



WESLEY WELLINGTON

75 Taranaki Street

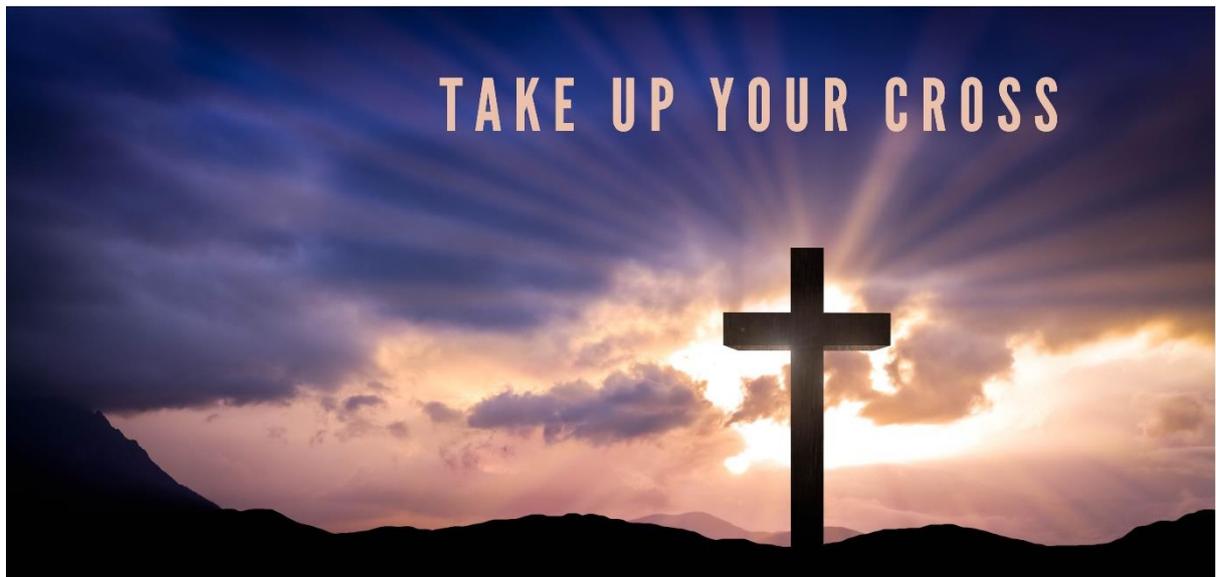
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

25th Hui-tanguru/February 2024

Te Rātapu tuarua o Rēneti

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
Sunday 25th Hui-tanguru / February
Te Rātapu tuarua o Rēneti
Worship Leader: Nicola Teague Grundy
Organist: Vivien Chiu

SAFETY BRIEFING

GATHERING / Emi mai ki taua karakia

LIGHTING THE CANDLE / Kānara Whakamāmā

In times of struggle,

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

In times of wonder,

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

In times of anxious anticipation,

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

In this time and place, here and now,
and in all the days of our lives

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

As we continue to journey toward the cross, let the light of this Christ candle remind us of who we are and whose we are: struggling, wondering, and anxiously anticipating people of the Way.

The candle is lit.

WORDS FOR BEGINNING / Ngā Kupu Whakapuare

There is a time for everything in creation:

- (M) **A time for light and a time for darkness,**
- (W) A time for sound and a time for silence,
- (M) **A time for action and a time for reflection**
- (W) A time for others and a time for oneself.

But all these are God's time
And now is the time to be aware.

From the earth we have come
By its fruits we live.
This earth is our home.

We celebrate the beauty of our days,
And all their splendid avenues of love and hope.

HYMN / Himene – Imagining Stars

Words: George Stuart; Tune: 'Stuttgart' 87.87 H&P 81(i)

When, at night, the stars shine on us
Light years from our tiny earth,
Songs and psalms provoke the questions
Of our fragile human worth.

These gigantic specks are burning
Balls of fire, as at play;
Stars in billions share their light and
Thus create a Milky Way.

We still gaze in raw amazement,
Contemplating timeless space;
Numberless, the stars keep stories
Hidden from our human race.

Tiny holes in heaven's flooring
Letting light beyond shine through;
Stars invite us to imagine
What it is we cannot view.

Myst'ry stride across the canvas
Of the picture we might paint;
Sacredness is grandly present;
Let us praise without restraint.

OPENING PRAYER / Inoi Whakawhetai

Be attentive to us, O God.
As we sit in our moments of wilderness,
Struggling to heed your call, not knowing how to
Discern why we are on this journey, pay attention to us.
God, you in the highest heavens, help us to make this journey
With open hearts and souls, ready to acknowledge your presence
guiding us along the way of learning and honouring your call.
God, whose love has wrapped us safely,
your wisdom is beyond compare.
Your grace keeps us humble.
Your love buoys us in the sea of troubles.
Remind us once again in this wilderness that you are with us.
Do not desert us as we reach for your guidance.
Yet, we trust in you, dear all-knowing God.
We promise to heed and surrender to your call.
Praise to you for understanding who we are. You are the God
who loves us more and forgives us more than we would dare to
hope. In you, we find strength and peace. Amen.

SO WHAT'S THE STORY ...?

HYMN / Himene – Lift high the cross

Words: Shirley Murray; Music: Sydney Nicholson (AA 87)

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his glorious name!*

Come, Christian people, sing your praises, shout!
If we are silent, even stones cry out ...

Jesus, you wept to see our human strife,
teach us compassion for each human life ...

Peace was your plea and peace your loving theme
let peace be our passport, peace a living dream ...

Great is the cost of walking on this road,
to follow and suffer with the Son of God ...

Worlds to be born and children yet to be
Come, take up this song into eternity ...

PRAYERS OF WHO WE ARE / Ngā Inoi whākinga hara

MINISTRY OF THE WORD / Ngā Karaipiture

Psalm 22: 22-31 (NRSVUE)

You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
For he did not despise or abhor
the affliction of the afflicted;
he did not hide his face from me
but heard when I cried to him.
From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.
May your hearts live forever!
All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.
For dominion belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.
To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him. Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.

Mark 8: 31-38(NRSVUE)

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

REFLECTION / Kauwhau

LITANY

In response to the word reflected on, let us stand and share a litany celebrating community.

We gather together in the awe of life
To celebrate mystery and community

We embrace all with unconditional love and gracious acceptance
All are welcome; all are valued

Today we celebrate the place of inclusion, unity and the progressive way

**We commit to life, to worthy and essential deeds
and happiness for all**

We find a window to the God of many understandings
through the one we call Jesus

**And also seek the insights of other faiths and spiritual
leaders**

We are a community of open mind and warm heart

**Striving for and living out greater unity and peace in the
world**

We seek expressions and experiences of God within,
between and beyond thought, word and action

**Together we continue the exciting
unity-filled adventure of humanity.**

HYMN / Himene – Community of Christ

Words: Shirley Erena Murray; Tune: Leoni (STF 673)

Community of Christ,
who make the Cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life
for God alone:
the God who wears your face,
to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race
and every song.

Community of Christ,
look past the Church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry,
and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed,
the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash
your neighbour's feet.

Community of Christ,
through whom the word must sound –
cry out for justice and for peace
the whole world round:
disarm the powers that war
and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.

When menace melts away,
so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace
and Christ its Sun;
our currency be love
and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one
for evermore.

OFFERING / Tātou Koha ki te Haahi

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

We are called to make real the sharing of the gifts God has given to us. Let us offer what we have for the good of all.

Offertory Prayer

Loving God, we express our thanksgiving for our blessing through these offerings. May they further our work in the church, community and beyond. Amen.

COMMUNITY TIME

Sharing the peace

Let us offer the peace to each other saying:

The peace of God is here to stay.

Notices - Sharing Joys and Sorrows

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS / Ngā Inoi mō te Whānau

How do we do what's right, Jesus,
when it costs us so much to follow you?
when the good and the true and the beautiful
cannot be purchased
in a 'buy-now-pay-later' scheme
as a quick-fix solution to our longing for life?
How do we do what's right when it takes so much time,
and when the life it brings comes
according to the timetable of eternity,
not the stopwatch of our up-to-the-minute world?

How do our leaders do what's right, Jesus,
for the weak and marginalised,
for people beyond our borders,
when the cost could be to forfeit their opportunity to lead?

How do our corporations do what's right, Jesus,
for our suffering planet,
for the rights and needs of the poor,
when the cost could be to lose investors,
and sacrifice the lives of their own workers?

How do our protectors do what's right, Jesus,
for the broken and desperate,
for our allies and enemies,
when the cost could be to face the attacks
of those they seek to defend?

We need to learn how to do what's right, Jesus,
our world needs us to learn it;
we need to count the cost of your call,
and measure it against the abundant life you promise.
Help us, in our own small way,
to be those who do the right thing,
and in so doing, demonstrate the goodness
that following you brings to all.

And all through Jesus Christ, in whose words we say together,

**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 – Will you come and follow me

Words: John L Bell and Graham Maule: Tune: Kelvingrove (STF 673)

Will you come and follow me
If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
In you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind
If I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
And never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare
Should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
In you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see
If I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
And never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
And do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean
In you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide
If I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
And never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
To reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound
In you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true
When you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
And never be the same.
In your company I'll go
Where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In you and you in me.

PARTING WORDS (*Ngā Inoi Whakamutunga*)

Time has now come for us to leave this sacred place.
As we do, may we embrace the challenges
of our lives and our world ...

The candle is extinguished

Go in peace.

And on your journey, may you have boldness to come to Jesus just as you are, ready to be transformed into followers led by the Holy Spirit who journey through this world in peace, in faith and in love.

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**

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Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:
Rex Hunt - <https://www.rexaehuntprogressively.com/lent1b1822024>
Jessica Knoyle, Gathering Worship, The United Church of Canada
Lauren Mallaby, <https://worshipwords.co.uk/we-were-wrong-a-confession-lauren-mallaby-australia/>

Stuart, G. Singing a New Song. Traditional Hymn Tunes with New Century Lyrics. Second edition. Sydney. CPRT Sydney, 2006.
(AA) Alleluia Aotearoa. Hymns and Songs for all Churches. Raumati. New Zealand Hymnbook Trust, 1993.
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