



WESLEY WELLINGTON  
**75 Taranaki Street**  
[www.wesleychurch.org.nz](http://www.wesleychurch.org.nz)

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2023**  
**Pentecost 12**

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



**Living God's Love – Acting for the common Good**

**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**  
**20<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

**WELCOME AND SAFETY BRIEFING**

**WORDS OF BEGINNING**

If God is the source of life:

**We worship God by living.**

If God is the source of love:

**We worship God by loving.**

If God is the ground of being:

**We worship God by having the courage to be more fully human;  
The embodiment of the divine.**

May we sense the presentness of God among us,  
and recognise God in each other.

**LIGHTING THE CANDLE (Kānara Whakamāmā)**

We light this candle to remind us of the light of God's love,  
the warmth of God's welcome,  
and our faith in the ever presence of God,

*The candle is lit*

Together we say:

**Welcome to our place,**

**Welcome to worship,**

**Welcome in the name of our living God. Amen.**

**HYMN (Himene) 'We come today to celebrate'**

Words: Stephanie Jenner, 2013 Tune: Amazing Grace.

We come today to celebrate  
the life that Jesus gives,  
and welcome in God's loving grace  
that in the Spirit lives.

The Spirit sanctifies our lives  
and helps our darkest days;  
we hold each other close to You  
with voices joined in praise.

We celebrate diversity,  
as well as common ground,  
and will continue so to do  
while love and peace are found.

For Christ does not discriminate,  
but welcomes one and all;  
so we will seek to do the same,  
responding to God's call.

**OPENING PRAYER (Inoi Tuatahi)**

Amid all the noise in our lives,  
we take this moment to sit in silence:  
to give thanks for another day;  
to give thanks for the gift of life.

*Time for Reflection ('Come and find the quiet centre')*

In God's company and in company with each other,  
we recognise we come with our own needs –

our need for love, for community, for meaning,  
for connection, for grace.

Sometimes these needs lie dormant, hidden – and we are unaware.  
Sometimes these needs catch our every breath,  
and we seek consolation, and relief from the burdens we carry.

*Time for Reflection ('Come and find the quiet centre')*

God in our midst, come close to us,  
as we make space to draw close to you,  
we long to open ourselves to the process of becoming more whole:  
of living more fully;  
of understanding more completely  
the meaning of our lives here on this earth.

*Time for Reflection ('Come and find the quiet centre')*

Friends, come with what you have:  
for you who grieve this day,  
know that you are invited to bring the broken pieces of your heart.  
for you who come with gladness  
know that your melody will find harmony.  
for you weighed down by too many 'should' and 'what-ifs',  
know that here you may lay down the burdens of guilt and shame.  
For you who have the answers,  
Know that new questions await you.  
For you who come seeking,  
Know that your questions are safe in the presence of God.  
**Loved by one another, we discover God's love for us.**  
**Accepting God's love for us, we are called to love one another.**

## INTRODUCTION OF THE THEME

**HYMN (Himene) Let me be kind to you**

Words and Music: Colin Gibson [FFS 40]

**Refrain:** *Let me be kind to you,  
will you be kind to me?  
Then we will live in a world  
where it is good to be,  
for we are held so tenderly  
in God's big hands:  
here is a wink;  
here is a smile;  
here is a wave;  
here is my gift of kindness,  
here is my gift of loving kindness.*

Kindness, God shows us kindness,  
in the sun that lights the day,  
in the friends who like to play;  
kindness, such loving kindness,  
when I snuggle down to sleep,  
all the blankets in a heap.

Kindness, God shows us kindness,  
in the stories I am told  
by my granny who's so old;  
kindness, such loving kindness,  
through a world I may explore,  
always finding more and more.

Kindness, God shows us kindness,  
in the apple on the tree  
in the honey from the bee;  
kindness, such loving kindness,  
in the sparrow's cheerful song,  
in the place where I belong.

Kindness, God shows us kindness,  
through each baby girl and boy,  
in the life that I enjoy;  
kindness, such loving kindness,  
through God's very own dear Son,  
who loves each and every one.

## **MINISTRY OF THE WORD (Ngaa Paanui Karaipiture)**

### **Impossible God**

I saw him  
It was impossible, but I did!  
but when I saw him  
I trusted him.  
It was all I could do  
I couldn't help myself  
I felt pulled out of the boat  
and chose to walk, to walk, to walk...

...to walk, to walk, to walk into hostile territory  
was his choice  
If he was sent for the lost sheep of Israel  
then that was where he should have stayed  
and left his impossible prejudices there with him, with him, with  
him...

...with him, with him, with him it seemed impossibly easy  
and it was, until I realised what I was doing  
then gravity became the guiding principle  
rather than trust  
and all I heard as I got my feet wet was  
'O ye of little faith, little faith, little faith...

...little faith, little faith, little faith is all you need  
to move mountains," he said,

But the mountain of history is as impossible a mountain you'll get  
and tangled up in both our histories  
Jew and Canaanite was prejudice and mistrust  
yet our conversation changed the impossible in the two of us:  
"the dogs eat the crumbs  
and all God's children don't need to do hungry  
for life's good news."  
and he said to me  
"O ye of great faith, great faith, great faith..."

...great faith, great faith, great faith, is found in the smallest things  
in spontaneity, like walking out of the boat

in instinct, like calling help from the stranger

in impulse, like believing in water-walking

in a word, that challenges cultural prejudices

And even though I was the disciple closest to him  
and had journeyed a thousand miles  
and seen impossible things  
maybe I had *seen* too much  
and *believed* too little  
and the one of little faith was me, was me, was me...

...was me, was me, it was me who showed the greatest faith  
who hadn't seen anything,  
but just trusted what I needed to believe  
that my daughter could be healed  
even when culture and religion and purity laws said "No!"  
I fought back with trust  
leading to a healing  
but also the bigger impossibility:  
the breaking open of prejudice

and this was the greater faith, greater faith, greater faith...

...greater faith, greater faith, greater faith comes  
not from what you see is possible with your eyes  
but what you see is impossible with your heart  
when I saw the waves I saw with my eyes  
when I saw Jesus I saw with my heart

when I saw the prejudice I saw with my eyes  
when I saw the crumbs I saw with my heart  
and it beats now, beats now, beats now...

...beats now, beats now, beats now  
with the impossible God,  
impossible God,  
impossible God...

## **REFLECTION** (He Whakaaroaro)

## **HYMN** (Himene) **There's a wideness in God's mercy**

Words: F W Faber *altered by Colin Gibson* Music: Colin Gibson [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.

### **THE OFFERTORY** (Taatou Koha Ki Te Haahi)

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

Let us offer our gifts and lives in this moment.

**Take these gifts of our minds and our hands,**

**They are never enough but we offer them in faith to you.**

**Amen.**

### **COMMUNITY TIME**

*Let us offer the peace to each other saying:*

The peace of God is here to stay.

Notices

Sharing our joys and concerns

### **PRAYER FOR OTHERS** (Ngaa Inoi mo te Whaanau)

#### **LORD'S PRAYER** (He Inoi O Te Ariki)

**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 (Himene) 'We Are many, we are one'**

Words and music: Colin Gibson [FFS 61]

We are many, we are one,  
and the work of Christ is done  
when we learn to live in true community,  
as the stars that fill the night,  
as a flock of birds in flight,  
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;  
as the branches of a tree,  
as the waves upon the sea,  
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

All division is made whole  
when we honour every soul,  
find the life of God in every you and me,  
as the fingers of a hand,  
as the grains that form the sand,  
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;  
as the threads upon a loom,  
as a field of flowers in bloom,  
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

We will join creation's song,  
make a world where all belong,  
build as one in peace and loving harmony,  
    as the voices of a choir,  
    as the flames within a fire,  
    as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;  
    as the snowflakes in the snow,  
    as the colours of a bow,  
    as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

### **PARTING WORDS**

We now extinguish our candle, let us say together:  
**We now embody this light and promise  
to reflect the light of God's love  
in all that we say and do. Amen.**

**Blessing and Grace**

## HOSPITALITY

We extend a warm invitation to everyone to gather in the new hall for refreshments and a time of fellowship

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Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:  
Opening Prayer - Katherine Hawker, posted on *Outside the Box*  
*Contemporary Reading* – Roddy Hamilton, Mucky Paws website.

**Singing the Faith** – We come today to celebrate

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/lectionary/sunday-20-august-2023/>

**NZ Hymn Book Trust**, *Hope is our Song, Faith forever Singing*  
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**Image:** “We are many, we are one”  
Mixed media art piece by Rhonda Swenson.

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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>