



Wesley Methodist Church
75 Taranaki Street
Wellington

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 4 January 2026
Christmas 2

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



Wisdom and the Word: Finding Home in Divine Presence

Living God's Love – Acting for the Common Good

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 4 January 2026
Christmas 2

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

Welcome & Introduction

Call to Worship

Wisdom cries out with radiant voice

We gather to listen for her truth

The Word was in the beginning, full of grace

We come to dwell in light and love

From the mouth of God, Wisdom flowed

We come thirsty for holy presence

Jesus, the Word made flesh, lives among us

We come to behold the glory of God

Wisdom walks the paths of sea and sky

We come with awe and reverence

The Word speaks through mist and mystery

We come with questions and hope

God's Spirit weaves all things together

We come seeking connection and clarity

The light shines in the darkness, still

We come to be kindled with courage

Wisdom builds her house among the people

We come to find our home in God's love

Come, seekers of Spirit, truth, and belonging

We come as we are – each beloved and called

Let us worship the Holy One

Let us be remade in Wisdom and the Word. Amen.

Lighting the Candle

We light this candle
for Wisdom, who moves with strength and tenderness,
for the Word, who pitches a tent in our midst.

**In this flame, may mystery meet clarity.
In its glow, may grace touch our flesh.
Christ, light our path with truth and love. Amen.**

Opening Prayer

O God who speaks in Wisdom and Word
Renew us in your way of light

You dwell not in power but in presence
Renew us in your way of grace

You birth truth in places the world forgets
Renew us in your way of hope

You pitch your tent among our longing
Renew us in your way of love

You whisper through cloud, fire, and silence
Renew us in your way of stillness

You reveal glory in humble flesh
Renew us in your way of wonder

You invite us to dwell in your radiance
Renew us in your way of joy

Let our worship rise from this knowing
Renew us in your way of light. Amen.

Song: God is With Us. Words and Music: Jonathan Berkahn (2004)

Refrain:

God is with us, God is with us,
God is with us in this place.
God is with us, God is with us,
in his mercy and his grace.

He will never leave you,
never forsake you,
never give you up for lost;
in your darkest night,
in your deepest confusion,
he never will abandon hope.

Prayer of Approach

God of Wisdom, Word, and Light,
We return to your presence with longing.

You are not far off, but near.
We come to be reoriented in love.

We bring our assumptions and certainties.
We come ready to unlearn and relearn.

We bring our hunger for truth.
We come seeking what only grace can teach.

In the mist and the deep, you are there.
We come to be held, not to grasp.

In the flesh and the Word, you are revealed.
We come to behold, not to control.

Let your glory shape our seeing.
We come to walk with Wisdom once more.

Draw near, O God, and dwell in us.
We come to find our home in you.

Words of Assurance

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness cannot overcome it.
You are known, not by what you do, but by who God is.
Wisdom dwells with you. Grace lives in you.
You are beloved, enfolded, and free. **Amen.**

Introducing the Theme

Hymn: Touch the Earth Lightly Alleluia Aotearoa 143

1. Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.
2. We who endanger,
who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster
clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!
3. Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden,
hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.
4. God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.

Readings

Sirach 24:1-12 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Praise of Wisdom

Wisdom praises herself

and tells of her glory in the midst of her people.

In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth,

and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory:

"I came forth from the mouth of the Most High

and covered the earth like a mist.

I encamped in the heights,
and my throne was in a pillar of cloud.
Alone I compassed the vault of heaven
and traversed the depths of the abyss.
Over waves of the sea, over all the earth,
and over every people and nation I have held sway.
Among all these I sought a resting place;
in whose inheritance should I abide?
“Then the Creator of all things gave me a command,
and my Creator pitched my tent.
He said, ‘Encamp in Jacob,
and in Israel receive your inheritance.’
Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me,
and for all the ages I shall not cease to be.
In the holy tent I ministered before him,
and so I was established in Zion.
Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting place,
and in Jerusalem was my domain.
I took root in an honoured people;
in the portion of the Lord is my inheritance.

John 1:1-18 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in

his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Sermon: Wisdom and the Word: Finding Home in Divine Presence

Hymn: God of Our Every Day Alleluia Aotearoa 52

1. God of our every day,
friend who will walk our way,
light who can change the focus of our seeing,
capture our heart and mind,
be in the work we find,
till all we do becomes your mode of being.
2. Speak to our spirit's void,
hands that are unemployed,
lives that are lived without a true direction:
gifts that are hid, unearthen,
lift us to know our worth,
that in ourselves we see your own reflection.
3. Shine through our winter's grey,
break through depression's day,
live through the little deaths we die in growing,
meaning for whom we grope,
home of our strongest hope,
power and peace, through all creation flowing.

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,
Wisdom circles the earth and traverses the deep.
May justice dwell where war now reigns,
and grace be planted in scorched ground.

God of wisdom and word, dwell among us.

For our country and leaders,
Let those in power be guided not by ego but by truth.
May policies reflect compassion, and actions echo grace.

God of wisdom and word, dwell among us.

For your church and its leaders,
Let the Word be flesh again in humble service.
May we reflect not dogma, but divine presence.

God of wisdom and word, dwell among us.

For our local communities,
Pitch your tent in our schools, homes, and streets.
May we become neighbourhoods of light.

God of wisdom and word, dwell among us.

For those who suffer, are sick, or in need:
May your healing be tender, your justice fierce.
Hold the forgotten in the folds of your glory.

God of wisdom and word, dwell among us.

For those who have gone before us
and our hope for what's to come,
Let the cloud of witnesses remind us: God dwells still.
We walk their path with courage and grace.

God of wisdom and word, dwell among us. 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 not to impress, but to participate.
We give not to earn, but to honour.
Your free will offering will now be received.

Blessing of Offering (said together)

**Bless these gifts and those who give them
Let wisdom guide their use and purpose
Let grace infuse the smallest act
Let these offerings be seeds of divine dwelling. Amen.**

Hymn: Let Justice Roll Down Alleluia Aotearoa 85

Refrain:

Let justice roll down like a river,
let justice flow down to the sea;
let justice roll down like a river
let justice begin through me.

1. Justice for all who go hungry,
crying to God to be fed,
left in a world of abundance
to beg for a morsel of bread.
2. Justice for those who are homeless,
victims of war or of need,
trapped on the borders of nowhere,
lost in the canyons of greed.
3. Justice for all who are powerless,
yearning for freedom in vain,
plundered and robbed of their birthright,
silently bearing their pain.

Benediction / Sending Forth

Go now, carried in the cloud of God's wisdom,
Walking in the light no darkness can dim.
Let the Word dwell richly within you.
Let grace shape your every footstep.
The Spirit goes with you, full of glory and truth.
Be people in whom God finds a joyful home.

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*
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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>