



Wesley Wellington

75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday, 20 November 2022
Reign of Christ

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



God who sets us on a journey

We are a multi-racial Christian community:
Methodist in affiliation – Ecumenical in intention
Diverse in theology – Inclusive in outreach.

Kia ora koutou katoa — Tālofa lava
Mālō e lelei — Bula vinaka — Greetings to you all!

Welcome to today's service. A special welcome to visitors. We hope you will enjoy worshipping with us this morning and will join us again.

10AM congregation – Order of Service

Worship leader: Hugh Laurenson
Organist: Colin Scarf

Welcome & Introduction

Call to Worship (please respond in bold type)

When the doors are tightly shut,
Can the peace of God be shared?
There the church may gather,
But how its witness is impaired.

**With the doors flung open wide,
All its energy and strength
Flow to those around, outside,
Held no longer at arm's length**

Welcome to this holy place!
Come with others or alone.
Saviour, here refreshing grace,
Here where peace from God is known.

**Peace to all who enter here!
Peace with each passer-by!
Peace dispelling anxious fear,
Peace from God, who hears each sigh!**

May this building be a place
Where the peace of God is found!
Welcome, then, to sacred space!
Welcome, then, to hallowed ground!

Norman J. Goreham

Lighting the candles

As we light these candles, we say together:

**Set our hearts on fire with love for you, O Christ our God
So that in its flame we may love you with all our heart,
With all our mind, with all our soul, and with all our strength,
And our neighbours as ourselves,
So that by keeping your commandments we may glorify you,
The giver of all good gifts.**

Opening Prayer

Hey, beautiful morning, we're singing your God song,
A psalm of seas and mountains, of empty roads
And houses yawning under a blue bowl of sky.
It's the song of the bellbird, of steaming cows in sheds,
Of freckled trout quivering in deep, dark pools
And dew on cobwebs lacing trees.

Hey, beautiful morning, stay in our wakened hearts
So we can carry your God song into the busy day.
Remind us that newness is an ongoing gift
And that every moment is potential reborn,
But if our ears become full of other concerns,
And we lose the freshness of your song,
Then comfort us with the knowledge
That you will sing with us again tomorrow,
Oh beautiful morning, oh song of God.

Joy Cowley

Hymn: Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah

1. Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of Heaven, Bread of Heaven,

Feed me now and evermore;
Feed me now and evermore.

2. Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield;
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of deaths, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

William Williams (1717 – 1791)

Prayer of Approach & Words of Assurance

Living God,
in the stillness of Your presence we know ourselves in new ways.
We see more clearly where we have chosen the way of the world
rather than the way of Christ.
We have compromised when we should have stood firm,
and judged others by standards to which we rarely hold ourselves.
We have been quick to anger and slow to love.
We have not lived as people who know the kingdom of God is among
them.

Loving God,
You have given us confidence to turn back to You as forgiven people,
through the life, teaching, death and resurrection of Your Son Jesus.
Like prodigal children we are ready to begin again
and like the loving parent in the story Jesus told,

You are watching for us to return, ready to take us into Your arms.
In the stillness of Your presence may we know ourselves in new ways,
as loved and accepted and forgiven.

Introducing the Theme

Hymn: Where the road runs out

1. Where the road runs out and the signposts end,
Where we come to the edge of today,
Be the God of Abraham for us;
Send us out upon our way.

Refrain:

***Lord, you were our beginning,
The faith that gave us birth.
We look to you, our ending,
Our hope for heaven and earth.***

2. When the coast is left and we journey on
To the rim of the sky and the sea,
Be the sailor's friend, be the dolphin Christ,
Lead us on to eternity.
3. When the clouds are low and the wind is strong,
When tomorrow's storm draws near,
Be the spirit bird hov'ring overhead
Who will take away our fear.

Colin Gibson (1933 -)

Readings:

Acts 2:1-21 – The Coming of the Holy Spirit

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire,

appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

Peter Addresses the Crowd

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

‘In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
and they shall prophesy.
And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

John 20:19-23 – Jesus Appears to the Disciples

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

Reflection

Hymn: One more step along the world I go

1. One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go,
From the old things to the new,
Keep me travelling along with you:

Refrain:

***And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.***

2. Round the corners of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn;
All the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me.
3. As I travel through the bad and good,
Keep me travelling the way I should;
Where I see no way to go
You'll be telling me the way, I know.
4. Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough;
Leap and sing in all I do,

Keep me travelling along with you.

5. You are older than the world can be,
You are younger than the life in me;
Ever old and ever new,
Keep me travelling along with you.

Sydney Carter (1915 – 2004)

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 "Lord, be our compass, our signpost, our pathway" would you please respond **"Guide us when we stumble and fall"**

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 offerings (said together)

God of new life, out of the abundance of our lives

We offer these gifts to you.

Through your blessing and our willingness to share,

May these offerings become a source for hope and love

In this church family, and in the community beyond us,

In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn: God who sets us on a journey

1. God who sets us on a journey to discover, dream and grow,
Lead us as you led your people in the desert long ago;
Journey inward, journey outward, stir the spirit, stretch the mind,
Love for God and self and neighbour marks the way that Christ defined.
2. Exploration brings new insights, changes, choices we must face;
Give us wisdom in deciding, mindful always of your grace;
Should we stumble, lose our bearings, find it hard to know what's right,
We regain our true direction focused on the Jesus light.
3. End our longing for the old days, grant the vision that we lack –
Once we've started on this journey there can be no turning back;
Let us travel light, discarding excess baggage from our past,
Cherish only what's essential, choosing treasure that will last.
4. When we set up camp and settle to avoid love's risk and pain,
You disturb complacent comfort, pull the tent pegs up again;
Keep us travelling in the knowledge you are always at our side;
Give us courage for the journey, Christ our goal and Christ our guide.

Joy Dine (1937 – 2001)

Sending forth / Benediction

Creator God, Christ the King, Living Spirit,
go before us to give light to those who sit in darkness
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
And may the blessing of God surround you and keep you,
now and ever more.

The Grace (said together)

Kia tau ki a tātou katoa,
te atawhai o tō tātou Ariki o Ihu Karaiti,
me te aroha o te Atua,
me te whiwhinga tahitanga
ki te Wairua Tapu. Āmine

Liturgy for this service was sourced from:

Psalms for the Road - Joy Cowley (2002)
Gifts in Open Hands – Maren Tirabassi and Kathy Wonson Eddy (2011)
Church of Scotland
Orthodox Church in America
Pilgrim Uniting Church, Australia

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

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

Or the 10am Congregation's Facebook Page:

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