

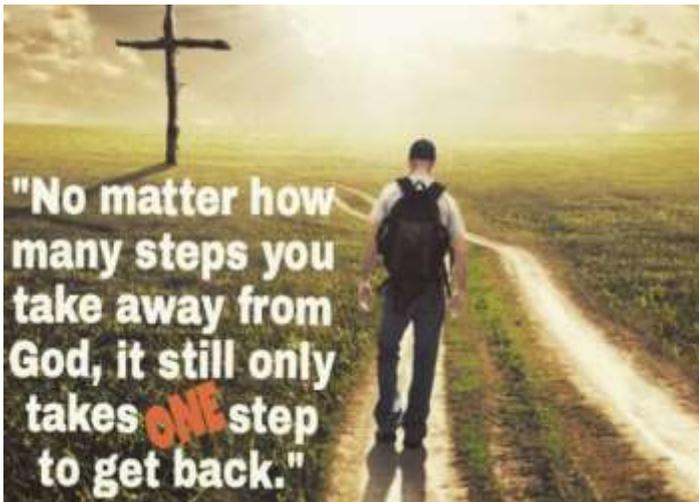


# Wesley Wellington

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

Morning Worship—Lent 5  
Sunday 26 March 2023

Kia ora Koutou Katoa—Talofa Lava  
Malo e lelei—Bula Vinaka  
Greetings to you all!



*Haere  
mai ki  
tenei  
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.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

Leader: *Kula Bower*  
Organist: *Vivien Chiu*

*Welcoming you today is Alan Dine*

**Welcome to today's service.**

*for your information. We hope you enjoy worshipping with us this morning  
and will join us again.*



WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: “The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Jacob”.

**All: God has made a new covenant with us in Christ Jesus.”**

Leader: Yet we have turned away, hardened our hearts and spirits.

All: Lord, help us to change.

Leader: “I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people”.

**All: But we have failed to be God's people. We have chosen our own way.**

Leader: Turn again, says the Lord, through the prophets and through God's own Son.

All: Turn us again to you, O Lord, and awaken our spirits to your love and mercy.

Leader: The journey of Lent continues with a journey of sacrifice.

All: We are called upon to give our lives to God.

Leader: We are called upon to give of ourselves to others.

All: Lord, help us to reach inward in confession and outward in service.  
Be with us this day and walk with us on this journey.

## CANDLE LIGHTING

### Opening Prayer:

Lord, be with us this day as we commit ourselves to being your disciples. Help us to face the future unafraid, trusting in your loving care and presence with us. We **pray this in Jesus' name. AMEN.**

HYMN      To God Be the Glory

H&P 463

1. To God be the glory, great things He has done,  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life in atonement for sin,  
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

### *Refrain:*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,*

*Let the earth hear His voice;*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,*

*Let the people rejoice;*

*Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,*

*And give Him the glory; great things He has done.*

2. Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
To every believer the promise of God;  
And every offender who truly believes,  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

3. Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
But purer, and higher, and greater will be  
Our wonder, our transport when Jesus we see.

## Prayer of Intercession

Dear Heavenly Father, we come to you today as intercessors, standing side by side with our brothers and sisters in Christ who need your help and support. We lift our voices in prayer, asking that you hear our petitions and bring your love and

healing into the lives of those we pray for.

Lord, we pray for those struggling with illness or pain, asking that you bring them comfort and healing. We pray for those facing difficult circumstances, requesting that you give them strength and guidance. We pray for those dealing with mental health challenges, asking that you bring them peace and clarity of mind.

Father, we also pray for our leaders and those in positions of authority, asking that you grant them wisdom, discernment, and courage as they make decisions that affect the lives of others. We pray for our communities and the world, asking that you bring peace, justice, and reconciliation to those who are hurting and oppressed.

Lord, we know that you are a God of love and compassion, and we trust in your power and goodness to bring about healing and restoration in the lives of those we are praying for.

Help us to be faithful intercessors, standing close to one another in your presence and lifting our prayers.

We pray all these things in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, who taught us to love one another and pray for those in need. Amen.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

*Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name*

*Your kingdom come,*

*your will be done on earth as in heaven.*

*Give us today our daily bread.*

*Forgive us our sins*

*as we forgive those who sin against us.*

*Save us from the time of trial*

*and deliver us from evil,*

*For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours*

*now and forever. Amen.*

## CHILDRENS TIME

HYMN     **'Love Divine**

H&P 267

1. Love Divine, all love excelling,  
Joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion;  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,

Enter every trembling heart.

2. Come, Almighty, to deliver,  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Never more Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.

3. Finish, then, Thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee;  
Changed from glory into glory  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love and praise.

## NOTICES

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

From your hands, O God, come the blessings that make life possible, even the very gift of life itself. In gratitude and thanks, receive from our hands this portion of our labors.

**By your Spirit's leading, may we use these gifts to bless the life of others** with the assurance of love, the promise of hope, and the course of justice. This we do to your glory. Amen.

READING: Ezekiel 37: 1—14

The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me to and from among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. **He asked me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?'** **I said, 'Sovereign Lord, you alone know.'** **Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones and say to them, "Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you**

will know that I am the **Lord.**” So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, **‘Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, “This is what the Sovereign Lord says: come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.”**” So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet – a vast army. Then he said to me: **‘Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, “Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.”** Therefore prophesy and say to them: **“This is what the Sovereign Lord says: my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.”**”

Pastoral Prayer:

You know us too well, Lord. You know that we would like the ways of discipleship to be easy; to have the paths laid out in a neat line with the future clearly visible at all times. But part of our journey is obscured by our own greed and fear. You do not block the way to hope and peace. Our own fears provide the barriers; and far too often those barriers take the forms of alienation and prejudice. Write your words on our hearts, Merciful God. Plant your transforming love in our spirits. Give us courage. As we have gathered this day to bring before you our concerns, our joys and our sorrows, give us hearts of peace and confidence in your all-sustaining presence. Help us to set our feet on this pathway toward the cross and beyond. AMEN.

HYMN      Blessed Assurance

WOV 65 (ii)

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

*Refrain:*

*This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Saviour all the day long.  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Saviour all the day long.*

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,    6

Visions of rapture burst on my sight;  
Angels descending, bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Saviour am happy and blest;  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

REFLECTION            Taking steps towards the cross

Prayer of Confession:

Compassionate Lord, forgive us when we falter on this Lenten pathway; when the road ahead seems too uncertain and we are afraid. We admit that following Jesus is not an easy task. Jesus requires us to be willing to make the ultimate commitment of our whole lives and we hesitate and hold back. Draw us back to you, Lord. Give us confidence and courage to face the future with hope. Let us place our trust in you that the message of peace and mercy you have given to us through Jesus Christ may be offered to others through our own witness to your **healing mercy. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.**

HYMN            Here I am Lord

H&P 668

1.     I the Lord of sea and sky  
       I have heard my people cry  
       All who dwell in dark and sin  
       My hand will save.  
       I who made the stars of night  
       I will make their darkness bright  
       Who will bear my light to them?  
       Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

       Here I am Lord, is it I Lord?  
       I have heard you calling in the night  
       I will go Lord, if you lead me,  
       I will hold your people in my heart.

2.     I, the Lord of snow and rain  
       I have borne my people's pain  
       I have wept for love of them  
       They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone  
Give them hearts for love alone  
I will speak my words to them  
Whom shall I send?

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame  
I will tend the poor and lame  
I will set a feast for them  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
'Til their hearts be satisfied  
I will give my life to them  
Whom shall I send?

## EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE

### BENEDICTION

Fix your eyes on the Lord. Place your hand in His Hand, trusting in his guiding and comfort. Go into this world, that needs so much the words of healing love, **and bring the good news of God's absolute love and presence to all people.** Go in peace.

*The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen*



*Please join us for refreshments in the New Hall after this service.  
Thank you to the Tevita family for the refreshments*

Prayer of Intercession:  
[prayray.com/intercessory-prayer](http://prayray.com/intercessory-prayer)  
Offering Prayer:

<https://www.lords-prayer-words.com>

Prayer of confession:  
[www.ministrymatters.com](http://www.ministrymatters.com)

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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>