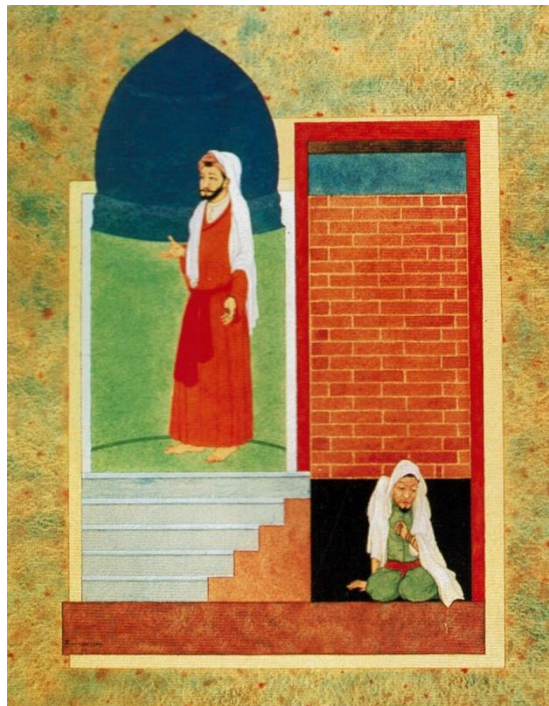


WESLEY WELLINGTON
75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 23rd October 2022
Pentecost 20

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 – 10am Congregation

Leader: Rev Nicola Teague Grundy

Organist: Colin Scarf

Welcoming you today is Daphne Pilaar.

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.

WELCOME AND SAFETY BRIEFING

GATHERING

LIGHTING OUR CANDLES

We take a flame and light our candle ...

The candle is lit

Flame of the Spirit:

warm our hearts to love our neighbour.

Flame of the Spirit:

light our path that we may walk in truth.

Flame of the Spirit:

rise in us with a passion for justice.

Flame of the Spirit:

gather us together in the celebration of your life.

CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on Psalm 65)*

Praise waits for you, O God, in all your world!

You hear our prayers, forgive our sins

and call us to dwell with you!

God of our hope, you are the life of the entire world.

Your faithfulness calls forth songs of joy

from the ends of the earth.

You formed the mountains and still the roaring sea.
You calm the uproar of the nations.
You care for the land, bless it with water,
and fill it with grain to feed the people.
Let all creation shout and sing for joy.

HYMN 'I sing the almighty power of God' [H&P 334]

I sing the almighty power of God,
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad,
and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at his command,
and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord,
that filled the earth with food;
he formed the creatures with his word.
and then pronounced them good.

Lord, how your wonders are displayed
where'er I turn mine eye,
if I survey the ground I tread,
or gaze upon the sky!

God's hand is my perpetual guard,
he guides me with his eye;
why should I then forget the Lord,
whose love is ever nigh?

Isaac Watts

OPENING PRAYER

God of all being,
we give you thanks
for all the ways that you bless our lives:
the beauty and abundance of nature,
the love of family and friends,
the joy of knowing you and hearing your word.
Send Your Spirit during this time of worship
So that we might dream your dreams
and see visions of the world as you created it to be.
guide our thoughts and actions.
Bring us closer to you so that we might do your will
and dwell in your house forever. Amen.

STORY TIME

10+ group share what they have been doing.

PRAYER OF WHO WE ARE - A reflection on Luke 18: 9-14

Eugene Peterson – The Message

He told his next story to some who were complacently pleased with themselves over their moral performance and looked down their noses at the common people: “Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax man. The Pharisee posed and prayed like this: ‘Oh, God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, crooks, adulterers, or, heaven forbid, like this tax man. I fast twice a week and tithe on all my income.’

“Meanwhile the tax man, slumped in the shadows, his face in his hands, not daring to look up, said, ‘God, give mercy. Forgive me, a sinner.’”

Jesus commented, “This tax man, not the other, went home made right with God. If you walk around with your nose in the air, you’re going to end up flat

on your face, but if you're content to be simply yourself, you will become more than yourself."

HYMN: 'It's me, It's me, O Lord [STF 523]

*It's me, It's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer.
It's me, it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer.*

Not my mother or my father, but it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer;
not my mother or my father, but it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer.

Not my brother or my sister, but it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer;
not my brother or my sister, but it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer.

Not the stranger, or my neighbour, but it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer;
not the stranger or my neighbour, but it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer.

African-American traditional song

REFLECTION

HYMN: 'A Pharisee was Praying' (Tune: Aurelia "The Church's One Foundation")

A Pharisee was praying; he proudly stood alone:
"God, thank you that I'm better than others I have known."
He saw the faults of others, yet in that holy place,
He missed the joy and wonder of God's amazing grace.

Far off in that same Temple, a tax collector stood.
He knew he was a sinner; he knew that God is good.

“Have mercy, God, upon me!” the tax collector cried.
He left that place of worship forgiven, justified.

O God of love, forgive us when we look all around
And think that, by our actions, we stand on solid ground:
We pray, “See how we serve you! We work and volunteer!
Aren’t we the ones whose giving builds up your kingdom here?”

May we, your church, be humble in serving you each day,
For pride will never help us to walk your kingdom-way.
May we know your forgiveness — our need for mercy, too —
That, loved and loving others, our life may be in you.

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OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(We acknowledge offerings made by automatic payment and on-line banking)

In response to the promise of abundant life,
God call us to share our resources with those in need.
In that spirit of generosity, let us offer our gifts.

**Loving God, we give thanks for the visions and dreams that you share
with your people. We offer these gifts in response to your abundant
blessings and ask that you use them and the commitment they represent
to share your good news with all the world. Amen.**

COMMUNITY TIME

Let us take a moment to celebrate each other.

Sharing the Peace

Let’s greet each other saying: **“God’s peace be with you.”**

Notices,

Sharing Joys, Things we are grateful for, Sorrows and concerns

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

This moment of prayer and silent reflection
is an invitation to be calm in the midst
of the noise of the world
and our over-busy lives...

To bring together thought and feeling, mind and spirit,
and to find some centre, some
still point of perspective and peace.

Silence

We rejoice in the Spirit of Life around us and in us:
like wind in our faces and breath in our lungs,
like life in dormant daffodils bursting forth in spring.

We remember we are called to appreciate and protect
the whole of creation, always
cherishing,
nurturing and
renewing the earth.

Silence

We remember we are called to be in relationship,
living and working with one another,
supporting and healing one another...

We remember we are called into a community,
working for the common good of all,
making choices that bring hope, justice
and freedom to our world...

May we welcome the stranger, offering
support to those who have recently arrived, and
giving comfort to the homesick.

May we promote justice, tolerance, openness and respect, that ensures lasting peace and racial harmony.

May we change our way of thinking, to stop protecting our standard of living at the cost of developing nations and their people's quality of life.

May we be enabled to reverence each person, to reach out to those in need, to value and appreciate those who differ from us, to share the resources of our nation, to receive the gifts offered to us by people from other cultures.

Silence

May we respond boldly.

This is our prayer.

May it be so..

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.

HYMN: 'There's a wideness in God's mercy' [HioS 135]

There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.
There's no place where human sorrows
are more deeply felt than heaven;
there's no place where human failings
have such kindly judgements given.

For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make that love too narrow
by the limits of our own;
and we magnify God's strictness
with a zeal Love will not own.

There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that endless world of bliss.
If our love were but more simple,
We would trust the living Word;
And our lives would fill with gladness
In the joy of Christ our Lord.

F W Faber
altered by Colin Gibson

PARTING WORDS

Time has now come for us to leave this place.

As we do, may we embrace the challenges of our lives and our world ...

The candle is extinguished

Go into the world, renewed in hope and restored by God's vision.

Go into the world to share God's grace and mercy.

Go into the world and proclaim the Good News

of what God has done for you.

To that end, may the blessings of God be with you this day and
forevermore. Amen.

Grace (*said together*)

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:

Prayer of who we are; adapted from material from Ruth Burgess and Chris Polhill “*Eggs and ashes*” and Walter Brueggemann “*Prayers for a privileged people*”
Pilgrim Uniting Church, Australia <https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/>

Image: Wesley, Frank, 1923-2002. The Publican and the Pharisee, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59165> [retrieved October 19, 2022]. Original source: Estate of Frank Wesley,
http://www.frankwesleyart.com/main_page.htm.

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Acknowledgement:

*We thank the Conway family for our refreshments today.
We also thank Joy Grove for the floral decorations.*

* * * * *

Visit the parish website; <https://wesleychurch.org.nz/>
Or the 10am Facebook Page to keep up-to-date with services and news:
<https://www.facebook.com/wesleywellington.methodistchurch.10am>