



Wesley Methodist Church

75 Taranaki Street
Wellington

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 17 November 2024

Pentecost 26

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



“Looking Forward With Hope”

Living God’s Love – Acting for the Common Good

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
Sunday 17 November 2024
Pentecost 26**

Leader: Philip Garside Organ: Vivien Chiu

Welcome & Introduction

Call to Worship

As the strengthening sun
rises above breaking cloud
and floods the whenua
with spring light;
**As tūi and korimako
feast on the sweet nectar
of kōwhai and kākābeak blooms;**

Draw us into your light, O God,
that we might drink deeply
from your living waters,
**and gather honey out of your rock,
that we might be strengthened
to live regeneratively
within your living Earth.**

Lighting the Candle

We light this candle to begin our worship.

**This candle is the light in the window
reminding us that God will always welcome us home,
no matter what has happened
or what we have done or left undone.**

**As we come and worship we are reminded of that vital promise.
We come, knowing that God is here to welcome us.**

Opening Prayer: A Prayer of Celebration

Creator God,
in this most blessed of seasons
it is a joy to gather again
to celebrate your presence in our lives.

**As the trees push out new shoots,
and buds turn to blossom
we too emerge from a time of withdrawal
and turning in.**

As we come to chapel again this morning
it feels like tentative new beginnings,
but may our re-emergence
bring new blossom, new growth and new life.

**As we celebrate the breath-taking diversity of your creation
and the blessing that other creatures bring to our lives
deepen our sense of belonging in your great circle of blessing,
and strengthen our commitment to sharing that blessing with others.**

In this sacred time together may we find fresh inspiration
from deep time like the tuatara,
and from present time like a new-born pāpango duckling.

**Eternal God, ever old and ever new.
Renew us now in the beauty of your love,
now and always. Amen**

Hymn: Great is Thy Faithfulness H&P 66 (Adapted)

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God eternal,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand has provided –
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Prayer of Approach: A Prayer for our Humanity

O God, open our hearts, to your hurting creation,
help us to grieve the damage being done
to our living Earth.

Give us tears, give us voices to cry out
with all who suffer in your creation.
Help us to weep as Jesus wept over Jerusalem.

Save us from numbness and denial.

Liberator, free us from the voices from without,
that have become the voices within,
that seek to distract us from reality,
and distance us from each other,
and all in the community of life;
those voices that draw us to triviality
and away from deep knowing;
voices that try to convince us
that what we feel is an overreaction.

Save us from numbness and denial.

God of our ancestors,
rekindle within us
the lamentation of Jeremiah,
the anger of Amos,
the defiance of Shiphrah and Puah,
the love of Mary Magdalene.

Save us from numbness and denial.

Healing One, in the face of hard truths
restore in us our emotions,
the ability you have instilled in us
to feel and to empathise,
to be compassionate,
to live in community,
our sense of connection with all life,
our very humanity.

Make us whole again. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hear now words of assurance:

Friends of God, God is with us,
God is within us.

We need only quieten our minds
to know the presence
and the forgiveness of God.

In this and in every moment

We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Introducing the theme

Hymn: Every Day AA 36

Words: Shirley Erena Murray. Music: Colin Gibson.

1. Every day I will offer you,
loving God, my heart and mind,
every way I discover you
in the work your hand has signed;
help me see I'm your image, and
you have dreamed what I might be,
every day in your Spirit,
I'll find the love and energy!
2. Every day I will look to Christ,
and give thanks for wine and bread
through the pain and the emptiness
where your world cries to be fed;
help me see I can work for change,
and wherever I might be,
every day in your Spirit,
I'll find the love and energy!
3. Every day I will take your word,
answer your compassion's claim,
celebrate every sign of hope,
every deed done in your name;
help me see you are always there,
and your light can shine through me,
every day in your Spirit,
I'll find the love and energy!

Bible Readings

1 Samuel 1:4-20 (The Message)

Every year this man went from his hometown up to Shiloh to worship and offer a sacrifice to God-of-the-Angel-Armies. Eli and his two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, served as the priests of God there. When Elkanah sacrificed, he passed helpings from the sacrificial meal around to his wife Peninnah and all her children, but he always gave an especially generous helping to Hannah because he loved her so much, and because God had not given her children. But her rival wife taunted her cruelly, rubbing it in and never letting her

forget that God had not given her children. This went on year after year. Every time she went to the sanctuary of God she could expect to be taunted. Hannah was reduced to tears and had no appetite.

Her husband Elkanah said, “Oh, Hannah, why are you crying? Why aren’t you eating? And why are you so upset? Am I not of more worth to you than ten sons?”

So Hannah ate. Then she pulled herself together, slipped away quietly, and entered the sanctuary. The priest Eli was on duty at the entrance to God’s Temple in the customary seat. Crushed in soul, Hannah prayed to God and cried and cried—inconsolably. Then she made a vow:

Oh, God-of-the-Angel-Armies,
If you’ll take a good, hard look at my pain,
If you’ll quit neglecting me and go into action for me
By giving me a son,
I’ll give him completely, unreservedly to you.
I’ll set him apart for a life of holy discipline.

It so happened that as she continued in prayer before God, Eli was watching her closely. Hannah was praying in her heart, silently. Her lips moved, but no sound was heard. Eli jumped to the conclusion that she was drunk. He approached her and said, “You’re drunk! How long do you plan to keep this up? Sober up, woman!”

Hannah said, “Oh no, sir—please! I’m a woman brokenhearted. I haven’t been drinking. Not a drop of wine or beer. The only thing I’ve been pouring out is my heart, pouring it out to God. Don’t for a minute think I’m a bad woman. It’s because I’m so desperately unhappy and in such pain that I’ve stayed here so long.”

Eli answered her, “Go in peace. And may the God of Israel give you what you have asked of him.”

“Think well of me—and pray for me!” she said and went her way. Then she ate heartily, her face radiant.

Up before dawn, they worshiped God and returned home to Ramah. Elkanah slept with Hannah his wife, and God began making the necessary arrangements in response to what she had asked.

Dedicating the Child to God

Before the year was out, Hannah had conceived and given birth to a son. She named him Samuel, explaining, “I asked God for him.”

Mark 13:1-8 (The Message)

Doomsday Deceivers

As he walked away from the Temple, one of his disciples said, “Teacher, look at that stonework! Those buildings!”

Jesus said, “You’re impressed by this grandiose architecture? There’s not a stone in the whole works that is not going to end up in a heap of rubble.”

Later, as he was sitting on Mount Olives in full view of the Temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew got him off by himself and asked, “Tell us, when is this going to happen? What sign will we get that things are coming to a head?”

Jesus began, “Watch out for doomsday deceivers. Many leaders are going to show up with forged identities claiming, ‘I’m the One.’ They will deceive a lot of people. When you hear of wars and rumoured wars, keep your head and don’t panic. This is routine history, and no sign of the end. Nation will fight nation and ruler fight ruler, over and over. Earthquakes will occur in various places. There will be famines. But these things are nothing compared to what’s coming.

Sermon: Looking Forward With Hope

Hymn: There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

Text: Frederick William Faber (1814-63). Music: Jonathan Berkahn.

Refrain

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There’s a kindness in His justice,
Which is more than liberty.

1. There is welcome for the sinner,
And more graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Saviour;
There is healing in His blood;
There is nowhere that our sorrows
Are more felt than up in Heaven;
There is nowhere that our failings
Have such kindly judgment given.
2. But we make His love too narrow
By false limits of our own;
And we lose the tender Shepherd
in the judge upon the throne;
For the love of God is broader
Than the measure of our mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.

Community Time

Sharing the Peace

Let's greet each other saying: **"God's peace be with you."**

Notices

Sharing Joys, Things we are Grateful for, Sorrows & Concerns

Prayers of Intercession

To the bidding *"...in your mercy,"* would you please respond
"hear our prayer."

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.

Offering

(We also acknowledge offerings made by automatic payment and online banking)

Blessing of Offering (said together)

God of all life, may the money we give here,
the energy and time we give in all of our lives
be a sign to us that you are with us,
that you are in us and that you want to love through us.
In the name of Christ,
who is your great gift to all the world at all times. Amen.

Hymn: O God Each Day You Bless Us.

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (2004). Tune: Ellacombe

1. O God, each day you bless us with gifts of your shalom:
 You give us peace and justice, you welcome lost ones home.
 You care for your creation and set your people free;
 You offer us salvation and build community.
2. You make us sons and daughters – baptised and reconciled!
 You show us: Each peacemaker is blest as your own child.
 You fill us at your table with strength for each new day;
 Then Spirit-filled we're able to live your peaceful way.

3. We'll worship, pray and study, to learn new skills for peace;
We'll work as one strong body so justice will increase.
We'll build new global friendships, seek peace in every land,
Protect the earth you gave us and give with outstretched hand.
4. You give your church a vision, a way of life, a prayer:
Your will is done in heaven; now bring in your reign here!
And when we wonder, grieving, at what the nations do,
God, may we work, believing there's hope in serving you.

Blessing

May the peace of first light
on Maunga Hikurangi, be ours
May the peace of a still alpine tarn
high above the bushline, be ours
May the peace of a mountain daisy
pushing through snow, be ours
May the peace of the silent mountains
where Jesus felt close to God, be ours,
now and always, Amen.

The Grace

**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**

Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:
Season of Creation 2024 resource by Rev Mark Gibson, Te Hāhi Weteriana o
Aotearoa / The Methodist Church of NZ;
Let Us Pray, Janet Nelson, HarperCollins 1999;
Words for Worship Oct-Dec 2024, MediaCom, Aust.

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To keep up-to-date with services and news, visit the parish website:

<https://wesleychurch.org.nz/>

And the 10am Congregation's Facebook Page:

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