



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

Sunday 8th January 2023
BAPTISM OF JESUS

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
8TH January 2023 – Baptism of Jesus

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

WELCOME AND SAFETY BRIEFING – Sarah Laurenson

GATHERING

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE –

The candle is lit

God calls us to be witnesses to the light;

Light of new insight.

Light to overcome shadows and despair.

Light of hope.

Light of promise.

May this candle and the light it produces be a symbol and sign of all these things.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, people of God!

We come, called by God to be witnesses to the Light.

With John the Baptizer,

With all the disciples,

With our sisters, brothers, and siblings throughout the ages,

We gather to sing, to pray, to worship our God!

Alleluia!

Alleluia, amen!

HYMN Sing a Happy alleluia! [AA 118]

Sing a happy alleluia!
Sing it out with heart and style,
we're the echo of God's laughter
we're the image of God's smile.

*Alleluia, all creation,
alleluia everyone,
alleluia, all creation,
alleluia everyone!*

We're the proof of God's good humour,
we're the twinkle in God's eye,
made to shine, reflect the glory,
given light and space to fly –

Sarah laughed at God's good timing,
Mary sang and David danced,
Jesus smiled and hugged the children –
So is life for us enhanced.

Every day sing alleluia!
we are loved, though so absurd,
human, foolish, chosen people,
God still takes us at our word!

Words © Shirley Murray
Music © Colin Gibson

OPENING PRAYER

In the noise of ideologies and agendas,
you gently whisper, O God;
In the cacophony of rhetoric and propaganda,
you gently whisper, O God;
In the madness of war, the chaos of power-games;
the crying of grief, the discordance of disease,
the crowding of poverty, the empty echo of wealthy isolation,
you whisper your words of love

to every broken heart,
you breathe your call of justice
to every heartless tyrant.
And we who have heard the gentle rhythm of your voice,
praise you for your quiet proclamation of grace,
and thank you for your gentle presence among us;
even as we offer ourselves to be quiet voices and muted lives
proclaiming in every moment
your whispers of love and justice.

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME – Give me a word

HYMN: Womb of Life [Tune: ‘Ode of Joy”]

Womb of life, and source of being,
home of every restless heart,
in your arms the worlds awakened;
you have loved us from the start.
We your children, gather ‘round you,
at the table you prepare.
Sharing stories, tears and laughter,
we are nurtured by your care.

Word in flesh, our brother Jesus,
born to give us second birth,
you have come to stand beside us,
knowing weakness, knowing earth.
Priest who shares our human struggles,
Life of Life and Death of Death,
Risen Christ, come stand among us,
send the Spirit by your breath.

Brooding Spirit, move among us;
be our partner, be our friend.
When our memory fails remind us
whose we are, what we intend.

Labour with us, aid the birthing
of the new world yet to be,
free of servant, lord and master,
free for love and unity.

Mother, Brother, holy Partner:
Father, Spirit, blessed Son:
We would praise your name forever,
one in three, and three in one.
We would share your life, your passion,
share your word of world made new,
ever singing, ever praising,
one with all, and one with you.

Words © Ruth Duck

MINISTRY OF THE WORD – Joy Grove

Isaiah 42: 1-9 [The Message]

¹⁻⁴ “Take a good look at my servant.
I’m backing him to the hilt.
He’s the one I chose,
and I couldn’t be more pleased with him.
I’ve bathed him with my Spirit, my *life*.
He’ll set everything right among the nations.
He won’t call attention to what he does
with loud speeches or gaudy parades.
He won’t brush aside the bruised and the hurt
and he won’t disregard the small and insignificant,
but he’ll steadily and firmly set things right.
He won’t tire out and quit. He won’t be stopped
until he’s finished his work—to set things right on earth.
Far-flung ocean islands
wait expectantly for his teaching.”

⁵⁻⁹ God’s Message,
the God who created the cosmos, stretched out the skies,

laid out the earth and all that grows from it,
Who breathes life into earth's people,
makes them alive with his own life:
"I am GOD. I have called you to live right and well.
I have taken responsibility for you, kept you safe.
I have set you among my people to bind them to me,
and provided you as a lighthouse to the nations,
To make a start at bringing people into the open, into light:
opening blind eyes,
releasing prisoners from dungeons,
emptying the dark prisons.
I am GOD. That's my name.
I don't franchise my glory,
don't endorse the no-god idols.
Take note: The earlier predictions of judgment have been fulfilled.
I'm announcing the new salvation work.
Before it bursts on the scene,
I'm telling you all about it."

POEM - Based on Matthew 3: 13-17

He takes the light that dances on the flowing surface of the water.
He takes the dancing water that is filled with the flowing light.
He has waded into the river that is umbilical with life.
He is waist deep in the life that flows umbilical through the river.
He stands with the man whose words are pitchers of grace and light.
Stands with the man whose grace is like life, like a flowing river.
He fills his pitcher with the water, with the light, with the flow of life.
He pours it over the man waist deep with him in the water.

Grace descends, glittering, like wings unfurling in the air.
The air shimmers, it dances with sound, sounds of the river
flowing, the water pouring, the men breathing; the light glittering,
grace flooding, the wings beating, words surfacing: God's son.

He hears, he sees, he is soaked in the sound and the light and the
water.

He rejoices in the gift of it, he rejoices in the grace, in the one
who is standing there with him in the water.

For he knows that all of it is goodness.
That all is a new beginning.
That all of it is part of God's river.

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REFLECTION

HYMN 'Down by the Jordan'

Down by the Jordan, a prophet named John was baptizing,
Preaching a message the people found bold and surprising:
"God will forgive! Show that you'll change how you live!
Surely God's new day is rising!"

There by the river, the crowd came with great expectation:
"Are you God's Chosen One, sent here to rescue our nation?"
"No!" John replied. "He who is mightier than I
Judges and offers salvation."

Jesus, you went to be baptized along with the others,
Taking your place among sinners, God's lost sons and daughters.
Then with great love, God's Spirit came as a dove!
Your work began in those waters.

Here in the Church, we are baptized and filled with God's Spirit.
Freed and forgiven, we're welcomed with joy! Can you hear it?
This is God's sign! This is how God says, "You're mine!"
Let's take the good news and share it!

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
Tune: Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty [H&P16]

OFFERING AND DEDICATION

We acknowledge contributions for the work of DCM Foodbank and offerings made by automatic payment and on-line banking.

O God, in baptism you claim us as your own. We are a visible symbol of your ever-present love, a love that we remember and give thanks for this day. We now give you symbols to represent our love. May the food, the money and time we offer show our devotion and thanks to you. In Jesus' name we pray. 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 our joys and concerns

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Friends, like raindrops running across stones, finding their way down toward the shore, racing through awa, flowing into te moana and penetrating deep into the earth, our prayers run together, returning to their source.

God receives our prayers, like parched earth soaking up cool rains, desperate to taste the trust and vulnerability of us as tamariki.

God welcomes us with the tugging of love's tidal pull.

In this knowledge, let us hold silence so that together in this silence, we can unburden ourselves, praying to the one who has claimed us as their own. Let us hold silence together.

A time of silent prayer.

All these prayers, O God, we release to you, all our joys and fears, all our prayers for ourselves, and all our prayers for others and our world. May your mercy and peace be on us. May your mercy and peace be upon the world. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**E tō mātou Matua i te rangi
Kia tapu tōu Ingoa.
Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.
Kia meatia tāu e pai ai
ki runga ki te whenua,
kia rite anō ki to te rangi.
Homai ki a mātou āiane
he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.
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 whakawaia;
Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:
Nou hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha,
me te kōroria,
Ake ake ake.
Āmine.**

HYMN 'God of our Everyday' [AA52]

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.

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.

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

PARTING WORDS

The candle is extinguished

Blessing

Grace (we say the grace 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**

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Liturgy for this service was sourced from:

Sacredise – Liturgical resources @ <https://sacredise.com/>

United Church of Canada, *Gathering*

Janice MacLean, *Prayer Bench*, adapted, <https://takingflight.kererupublishing.com/>

Andrew King, *John Baptizes Jesus*, A Poetic Kind of Place, Lectionary weblog,

<https://earth2earth.wordpress.com/>

"Womb of Life". Ruth Duck. From the book "Circles of Care: Hymns and Songs"

Pilgrim Press.

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, *Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbour*, Upper Room Books, 2009, bcgillette@comcast.net, www.carolynshymns.com

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Or the 10am Facebook Page to keep up-to-date with services and news:

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