



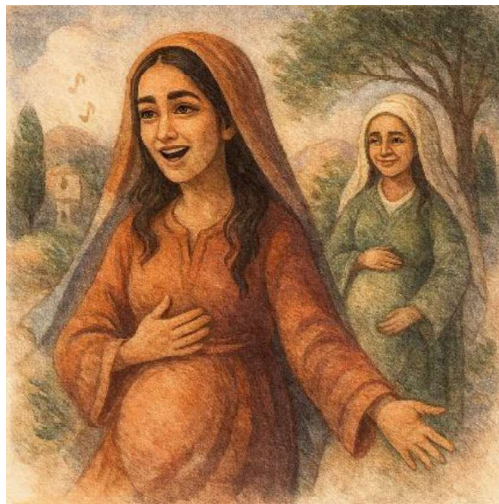
Wesley Methodist Church
75 Taranaki Street
Wellington

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 14 December 2025

Advent 3

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



Magnificat and Messiah: Singing and Seeing the Signs

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 14 December 2025
Advent 3

Leader: Philip Garside **Organ:** Colin Scarf

Welcome & Introduction

Call to Worship

Come, weary ones who wait for signs

We gather with Mary's song in mind

Come, bold ones who cry in the wilderness

We gather with John's longing in our hearts

Come, seekers of justice and joy

We gather to see and to be transformed

Come, those unsure and those undone

We gather to be met with grace, not judgment

Come, bearers of questions and courage

We gather to hear again the truth that sets us free

Come, saints and sinners, singers and doubters

We gather as kin in the communion of hope

Come, for the lowly are lifted and the hungry fed

We gather to worship the One who is already among us

Come, for the signs are still unfolding

We gather to look, to listen, and to follow

Come, Spirit, stir our souls to rise

We gather with praise and open hands

Come, Christ, make your presence known

We gather as people of Advent light. Amen.

Lighting the Candles

We light these candles
for the One who scatters the proud and lifts the lowly,
**who fills the hungry with good things,
and remembers the forgotten with joy.**

We light them for songs sung in dark places,
and for a world still longing for the light. **Amen.**

Opening Prayer

Jesus, you come not with noise but with signs
Open our hearts to what is already among us

You invite us to witness love made visible
Open our eyes to see with courage

You send word through healing, through hope
Open our ears to the testimony of grace

You honour questions, not just certainty
Open our minds to hold faith and doubt together

You call us to act, not wait idly
Open our lives to the mission of your mercy

You are the One who comes and keeps coming
Open our worship to be a holy “yes”. Amen.

Hymn: Come thou long-expected Jesus. Hymns & Psalms 81(i)

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free,
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
2. Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

3. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
4. By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Prayer of Approach

God who calls prophets from the margins,
Speak through us with the voice of Mary.

We come, unsure of our worth
Bless us as beloved from the start

We come, worn by systems that silence
Lift us into holy disruption

We come, questioning what we once proclaimed
Meet us with mercy, not scorn

We come with ache, with hunger, with dreams
Feed us with your fierce compassion

We come needing signs but finding silence
Remind us that love is never still

We come to be reshaped, not reassured
Transform us with the truth we cannot unhear.

Words of Assurance

Even when we doubt, Christ draws near.
Even when we falter, grace does not.
You are not forgotten. You are not forsaken.
You are beloved. You are becoming. **Amen.**

Drama Christi Presentation

Introduction: Scarlett Powell

Mary Of Nazareth – I: Luna Lopez

Mary full of grace – Anna’s story (adapted): Marjorie McKee

Magnificat – Dance: Emma Powell, Scarlett Powell, Philomena Nziramasanga, Danielle Lindsay, Daphne Pilaar, Heather Garside

Reading

Luke 1:46-55 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Mary’s Song of Praise

And Mary said,
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favour on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Hymn: Long ago prophets knew Hymns & Psalms 83

1. Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new,
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon:

Refrain
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
who will make him welcome?
2. God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human:
3. Mary, hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected:
4. Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlehem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar:
unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

Reading

Matthew 11:2-11 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Messengers from John the Baptist

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the

poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

Jesus Praises John the Baptist

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John:

“What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Sermon: Magnificat and Messiah: Singing and Seeing the Signs

Hymn: The Angel Gabriel Hymns & Psalms 87

1. The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail', said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!
2. 'For know, a blessed mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!
3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God', she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':
most highly favoured lady.
Gloria!

4. Of her, Immanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
'Most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!

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

For the peoples of the world –
those whose joy is silenced and whose hunger is ignored:
May the proud be scattered and the lowly lifted.

God of the *Magnificat*, bring justice to birth

For our country and its leaders –
in places where policy forgets compassion and power forgets people:
May decisions be made for the least, not the loudest.

God of the *Magnificat*, bring justice to birth

For the Church –
that we may sing like Mary and wrestle like John,
that we may be bold in proclamation and tender in presence:

God of the *Magnificat*, bring justice to birth

For our communities –
especially those longing to be seen,
for caregivers, truth-tellers, artists, and organisers:

God of the *Magnificat*, bring justice to birth

For those in sorrow or sickness, doubt or despair –
those in prison, in pain, or in silence too deep for words:

God of the *Magnificat*, bring justice to birth

For those who have gone before –
Mary, John, Hannah, and all our ancestors in faith:
May their courage be our path, and their witness our guide.
God of the *Magnificat*, bring justice to birth. 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)

Mary offered her body.

John offered his voice.

Your free will offering will now be received.

Blessing of Offering (said together)

Bless these gifts and those who give them

Shape them into good news for the poor

Let justice be sown in generosity

And may hope rise through every act of love. Amen.

Hymn: We Are Many, We Are One Faith Forever Singing 67

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 with Mary's song in your breath
and John's question in your soul.

Walk into the world looking for signs
and becoming them.

God lifts the lowly – so lift.

Christ feeds the hungry – so give.

The Spirit sings still – so join in.

Go in love, go in courage, go in peace.

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 from *Worship at Hand*
Philip Garside Publishing Ltd (2025).

Mary Of Nazareth – I, is from *The Witnesses and other Poems*,
by Clive Sansom, Methuen (1956).

Mary full of grace – Anna’s story (adapted), is from *Something new to say*,
by Bronwyn Angela White, Philip Garside Publishing Ltd (2022).

Magnificat, is from the *People of the Light* CD, Music by Jonathan Berkahn,
Festival Singers of Wellington (2015).

Hymns used are covered by CCLI Licence #230381

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>