



Wesley Wellington

75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 28 April 2024

Easter 5

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



“Abide with me”

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 28 April 2024

Easter 5

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

Welcome & Introduction

Call to Worship

When we are seeking,
God points out the path.
When others are searching,
God points out the path.
Our lives are often signposts:
people together on the Way.
Our words are waypoints:
people together on the Way.
Where Christ's story and our stories meet:
people together on the Way.
Let us walk, roll, run, dance, hop, and live!
People—together on the Way!

Lighting the candles

As we light these candles:

Kindle a flame within our hearts, O God
and let your *light* shine through

Kindle a flame within our hearts, O God
and let your *justice* shine through

Kindle a flame within our hearts, O God
and let your *hope* shine through

Kindle a flame within our hearts, O God
and let your *peace* shine through

Kindle a flame within our hearts, O God
and let your *love* shine through. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Dear Creator God,
we are filled with trust in your guidance.
Nothing is possible without you.
Our life journeys continue with you at our sides.
Fears are scarce and worries few when we trust your presence.
Guide us to a place of comfort when we feel
forsaken and alone. Inspire us with hope when we
start believing that the world is becoming a bad
place. Let our confidence in your love overcome our fears.
Your grace surrounds all people.
Your love benefits everyone.
Your mercy is infinite.
Your compassion is unquestioning.
Help us to reflect this understanding to each other when doubt fills us.
In Christ's name, we pray. **Amen.**

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.

Prayer of Approach & Words of Assurance

God of Love, God of the Vine, we are a work in progress.
We are not always the fruit-bearing branches you would have us be.
Sometimes we wither away.
Our withered branches are good for nothing
but to be gathered and thrown into the fire.

Help us, God of all living things!
Show us how to bend to the source of nourishment.
Help us become strong branches of the vine,
fruit-bearing branches that are pruned and productive.
Loving God of the Vine, we give thanks for your patience in our growth.
You accept us as we are.
Some of us are gnarly, twisted vines, some young and robust,
others bent and struggling, yet you prune away
that which is holding us back.
You make us strong and fruitful.
Knowing that we are loved, we give thanks, God of the Vine.
And in the name of Jesus, the vine keeper, we pray. **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

Song: Down in the River to Pray

(Traditional: Adapted by Alison Krauss)

(All)

1. As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord, show me the way

(Women)

O sisters, let's go down,
let's go down, come on down
O sisters, let's go down,
down in the river to pray.

(All)

2. As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe and crown
Good Lord, show me the way

(Men)

O brothers, let's go down,
let's go down, come on down
Come on, brothers, let's go down,
down in the river to pray.

(All)

3. As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord, show me the way.

(Men)

O fathers, let's go down,
let's go down, come on down
O fathers, let's go down,
down in the river to pray.

(All)

4. As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe and crown
Good Lord, show me the way

(Women)

O mothers, let's go down
Come on down, don't you wanna go
down?
Come on, mothers, let's go down
Down in the river to pray.

(All)

5. As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord, show me the way.

(All)

O sinners, let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O sinners, let's go down
Down in the river to pray.

(Slower)

6. As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe and crown
Good Lord, show me the way.

Readings

Acts 8:26-40 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Jesus the True Vine

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed[by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Sermon / Reflection: Abide with me

Song to listen to: If ye love me, keep my commandments. Words: John 14:15-17
Music: Thomas Tallis (c.1505-1585) Sung by Tenebrae conducted by Nigel Short.

If ye love me, keep my commandments.
And I will pray the Father,
and he shall give you another comforter,
that he may 'bide with you forever;
E'en the sp'rit of truth.

Hymn: Abide with me.

H&P 665 (EVENTIDE) Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1847). Music: WH Monk (1823-89).

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 changest 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. I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless,
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

5. 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.

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

To the bidding "...*God of love, in your mercy,*" would you please respond
"hear our prayer."

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)

Blessing of Offering (said together)

**O Jesus, we are the branches, you are the vine.
Abide in us that our lives may produce fruit as your faithful disciples.
May the offerings we bring this day bring your goodness and
love to the world, so that God will be glorified.
In your holy name we pray. Amen.**

Song: A New Commandment I Give Unto You.

Words: John13:34.35. Composer unknown. WOV 571

A new commandment I give unto you:
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.

By this shall all know that you are my disciples:
if you have love one for another.

By this shall all know that you are my disciples:
if you have love one for another.

Sending forth / Benediction

Go as God's beloved people, abiding in God's love,
like the branch abides in the vine.
May you feel the oneness of this connection,
and may you leave here knowing that this connection
to the Divine makes a difference.
It makes all the difference. Amen.

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**

• • •

Liturgy for this service was sourced from:

Let Us Pray, Janet Nelson, HarperCollins 1999;
Gathering: Lent/Easter 2024, United Church of Canada;
Kindle a Flame, Philip Garside, PGPL 2023.

If Ye Love Me: <https://youtu.be/HI5Y9I2NHio>

Cover image:

Photo 304672835 | Peace © Yuri Arcurs | Dreamstime.com

• • •

To keep up-to-date with services and news, visit the parish website:

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

And the 10am Congregation's Facebook Page:

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