



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

Sunday 5th February 2023
Waitangi Day – Covenant Service

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
5th February 2023 – Epiphany 5

Welcome to today's service. A special welcome to all visitors. Your presence enriches our gathering and contributes to the creative evolution of community.

Prior to the service beginning the Tongan young people will
Lead us our Praise in Worship

WELCOME AND SAFETY BRIEFING - Daphne Pilaar (10am Parish Steward)

GATHERING – Rev Nicola Teague Grundy

INTROIT Fijian Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP & CANDLE LIGHTING

Leader: Eternal God, you have broken into our darkness

People: **Giving us light for our path and a lamp for our way**

Leader: Eternal God, you have entered our history

People: **Giving us Jesus Christ, the light of the world.**

Leader: Eternal God, your Spirit leads us on

People: **Giving us light for this year's journey. Amen.**

The candle is lit

HYMN 'Christ with us (Kauri, Flax and Rata Trees)

Kauri, flax and rata trees,
ferns with koru, signs are these
of new life; the Christ has come,
under Southern Cross, warm sun.

Refrain:

*Christ our Lord be born anew,
shape our lives in all we do.
In this South Pacific land
Let your peace and justice stand.*

2. Land of lakes, and rushing streams,
Snow-capped mountains, deep ravines,
Teach us all Lord Christ to be
Stewards of this rich beauty.

3. In this highly favoured place,
Make us clear signs of your grace,
Break down walls of selfish greed,
Justice bring to all in need.

Words: © Norman Brookes. Tune: Humility (H&P 117)

PRAYER OF PRAISE:

Leader: We have come by many different journeys to this land of Aotearoa. We live under the same sky, breathe the same air and walk on the same earth. In thankfulness we offer our prayer of thanksgiving.

Let us pray:

We praise you Creator God for creation, for the world you have made, and the gift of life to each person and all your creation.

People: We thank you for this land of Aotearoa, our home.

Leader: We thank you for Rangi and Papa, for whenua and moana, for maunga and mania, for roto and awa, for ngahere and mana, for the islands of Te Ika a Maui, and Te Waipounamu. For all that makes living here so distinctive and enriching.

People: We thank you O God, for this land, our home.

Leader: We give thanks for such mountains and outcrops as Rangituhi, and kaukau, which remind us there is solid ground on which we can stand as your people, for such rivers as Te Awa Kairangi, and Waiorongomai, that remind us that there is continuing refreshment to sustain us; for harbours as Te Whanganui-a-Tara where there is comparatively safe anchorage to protect us from the storms of life; for kereru and korimako, for kiwi, tui and birds, that remind us of the colour and song that enrich life with you; for kauri and totara, for rimu, tawai and all the trees of the forest that remind us that, as your people, we may stand proud and tall.

People: We thank you O God, for this land, our home.

Leader: We praise you that you created people, nga iwi, to enjoy creation. Especially we thank you for your revelation and purpose in Jesus the Christ.

People: We thank you for Jesus, life-giver and liberator.

Leader: We thank you for every servant who has revealed Jesus. We thank you for all prophets and apostles, all preachers and doers of the Word, who through the ages have made him known. Especially we give thanks for John and Charles Wesley and other Tupuna in the faith, and for all who have worked to reveal Jesus Christ in Aotearoa.

People: We thank you for those who have gone before us, especially those who have laboured so selflessly in the Poneke region.

Leader: All are an inspiration and encouragement to us. Keep their example alive in us, that we too may share in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ in this District.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Creator God, you have given us this rich land of Aotearoa.

All: Ours is a land rich in resources. We have the fruits of Mother Earth, of the forests, the seas, the works of your Creation. Yet we have not respected these Taonga. We have frequently desecrated the earth, the forests, the seas. We seek your forgiveness. Ours is a whenua rich in people and cultures. Yet so often we deny our own culture and denigrate that of others. All too readily we set ourselves against each other.

We seek your forgiveness.

You are a God who through Jesus Christ seeks to liberate all people in this land. Yet so often we separate ourselves from you and deny ourselves the presence of the Holy Spirit. We are the poorer. We seek your forgiveness.

Leader: In the name of God the Creator, Jesus Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit, the Sustainer, I declare that our sins are forgiven.

People: We are freed for a new beginning. Thanks be to God. Amen.

THE 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.

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME

COMMISSIONING **Sokopeti Sina** (Ministry Student to Wellington
Methodist Parish)

Sokopeti comes forward

Leader: It is with joy and in hope, we welcome Sokopeti to come and share in our lives, committing ourselves to her, wanting to learn from and with her, to become the people God wants us to be.

Sokopeti, you have been placed in this parish as part of your training towards ordination in the Methodist Church of New Zealand, Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa.

During this year you will work with the Ministry Team, you will lead in worship, preach the Gospel of Christ. You are called to encourage by word and action, to reflect constantly, and share your reflections. You are called to care for the people and to serve them in witness to the world.

Do you accept this placement as being God's call to you?

Sokopeti: I do.

I will equip myself for this ministry placement through prayer, study and reading of the Bible. By God's grace, I will preach the Word of God, I will love and serve these people.

Leader: Members of this parish, do you agree to welcome Sokopeti, into the life of this parish, supporting her and encouraging her in her ministry with us.

All: We do. We promise her our prayers, our loving support and our lively participation in ministry.

Leader: As Superintendent of the Lower North Island Synod, and with the endorsement of the Principal of Trinity Theological College, I commission you Sokopeti to work in this parish, alongside the Ministry team for 2023. I pledge to you our prayers, encouragement and support.

May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you as you continue your journey towards ordination in Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa.

10am SINGING GROUP – Travellin’ shoes

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Jeremiah 31: 31-34 *[The Message]*

Tongans

That’s right. The time is coming when I will make a brand-new covenant with Israel and Judah. It won’t be a repeat of the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took their hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant even though I did my part as their Master.” GOD’s Decree.

³³⁻³⁴ “This is the brand-new covenant that I will make with Israel when the time comes. I will put my law within them—write it on their hearts!—and be their God. And they will be my people. They will no longer go around setting up schools to teach each other about GOD. They’ll know me firsthand, the dull and the bright, the smart and the slow. I’ll wipe the slate clean for each of them. I’ll forget they ever sinned!” GOD’s Decree.

John 15: 1-8 *[The Message]*

Fijians

I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn’t bear grapes. And every branch

that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken.
4 “Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can’t bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can’t bear fruit unless you are joined with me.

5-8 “I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you’re joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can’t produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.

ANTHEM - Tongan Choir

REFLECTION – Rev Nicola Teague Grundy

HYMN Where mountains rise to open skies

Words: Shirley Murray; Music: Vernon Griffiths

Where mountains rise to open skies
Your name, O God, is echoed far,
from island beach to kauri’s reach,
in water’s light, in lake and star.

Your people’s heart, your people’s part
be in our caring for this land,
for faith to flower, for aroha
to let each other’s mana stand.

From broken word, from conflict stirred,
from lack of vision, set us free
to see the line of your design,
to feel creation's energy.

Your love be known, compassion shown,
that every child have equal scope:
in justice done, in trust begun
shall be our heritage and hope.

Where mountains rise to open skies
your way of peace distil the air,
your spirit bind all humankind,
one covenant of life to share!

COVENANT – Rev Simote Taunga

Leader: God forged a Covenant, through the death and resurrection of
Jesus Christ, with all who trust in Christ.

Today, we who bear Christ's name, renew that Covenant.

On one hand, God promises to give us new life in Christ;
On the other, we agree to live not for ourselves but for God.
In renewing this Covenant, we agree that God will direct our
lives individually and together as church.

God might call us to that which is easy, or difficult; that which
brings honour, or criticism; that which suits our natural abilities
and interests, or to that which suits neither.
In some we may please Christ and ourselves;
In others we cannot please Christ unless we deny ourselves.
Yet the power to do all this is given to us in Christ who
strengthens us.

Loving and holy God, with joy we willingly seek to obey you and
commit ourselves to seek and do your perfect will.
We are no longer our own, but yours.

All: I am no longer my own but yours.
Your will, not mine, be done in all things,
wherever I have work to do and when I have none;
when I am troubled and when I am at peace.
Your will be done when I am valued and when I am
disregarded;
when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking;
when I have everything, and when I have nothing.
I willingly offer all I have and am to serve you,
as and where you choose.
Glorious and blessed God, you are mine and I am yours.
May it always be so.
Let this covenant now renewed on earth be fulfilled in heaven.
Amen.

COVENANT OF CONTINUING

Leader: We express our continuing commitment to all people and all
places in our prayers of intercession ...

That there may be more love on earth God,
we ask you to help people to be more understanding
and friendlier to one another
and to share more readily with those in need:

People: **Happy are we who have work to do, come and help us serve
the Lord.**

That there may be greater justice on earth,
help our government and public officials
to make room in their priorities and budgets
for the socially deprived and those living on the margins:

People: **Happy are we who have work to do, come and help us serve
the Lord.**

That there may be more peace on earth God,
help all nations to put an end to words of hatred
and threats of revenge:

People: **Happy are we who have work to do, come and help us serve the Lord.**

That there may be more joy on earth,
help all of us who follow your Son
to show sympathy and affection to one another,
to be faithful in our friendships
and concerned about our communities:

People: **Happy are we who have work to do, come and help us serve the Lord.**

Lord God, we pray that your light may shine on all the earth.
However limited we are, let our words and actions
reflect the light of your love,
in the name of Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERING

Leader: We make our love visible through the giving of our offerings.
Our offering is a sign of our confidence in the ministry we share.
It's a sign of our gratitude for the blessing we have received and
our heartfelt intent to pay forward those blessings as we are
able.

All: **We offer our whole lives to you, O God. Accept these our gifts today that they might support the discipleship and discovery of this congregation. We pray in the name of the one we follow, Jesus. Amen.**

MINISTRY OF THE SACRAMENT *(Please stand)*

Leader: The spirit is here

People: **God's hope is in us**

Leader: Lift up your hearts

People: **We lift them up to God**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the God of peace

People: **It is right to offer thanks and praise**

Leader: Here today, through bread and wine,
we renew our journey with Jesus and his disciples.
We renew our unity with one another,
and with all those who have gone before us.
We renew our communion with the Earth and
our inter-wovenness with the broken ones of the world.

We take bread,
symbol of labour, symbol of life.
We will break the bread because Christ, the source of life, was
broken for the excluded, exploited, and downtrodden.

We take wine,
symbol of blood, spilt in war and conflict,
symbol too of new life.
We will drink the wine because Christ, the peace of the world,
overcomes violence.

Now bread and wine are before us,
the memory of our meals,
our working, our talking;
the story that shapes us;
the grieving and the pain,
the oppressor who lies deep in our own soul,
the seeking and the loving.
And we give thanks for all that holds us together.

Therefore, with the disciples, and with all the faithful
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
forever praising you and saying:

**People: Holy, Holy, Holy one,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the power of love.

Hosanna in the highest.

(Please be seated.)

Leader: On the night before he died, Jesus took bread;
when he had given thanks,
he broke it, gave it to his disciples and said:
*Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;
do this to remember me.*

(Break the bread saying)

The bread of life, broken for you.

After supper he took the cup;

when he had given thanks,

he gave it to them and said:

*Drink this all of you, for this is my blood which brings new life;
Do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.*

(Pour the wine saying)

The cup of blessing, poured out for you.

We celebrate this meal

– a meal of faith and hope, God’s love, shared among us.

Spirit of God you are here. Come to us afresh.

May the bread that we eat bind us across the world with
those who cannot.

May the wine we drink fortify our resolve to share with
those who have not.

May the power of love move us to work with
those who know it not

May the justice of Jesus become a reality
that all people can eat, drink and be sustained by.

May that reality come,
and may we be part of its coming.

(Silence...)

These are the gifts Jesus Christ gave us.
Let us partake in them.
The gifts of God, for the people of God.

Please, let us share, for all is now ready.

(All are welcome to receive Communion. The Samoan Choir will sing during communion and so will come to the table first.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Leader: Filled with a spirit that calls us and the entire world beyond what we ever thought was possible, we leave this table strengthened with food for the journey and a vision of life as it can be; one diverse family living in justice and peace.

HYMN Take my life and let it be

English

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Samoan

O outou o tigaina
Tepa tonu ia Iesu;
Lona alofa tele lava
E maua ai le filemu.

Tongan

Sisu, ke ke ma'u ma'au
'Eku ngaahi mea kotoa;
Taleniti, ngaahi ta'u
Fanau, fale, mo e koloa.

English

Take my silver and my gold
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as thou shalt choose.

Fijian

Na ligaqu na Kalou
Mo Ni taura tu oqo
Me'u sa ogataka ga
Ka ni bula vou ko ya.

English

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At thy feet its treasure-store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for thee.

PARTING WORDS

Leader: As people of faith we have gathered for worship.

People: **As people of faith we now return to the world.**

Leader: Go out to share the story of faith,
the story of life, with the world around you.

People: **We share the faith in word and in deed,
in speech and in action.**

Leader: As you go out to give a living witness,
as you go out to testify to God's love active in the world,

go knowing that God goes with you,
sharing the laughter and the hope, the fears and the tears.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Ma te Marie (Sung unaccompanied)

Ma te marie a te Atua
Tatou katoa e tiaki;
Mana ano e whakau
O tatou ngakau ki te pai

Ma te Atua Tamaiti ra
Ma te Wairua Tapu hoki
Ratou, Atua Kotahi nei.
Tatou katoa e whakapai.
Amine.

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Shutterstock Image 1942544509 –
Illustration of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, in 1840

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