



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

Sunday 27 February 2022
TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

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
Wesley Methodist Church 75 Taranaki Street
27 February 2022 Transfiguration Sunday**

Leaders:
Rev Nicola Teague Grundy

Organ: **Colin Scarf**

Welcome, Introduction & Safety briefing **Daphne**

Call to Worship

We gather as the faithful of God,
we come to listen to what God has to say to us.
**God has invited us to this place;
may our faces reflect our hopes and our hearts.**

We gather as the faithful of God,
people of the new covenant of hope and promise.
**We boldly enter into the presence of God,
hoping to be transformed into new people.**

We gather as the faithful of God,
our fears melting away in the heart of God.
**We come to share in the freedom of the Spirit,
we come to praise God's holy name.**

Lighting the Candles

Why do we light our candles?

Lighting a candle is a prayer.
A prayer that stays alight
– a prayer of thanksgiving and intercession for those in need.

Lighting a candle is a parable.
Burning itself out it gives light to others ...

Lighting a candle is a symbol
Of love and hope – of light and warmth

The candle is lit

Our world needs them all.

Hymn: “Fill thou my life, O Lord my God” H&P792

1. Fill thou my life, O Lord my God,
in every part with praise,
that my whole being may proclaim
thy being and thy ways.
Not for the lip of praise alone
nor e'en the praising heart
I ask, but for a life made up
of praise in every part.
2. Praise in the common words I speak,
life's common looks and tones,
in fellowship enjoyed at home
with my beloved ones,
enduring wrong, reproach, or loss
with sweet and steadfast will,
forgiving freely those who hate,
returning good for ill.
3. So shall each fear, each fret, each care
be turned into a song,
and every winding of the way
the echo shall prolong.
So shall no part of day or night
From sacredness be free,
But all my life, in every step,
Be fellowship with thee.

Words: Horatius Bonar Tune: *St Fulbert*

Opening Prayer - Give Way to Glory *(Inspired by Luke 9:28-36)*

May we give way to glory, O God
May we let the light tangle with our lives
that we may see what you see in us
may we see what you see
a love born in eternity
that find a home in our souls
and wants to be there
a word that lifts itself
from page into life
and tells a story
that begins with itself
may we see what you see
a vision that brings past and future
into the one meeting place
and offers us all as present
a wisdom born of generations
where time nurtures the promise
and the longings of believers
wondering if this will be the generation that breaks it open
May we give way to glory
and dare its splendour
to rekindle our faith
and transfigure our lives
So be it. Amen

Prayer of Confession - A prayer of who we are

A light beckons us, a new day rises up, around and within us
and we are afraid;
A voice calls us, echoing in the stillness,
and we are confused;
A dream wakens in us, a hope is born within us,
and then we remember that we are the beloved,
warmed by the light that surrounds us,
gathered into a community of faith,
and we give thanks. Amen

Story Time

Hymn: “Here we stand among God’s people”

1. Here we stand among God’s people
giving thanks for all God’s care,
and we gladly bring our offering
to the common life we share.
There’s a thread within God’s story
that is ours alone to know,
and a vision of God’s glory
that our lives were made to show.
2. When the Gospel words are spoken,
when the bread and wine are blessed,
Jesus makes us more than welcome
at the table as his guests.
And as we go out to serve him
in our actions, work and prayers,
he will send us where we’re needed;
when he calls us we’ll be there.
3. With the Word of God to guide us
we will learn our whole lives long;
with the Spirit here beside us
we’ll be confident and strong
as we work for peace and justice
in our own appointed place,
and we’ll stand among God’s people
till we see God face to face.

Words: Marnie Barrell (Adapted).
Music: Colin Gibson. Hope is Our Song 55

Bible reading: **Luke 9: 28-43 [The Message]**

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²⁸⁻³¹ About eight days after saying this, he climbed the mountain to pray, taking Peter, John, and James along. While he was in prayer, the appearance of his face changed and his clothes became blinding white. At once two men were there talking with him. They turned out to be Moses and Elijah—and what a glorious appearance they made! They talked over his exodus, the one Jesus was about to complete in Jerusalem.

³²⁻³³ Meanwhile, Peter and those with him were slumped over in sleep. When they came to, rubbing their eyes, they saw Jesus in his glory and the two men standing with him. When Moses and Elijah had left, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, this is a great moment! Let’s build three memorials: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He blurted this out without thinking.

³⁴⁻³⁵ While he was babbling on like this, a light-radiant cloud enveloped them. As they found themselves buried in the cloud, they became deeply aware of God. Then there was a voice out of the cloud: “This is my Son, the Chosen! Listen to him.”

³⁶ When the sound of the voice died away, they saw Jesus there alone. They were speechless. And they continued speechless, said not one thing to anyone during those days of what they had seen.

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³⁷⁻⁴⁰ When they came down off the mountain the next day, a big crowd was there to meet them. A man called from out of the crowd, “Please, please, Teacher, take a look at my son. He’s my only child. Often a spirit seizes him. Suddenly he’s screaming, thrown into convulsions, his mouth foaming. And then it beats him black-and-blue before it leaves. I asked your disciples to deliver him but they couldn’t.”

⁴¹ Jesus said, “What a generation! No sense of God! No focus to your lives! How many times do I have to go over these things? How much longer do I have to put up with this? Bring your son here.”

⁴²⁻⁴³ While he was coming, the demon slammed him to the ground and threw him into convulsions. Jesus stepped in, ordered the foul spirit gone, healed the boy, and handed him back to his father. They all shook their heads in wonder, astonished at God’s greatness, God’s majestic greatness.

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⁴³⁻⁴⁴ While they continued to stand around exclaiming over all the things he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, “Treasure and ponder each of these next words: The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into human hands.”

Reflection:

Silence for personal reflection

Hymn: “God of our every day”

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, unearth,
lift us to know our worth
that in ourselves we see your own reflection.
3. Shine through our winter’s grey,
break through depressions day,
live in the little deaths we die in growing:
meaning for whom we grope,
home of our strongest hope,
power and peace, through all creation flowing.

Words: Shirley Murray, Music: Colin Gibson

Community Time

Sharing the Peace

Let us take a moment to celebrate each other.
May a heart of peace rest with you.

And also, with you.

Notices

Sharing Joys and Sorrows

Prayer of thanksgiving

Most wonderful God, we thank you for the gift of light.
For the sun, rising from the East and calling us to a new day.
For moonlight and starlight, awakening a sense of wonder and serenity.

Thanks for street light, car light, traffic light and home light.
For the light in the eyes of a loved one coming to meet us.
For the light of compassion on the faces of counsellors, nurses and teachers.

Thank you for the supreme Light of divine love in the face of Christ Jesus.
For the radiance of his goodness, grace, truth and self sacrifice.
For the glorious light of Easter Day turning despair into celebration.
For Christ's light in the church, exposing, challenging and guiding.
Thanks for the moments of his encouraging light in our individual lives.

Most wonderful God, we praise you for all gifts of light.
For the rising and healing Son who can never be eclipsed.
God of God, Light of Light!
Glory be to you, now and for ever!

Offering

(Please leave your offering in the bag provided at the back of the church after the service. We also acknowledge offerings made by automatic payment and online banking.)

Blessing of Offering

Transforming God,
we come this morning, knowing that in our giving and in our living,
we have often put “just enough” into living our faith so as not to
impact our lifestyle or cause too much discomfort. We have been
reluctant to let go of our affinity for the things of this world; and in
our attachments, we have often missed the opportunity for the
transformed lives you desire for us. May our offerings be an invitation
to living a life radically transformed by your power, love, and grace.
We pray this in the mighty love of Jesus. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

From a cloud, and in a crowd, God speaks to us.

**Calling us to be lovers of justice,
to share hope with the broken.**

On mountaintops and in the valleys, Christ calls to us.

**To embrace the faint hearted
and bind up the wounds of the hurt**

In all the places we spend our days, the Spirit whispers in our hearts.

**Gathering our hopes and fears, joys and concerns,
and offering them to God.**

Let us pray for the world and for ourselves.....

We pray for the re-creation of your fragmented world:

where there is greed, bring generosity,
in places of conflict, bring reconciliation,
where there is hatred, reach out in love.

We pray for the reformation of your broken church:

where there is discord, bring unity,
where there is error, bring truth,
where there is faithlessness, rekindle our vision.

We pray for the reshaping of the communities to which we belong:

where there is neglect, bring care,
where there is despair, bring hope,
where there is rejection, reach out in acceptance.

We pray for the relief of all who are in trouble or in need:

where there is pain bring release,
where there is grief, bring consolation,
where there is loneliness, reach out in friendship.

Holy God, we pray for ourselves. Transfigure our own personal faith, hope, and love. Lord of the mountain and plain, of vision and sacrifice, let us live in the light and glory of your love today and for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven
holy be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Do not put us to the test,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

Hymn: "Mountains and Valleys"

1. Stand upon a mountain peak;
hear the gravid stillness speak;
watch the golden dawn awake;
think of journeys love may take;
pause to breathe the misty air;
see God's glory dwelling there.
2. Hear the words of blessing fall;
sense a presence, touching all;
feel joy stirring deep within;
see transfigured life begin;
pause to breathe a thankful prayer;
see God's glory dwelling there.
3. Gaze upon the world below;
hear the cries of human woe;
take the path to valleys deep;
share the grief of all who weep;
pause to offer love and care;
see God's glory dwelling there.

4. Live with mindfulness and grace;
name each vale as sacred space;
share the warmth of love divine;
see shekinah's* beauty shine;
love the complex world we share;
know God's glory dwelling there.

(**shekinah* – presence, blessing and glory of God)

Words: Helen Wiltshire (Tune:TiS 212 Heathlands)

Parting Words

Deepest mystery of grace,
beneath, above, around and within;
on the mountain you showed your glory.
As your Spirit invites us
into new, even daring ways of following Jesus,
may our lives be parables of your love, justice and freedom
in every gesture and deed.

Blessing

May God as love dwell within us.
May God as light bring new insights and encouragement.
May God as grace take us on a journey of compassion.
May God as hope give us courage to let our light shine.
Amen. May it be so.

The 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 tahithanga
ki te Wairua Tapu. Amine**

Liturgy for this service was sourced from: Worship Words – Uniting Church of Australia, *Roddy Hamilton*, *Listening to the Stones* and Bill Loader
<https://www.billloader.com>

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

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Please join us in the foyer for refreshments following the service.
Thank you to the Conway family for the refreshments.
Thank you Unaisi Kama for the lovely flowers.