



Wesley Methodist Church

75 Taranaki Street
Wellington

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 12 October 2025

Pentecost 18

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



Faith in Exile – Gratitude on the Margins

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 12 October 2025

Pentecost 18

Leader: Philip Garside **Organ:** Vivien Chiu

Guitar: Heather Garside

Welcome & Introduction

Call to Worship

Build houses and settle in, even here in exile

We gather as strangers and friends, planting hope together

Plant gardens and eat what grows – God is not absent

We gather to cultivate joy, even in unfamiliar soil

Seek the peace of the place where you live

We gather to pray for healing in every neighbourhood

Pray for the city, for in its welfare you will find your own

We gather to bless, to share, to belong

Even in dislocation, you are still God's beloved

We gather to remember whose we are

Even in uncertainty, the Spirit stirs

We gather to listen for sacred whispers

Come, weary with wondering or radiant with trust

We come, as we are, to worship the Living God. Amen.

Lighting the Candle

We light this candle

for the One who sees from afar,

who hears the outcry of the exiled,

and speaks healing into distance.

We light it for the grateful ones

who return and are made whole.

We light it for the grace that meets us

outside the walls of belonging. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Holy One, you meet us in the in-between

Renew us in your way of presence

You call us to bless even the unfamiliar

Renew us in your way of hope

You honour the gratitude of the unexpected

Renew us in your way of surprise

You heal us in ways we don't yet see

Renew us in your way of trust

You invite us to return, to re-root, to rejoice

Renew us in your way of love

You teach us that exile is not the end

Renew us in your way of courage

You call us to pray for places we never chose

Renew us in your way of compassion

You show us that gratitude saves

Renew us in your way of wholeness. Amen.

Hymn: In this familiar place. Alleluia Aotearoa 72

Words and Music: Colin Gibson

1. In this familiar place
I know the mystery of your grace.

Refrain:

For the love that I receive, for the truth that I believe,
I praise and thank you for this here and now.

2. In halting song and word
the music of your voice is heard.
3. Among these friends of mine
I taste the company divine.
4. Within this narrow sphere
I learn that you are everywhere.

Prayer of Approach

We come with dust on our feet and doubts in our hearts

Still you welcome us in grace

We carry stories of loss, of change, of disruption

Still you welcome us in grace

We confess our resistance to planting hope in hard places

Still you welcome us in grace

We name the ways we have forgotten to return in gratitude

Still you welcome us in grace

We seek a faith that flourishes even in foreign lands

Still you welcome us in grace

We bring our longings for community, justice, and healing

Still you welcome us in grace

We dare to believe you are already here

Still you welcome us in grace

We release what we can't control and lean into love

Still you welcome us in grace

Words of Assurance

God meets us in the foreign field and the edge of the road.

We are not forgotten, not forsaken.

Grace finds us where we are.

Gratitude can still grow. **Amen.**

Introducing the Theme

Waiata: Wairua Tapu Words: Traditional. Arrangement: Heather Garside.

Wairua tapu tau mai rā

Wairua tapu mai runga

Uhia mai ngā taonga pai

Homai tō aroha

Wahia ka tika

Akona mai rā kia ū ki te pai

Horohia kia mau tonu rā

Mō hou te tino korōria

(Repeat whole verse)

(End quietly with)

Wairua tapu tau mai rā

Wairua tapu tau mai rā

Wairua tapu tau mai rā

Readings

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

Jeremiah's Letter to the Exiles in Babylon

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Luke 17:11-19 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

Jesus Cleanses Ten Men with a Skin Disease

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee.

As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean.

Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan.

Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

Sermon: Faith in Exile – Gratitude on the Margins

Hymn: God bless our land Hope is Our Song 37

Words: Shirley Erena Murray. Music: Barry Brinson

1. God bless our land, in every generation,
God bless our people growing as one nation,
God bless our islands, home and whenua,
Aotearoa, Aotearoa.
2. God bless our land in common cause and caring,
each bringing treasures, baskets for the sharing,
grieving the wrongs of history no more –
Aotearoa, Aotearoa.
3. God bless our land, its beauty and its blending
into communities of warm befriending,
proud in the cultures settled on our shore –
Aotearoa, Aotearoa.
4. God bless the child whose feet are firmly planted
here in our place of freedoms daily granted,
seedbed and soil for peace and aroha –
Aotearoa, Aotearoa.

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

We pray now for ourselves and others:

For the peoples of the world uprooted by war, disaster, or greed,
for those who plant gardens in foreign soil,
for all who long for peace in places still trembling with fear,

God, hear our prayer of grounded grace

For our country and its leaders, discerning amid crisis and change,
for decisions shaped by wisdom, equity, and care for the least,
for the courage to govern with humility, not hubris,

God, hear our prayer of grounded grace

For your Church in all lands and languages,
for congregations worshipping in exile, in freedom, in fragility,
for faith that welcomes the outsider and honours the margins,

God, hear our prayer of grounded grace

For our local communities, rural and urban, wealthy and struggling,
for homes filled with love and streets still aching with loneliness,
for shared tables, open hands, and surprising friendships,

God, hear our prayer of grounded grace

For those who are suffering – in body, mind, or spirit –
for those waiting on healing, uncertain of what comes next,
for those who return in gratitude and those still walking the road,

God, hear our prayer of grounded grace

For those who have gone before us in trust and love,
for ancestors whose faith planted seeds of hope in us,
and for the promise that exile is never the final word,

God, hear our prayer of grounded grace. Amen.

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)

Let us seek the welfare of the city with open hearts and open hands.
Let us give not from surplus, but from trust.
Your free will offering will now be received.

Blessing of Offering (said together)

Bless these gifts and those who offer them.

Plant seeds of peace that flourish in their use.

Let gratitude shape our giving and justice shape our purpose.

May love grow wherever they are sown. Amen.

Hymn: We are many, we are one Faith Forever Singing 67

Words and music: Colin Gibson

1. We are many, we are one,
and the work of Christ is done
when we learn to live in true community,
as the stars that fill the night,
as a flock of birds in flight,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;
as the branches of a tree,
as the waves upon the sea,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.
2. All division is made whole
when we honour every soul,
find the life of God in every you and me,
as the fingers of a hand,
as the grains that form the sand,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;
as the threads upon a loom,
as a field of flowers in bloom,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.
3. We will join creation's song,
make a world where all belong,
build as one in peace and loving harmony,
as the voices of a choir,
as the flames within a fire,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;
as the snowflakes in the snow,
as the colours of a bow,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

Benediction / Sending Forth

Go now, returning in gratitude
even if the healing came quietly.

Go now and build something beautiful
even in a place you didn't choose.

Go now, seek the peace of this place
and trust that grace travels.

Go now, beloved of God,
and know exile is not the end.

Go now in the name of the God who sends,
Christ who heals, and Spirit who guides.

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.

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Material for this service was sourced from *Worship at Hand*
– Philip Garside Publishing Ltd 2025.

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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>

We are now livestreaming 10am Congregation services on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@WellingtonMethodistParish>