



Wesley Wellington

75 Taranaki Street

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Order of Service

Sunday 14 September 2025

Pentecost 14 | Creation 2



‘Found in the Forest, Found by God’

Worship Leader: Kolosaini Taulata

Kia ora koutou katoa — Tālofa lava

Mālō e lelei — Bula vinaka — Greetings to you all!

Welcome to today’s service. A special welcome to visitors. We hope you will enjoy worshipping with us this morning and will join us again.

Welcome & Introduction

Call to Worship

Come, seekers and shepherds, wanderers and workers.

We gather in the sanctuary of God's good earth.

Come, creatures of the forest and fields, of fur and feather.

We gather with the more-than-human kin God delights in.

Come, you who have felt lost or overlooked.

We gather to be found in grace, held in joy.

Come, drawn by the call of sacred stories and birdsong.

We gather to listen for God's voice in leaf and parable.

Come, with soil on your hands and longing in your heart.

We gather to worship the Creator who breathes life into all.

Come, to be rooted, renewed, and restored.

We gather to become sanctuary and seek the lost.

Come, let us worship the God of forests and rejoicing.

We gather with open hearts to be transformed.

Lighting the Candle

We light this candle

for the Light that seeks the lost,

that sweeps the corners of our lives,

that rejoices in the finding,

that glows in sanctuaries of leaf and love,

that invites us to tend and be tended. Amen.

Opening Prayer

O God who seeks and celebrates,
Renew us in your way of joy.

When we stray from our call as keepers of creation,
Renew us in your way of justice.

When we forget that we too belong in the story,
Renew us in your way of grace.

When we guard the gate instead of opening it,
Renew us in your way of welcome.

When the world feels too broken to mend,
Renew us in your way of hope.

When our faith falters and our sight dims,
Renew us in your way of courage.

When our theology restricts more than it restores,
Renew us in your way of love.

Let this worship root us again in your transforming presence.
Renew us in your way of Christ. Amen.

Hymn: The King of love my shepherd is (H&P 69) – Henry Williams
Baker 1821-77

1.The King of love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His,
And He is mine forever.

2.Where streams of living water flow,
My ransomed soul He leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.

3.Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love He sought me,
And on His shoulder gently laid,
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

4.In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.

5.Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
Thy unction grace bestoweth;
And O what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth!

6.And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever.

Prayer of Approach

Holy One, you meet us in the forest and the parable.

We come with all we are and all we're not.

We bring our striving and our failing.

Hold us in grace.

We bring our doctrines and our doubts.

Hold us in grace.

We bring our ecological grief and gospel hope.

Hold us in grace.

We come, sometimes more lost than found.

Hold us in grace.

We long to be sanctuary, not just seekers.

Hold us in grace.

We release the need to have all the answers.

Hold us in grace.

We want to be shaped by love, not fear.

Hold us in grace.

Find us again, and rewild our hearts.

Hold us in grace.

Words of Assurance

Even when we are lost, we are not alone.

Even when the forest feels too tangled, grace finds a path.

God rejoices in your being, not your perfection.

You are sought, seen, and celebrated. **Amen.**

Children's Story:

Hymn: Jesus, Lover of My Soul (H&P 528) – John Wesley 1740

1. Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high:
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.
2. Other refuge have I none,
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;

Leave, ah! leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
All my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenceless head
With the shadow of Thy wing.

3. Thou, O Christ, art all I want;
More than all in Thee I find:
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy Name,
I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am;
Thou art full of truth and grace.
4. Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound,
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
Freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart,
Rise to all eternity.

Readings

1 Timothy 1:12-17 (NRSV)

12 I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me,
because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service,
13 even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man
of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in
unbelief,
14 and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love

that are in Christ Jesus.

15 The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost.

16 But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life.

17 To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen

Luke 15:1-10 (NRSV)

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

1 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him.

2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “These fellow welcomes sinner and eats with them.”

3 So he told them this parable:

4 “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it?

5 When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices.

6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’

7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

The Parable of the Lost Coin

8 “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?

9 When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours,
saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.'
10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God
over one sinner who repents."

Sermon: Found in the Forest, Found in God

Hymn: Amazing Grace (H&P 215) – John Newton 1779.

1. Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.
5. Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

6. When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

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 – human and more-than-human –

where ecosystems cry out and justice is delayed:
may forests be preserved and waters run clear again.

Christ, restore your creation with our help.

For our country and its leaders,
tasked with stewarding land, climate, and community:
may wisdom guide decisions and courage challenge
complacency.

Christ, restore your creation with our help.

For your church and its leaders,
that we might be sanctuary not only for souls but for soil:
may our worship spill into action and our buildings shelter
more than us.

Christ, restore your creation with our help.

For our neighbourhoods, gardens, coasts, and city parks:
may birdsong return, and native flora flourish;
may we learn to live lightly and love deeply.

Christ, restore your creation with our help.

For those suffering – whether human illness or
environmental grief:
may healing rise like dawn and connection soothe like balm.

Christ, restore your creation with our help.

For the ancestors, the saints, and the species lost:
may we honour their legacy in the way we walk forward.

Christ, restore your creation with our help. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

E tō mātou Matua i te rangi
Kia tapu tou Ingoa
Kia tae mai tou rangatiratanga.

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 rangatiratanga,
te kaha,
me te kororia,
Ake, ake, ake. Āmine.

Offering

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

Like the shepherd who searched with love,
Like the woman who swept with purpose –
We offer what we have, to restore what's been lost.
Your free will offering will now be received.

Blessing of Offering (said together)

**Bless these gifts and those who give them.
Let them seek the lost and shelter the vulnerable.
Let them rewild worship and renew the earth.
May generosity be our liturgy of love. Amen.**

Hymn: O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go (H&P 685) – George Matheson, 1882

1. O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

2. O Light that follow'st all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in Thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

3. O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,

And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

4. O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

Benediction / Sending Forth

Go now, found and freed in grace.
Walk gently on the earth and listen well to its songs.
Let every tree, every bird, every neighbour be your teacher.
Rejoice in the finding. Join the restoration.
Be sanctuary in the streets and the forests alike.
Go in peace, beloved and wild.

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. Āmine.

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