



WESLEY WELLINGTON
75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 24th December 2023

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



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 - COMBINED SERVICE

Worship leader – Rev Utumau’u Pupulu

Music Leader: Brass Band

WELCOME

Rev Utumau’u Pupulu

Greetings and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ!

Welcome to our Christmas Eve service tonight.

A special welcome to all our visitors, our community who are here tonight. We are so glad you have joined us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior on this holiest of nights.

We appreciate that you have incorporated this service into your own personal Christmas Eve tradition this year.

CAROL: ‘O Come all ye faithful.....’

1. English

O come all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him,
Born the King of angels:

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

2. Tongan

Ko e ‘Otou,
Tupu mei ‘Otua;
Na’e ‘ikai ngaohi kae fakatupu mai
Maama ne ulo:

*Mei he Maama mu’a, Mou omi ke tau lotu,
Mou omi ke tau lotu, Mou omi ke tau lotu, mo fakafeta’i.*

3. Fijian

Kalou dina sara,
Vu ni lagilagi,
Yaco me vakataki keda oqo:
Luve i Tamana,
Sega ni ka buli.

*Mai vakarokoroko, Mai vakarokoroko,
Mai vakarokoroko vei Karisito.*

4. **Samoan**

Tonu viiga
A le au agelu,
Ave viiga i le Tupu o le Lagi,
Faamanu atu
I lana Afioga
*O mai, tatou lotu, O mai, tatou lotu,
O mai, tatou lotu ma faafetai.*

5. **English**

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God,
all glory in the highest;
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Invitation to worship

Rev Nicola Teague Grundy

Magnify the Lord with hearts full of love.

Sing to the Lord with souls full of joy.

For the Mighty One has done great things for us.

Holy is God's name.

Surely, goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives.

And we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

OPENING PRAYER

God of love, you have brought us together tonight.

and blessed us with your very self.

as the light of your Word penetrates our hearts,

as we are reminded of the gift of life and faith,

as the glories of the heavenly hosts are echoed in our community,

we open ourselves up to your Spirit and give you thanks.

**We are grateful, Lord Jesus, that your story has become our story,
and we celebrate your birth to take to heart the wonder of your love,
that we may walk in your ways and delight in your will.**

Fill us with that light and carry it out with us into our lives.

Amen.

CAROL: 'Silent night, holy night

1. English

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin, mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Fijian

Bogi buto, mai vei co
Sipi e ra moce no
Agilosu sa rairai,
Vakatawa yadra mai
Na mesaia sa sucu
Luve ni kalo

3. Samoan

Po paia, Po filemu
Ua fanau mai Iesu
I le fale o manu
I Peteleema le nu'u
Na iloa ai le fetu
Ua fanau mai Iesu

4. Tongan

Po malu, ko si'i po
Hifo ai e 'Alo
Mele mo Sosefo na mamata
Fanautama 'a tangata
'Oi Si'ene totofa
'Oi Si'ene totofa

5. English

Silent night, holy night
Son of God love's pure light
Radiance beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord at thy birth
Jesus Lord at thy birth

10am Carol: Be not afraid.

When the world is full of noise,
when the heart is full of pain,
when the hopes I've built upon
start to tumble once again,
I remember what the angels did say:

*Refrain: Be not afraid, be not afraid,
here is hope, here is joy, here is peace.
Be not afraid, be not afraid,
here is hope, here is joy, here is peace.*

When the night is growing dark,
when the clouds are drawing near,
when tomorrow is in doubt,
and the sky is full of fear,
I remember what the angels did say:

Refrain ...

Reading: Isaiah 9: 2-7 The Future King

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

10am Carol: Christmas Halleluia (round)

Halleluia, Christmas is coming.
Oh, let us praise the Lord.
Sing halleluia, welcome the Christ child,
Bringing hope for a peaceful world.

Prayer

God of Light, Hope, Joy, Peace and Love your light lifts up our hearts, our spirits, and our voices. We give you thanks for your birth long ago and presence with us always. Your love is wider than the chorus of the galaxies, and yet your Star shines on us now in this place which has become a manger. Amen.

10am Carol: Child of Christmas story

Child of Christmas story,
stable straw and star,
small and sweet and gentle:
tell us who you are.

Child whose baby finger
round our own is curled,
come to melt our hearts, and
come to change the world.

Child of Jew and Gentile,
child of white and black -
teach us how to love you,
teach us what we lack.

Child of Mary's courage
birthed in human pain,
tell us what your name is -
be our hope again.

Samoan Carol

Reading: Luke 1: 26 – 36 Angel's Visit

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found Favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.

Samoan Carol

Prayer

Loving God, as you brought the word of hope to Mary and through her to our world, rekindle anew in us a sense of hope as we celebrate your nativity. Live in and through us this Christmas season, that we might be messengers of your grace and instruments of your peace. Amen

Samoan Carol

Tongan Carol

Reading: Luke 2:1 - 7 The Birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Tongan Carol

Prayer

Lord, on this Christmas Eve, we pause to prepare our hearts for a most beautiful celebration: Your birth and coming to earth as our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Clear our minds so we can focus on You and the joy You bring to us through Your gift of salvation. Amen.

Tongan Carol

Fijian Carol

Reading: Luke 2: 8-14 The Shepherds

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will

be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

Fijian Carol

Prayer

Gracious Lord be the God of our Christmas celebration. We rejoice with the shepherds over the good news of Jesus' birth. We join in the praises of the angelic choir, saying: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favours!"

Almighty God, you have favoured us with the greatest gift ever given--your only begotten Son, light of true light, God of true God. May we never take this your gift for granted; may our songs of praise never fade, and may we treasure it in our hearts always and forever. Bless all of us here gathered in worship as well as our loved ones at home. May peace and joy ring in our hearts and reverberate through our communities tonight in the name of Jesus the new-born King. Amen.

Fijian Carol

FINAL PRAYER

Rev Simote Taunga

Loving God, thank you for this night and for all it represents.

Thank you for the hope you bestow, the peace you bring, the love you pour out, and the joy you give. We praise you most of all for Jesus, your Word made flesh. May he light our way as the holy star lit the way for the wise men.

We ask that as we make this a holy night upon which to remember your birth on earth, so our hearts would be illuminated with the brightness of your one true light, Jesus Christ our Lord, born in us this day.

We remember those for whom Christmas will be difficult. Lord Jesus you were laid in a humble manger because there was no room for you in the inn. Have mercy we pray on all who cannot share our happiness this Christmas time. We are mindful of the poor and the hungry, the sick and those separated from the ones they love. By your love poured out at Bethlehem, guard, guide, and comfort those for whom we pray this night.

Bless all of us here gathered in worship as well as our loved ones at home. May peace and joy ring in our hearts and reverberate through our communities tonight. May your story guide us and help us claim the sacredness in our own lives.

In the name of Jesus, the new-born King. Amen

CAROL "O Holy Night"

1. O Holy night
The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till he appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

*Fall on your knees
Oh hear the angel voices
Oh night divine
Oh night when Christ was born
Oh night divine
Oh night divine*

2. Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
Here come the wise men from Orient land
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger
In all our trials born to be our friend

3. Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name

CAROL: "Away in a manger"

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay.
Close by me for ever and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

CAROL: Jingle Bells

1. Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way
Bells on bob tail ring
Making spirits bright
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight!

*Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh, hey!
Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh!*

2. A day or two ago,
I thought I'd take a ride
And soon, Miss Fanny Bright
Was seated by my side
The horse was lean and lank
Misfortune seemed his lot
He got into a drifted bank
And then we got upsot

3. A day or two ago
The story I must tell
I went out on the snow
And on my back I fell
A gent was riding by
In a one-horse open sleigh
He laughed as there I sprawling lie
But quickly drove away

4. Now the ground is white
Go it while you're young
Take the girls tonight
And sing this sleighing song
Just get a bobtailed bay
Two forty as his speed
Hitch him to an open sleigh
And crack! You'll take the lead

CAROL: Joy to the World

1. **English**
Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2. **Samoan**
Ia olioli tatou nei
Ua pule le Alii
Ia tatou pepese ma faafetai
Osana ia Iesu

Osana ia Iesu
Osana, Osana ia Iesu

3. Fijian

Ni drodro tu na uciwai,
Se tubu mai na co,
Sai Kemuni sa dau lewa
Me vaka tu oqo,
Me vaka tu oqo,
Me vaka, vaka tu oqo.

4. Tongan

'Ofa ka ko ha 'ofa e,
Ho' 'ofa kia au.
'Ofa ne 'ikai ke mamae, 'Ofa ne fai ke a'u,
Koe'uhi pe ko au!
Koe'uhi pe ko au!
Koe'uhi, koe'uhi pe ko au!

5. English

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, and wonders of his love.

SENDING FORTH AND BLESSING

Go now in wonder.

Go to bring light to those in darkness,
joy to those who can find no joy,
magic to a world steeped in realism.

**We go with the songs of angels in our ears,
and the love of God in our hearts.**

**We go and spread the word—
the babe of Bethlehem is born for ua all.
Amen.**

HAVE A VERY BLESSED CHRISTMAS
FROM US ALL AT WESLEY CHURCH