the
dying;
Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

3. Down in the human heart, crushed
by the tempter, feelings lie buried
that grace can restore; touched by
a loving hand, wakened by
kindness, chords that were broken
will vibrate once more. **[Refrain]**

4. Rescue the perishing, duty
demands it; strength for thy
labour the Lord will provide;
back to the narrow way patiently
win them; tell the poor wanderer a
Saviour has died.
[Refrain]

PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE

God almighty, you have called us to follow in the way of your risen Son,
and to care for those who are our companions,
not only with words of comfort,
but with acts of love.

Love prevails in your mighty Kingdom.

Seeking to be true friends of all,
we offer our prayers on behalf of the church and the world.
Guide us in the path of discipleship, so that,
as you have blessed us,
we may be a blessing for others,
bringing the promise of the kingdom nearby - our words and deeds.
Your love was revealed within us to our fellow believers.

We think of those who are sick and are in hospital.
Also, those who suffer disability and difficulties in life.
We seek your merciful healing hands to touch their pain
and heal them in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who healed and resurrected those who are in the dark.
Merciful God, have mercy on us.

Your death revealed your love for the people
and your resurrection revealed that you are God.
Bind your sheep in a meadow of love
as you are the loving shepherd.
We are astray but find your shining face watching over us.
Breed your words in our heart to reveal your nature of God within us.
**Let your love restore our wellbeing so we can face the world you made
for us. Amen**

NOTICES AND OFFERING

BLESSING OF OFFERING

God of Peace and God of Grace - who are rich and powerful,
yet who accept your father's call to be born in a shack or manger –
without Gold or Silver, or Warmth or Comfort,
but was made rich with the gift of love and grace.

Here is what we have collected for the works of your Kingdom;
bless and reward us all with your continued love and blessing.

Lift us out of anxiety, depression and loneliness.

Hold us with loving and tender hands,
so we can feel your presence always.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Anthem - Samoan

AFFIRMING OF FAITH

We believe in the God of love, who seeks a deep communion with us,
and who calls us to reject all idols.

We believe in the God of creation
who calls us into partnership in shaping the future in justice, peace and joy.

We believe in the God who is not remote, but who is immersed in the life of this
world
sharing its hope and feeling its pain.

We believe in the God who identifies with the poor and the oppressed
and those who long for faith and call us to stand with them.

We believe in this God, revealed in Jesus whose love is vulnerable,
whose heart is aching and whose covenant with all people and creation, is
unshakable. (Rev Dr Terry Wall)

THE PEACE

How can we claim to love God, who we cannot see,
if we do not love our neighbour, who we can see?

The peace of God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Sharing the peace of God with one another ... **"Peace be with you."**

BLESSING

Blessed are you, God of all Creation.

Through your goodness we have these gifts to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.

Blessed be God forever.

God be with you,

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts and rejoice.

We lift them up to God.

Let us, with all our hearts, give thanks.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Living God, we offer you our prayers of thanksgiving.

Above all, on this Easter Season we offer our thanks
for the reality and promise of resurrection.

Your beloved son has risen from the grave
and the tomb of our world is opened wide.

Jesus was raised in power and was revealed first to women.

They had come to offer him the rituals of the dead.

He showed them a life beyond all dying.

Therefore, with the women who found an empty tomb
with the men and women who later saw the risen Lord,
and with people in every place and generation,
who have lived out the truth of Resurrection
we say;

**Holy, holy, holy, Resurrection God,
heaven and earth are full of your glory:**

**hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God;
hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is our brother Jesus,
who walks with us the road of our grief,
and is known again in the breaking of bread;

who, on the night he was handed over,
took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
"This is my body, broken for you. Do this to remember me."

In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying:
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this whenever you drink it, and when you do,
remember me."

**Let us proclaim the mystery at the heart of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Come now, disturbing Spirit of God,
breathe on these bodily things and make us one body in Christ.
Open our graves, remove what binds us and name us here,
touch and heal all that has been buried in us,
**that we need not cling to our pain, but may go forth with power
to release resurrection into the world. Amen**

The Breaking of Bread

This bread we break, this cup we share,
every grace in our lives, is a gift
and promise of resurrection.

(Te Haahi Weteriana/The Methodist Church of New Zealand keeps an open table. Any person present who feels called to receive the Sacrament is very welcome to join us at the Table.)

An Invitation to the Table

Come to this table where the living Christ
offers us bread broken for our journeying
and wine poured out for our tears.

Share together in this meal where loss finds comfort in promise
and despair is transformed into hope,
whoever you are, whatever you bring.

Come, the Table of the Lord is now ready. Come as you are!

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**We give thanks that we have gathered together in this sacred place and
been refreshed at this table.**

We rejoice in the giftedness of each person here.

We are grateful for who we are for each other.

May we go forth into the world in courage and peace. Amen

HYMN 'To God be the glory' - H & P 463 *(Fanny Crosby/Reproduced from WOV 85)*

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 an 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]**

BLESSING

May the grace of God uphold you,
the peace of God surround you,
the love of God flow from you
and the strength of God protect
and bring you safely through this day and forever

Let us say the grace together –

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

Thank you to all who contributed to this service.

Hymns used are covered by CCLI Licence #230381

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

Or the 10AM Congregation's Facebook Page:

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

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'Wellington Methodist Parish'