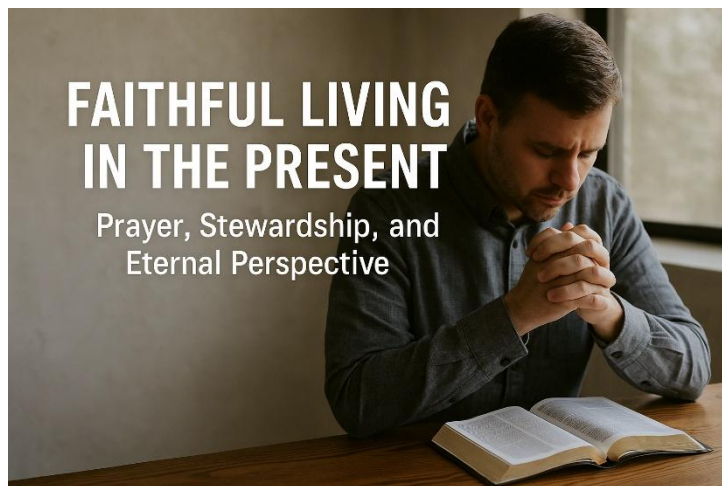




Wesley Methodist Church
75 Taranaki Street
Wellington
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Order of Service
Sunday 21 September 2025
Pentecost 15



Worship Leader: Niko Bower

Haere mai ki tēnei Whare Karakia
Welcome to this House of Prayer
Kia ora koutou katoa — Talofa Lava
Malo e lelei — Bula Vinaka — Greetings to you all!

We are a multi-racial Christian community: Methodist in affiliation –
Ecumenical in intention Diverse in theology – Inclusive in outreach.

Order of Service
10am Congregation
Sunday 21 September 2025
Pentecost 15
Leader: Niko Bower
Organist: Vivien Chiu

Welcome & Introduction

Call to Worship *(Based on Psalm 95:3-7, Psalm 100:1-5, Psalm 100:1-5)*

Leader: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth; the peaks of the
mountains are his also.

People: **The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the
dry land.**

Leader: Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before
the Lord, our Maker!

People: **For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.**

All: **Let us lift our voices and our hearts in praise to the One
who created all things, the only God worthy of our
worship!**

Leader: Oh, sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the
earth! Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation
from day to day.

People: **Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous
works among all peoples!**

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering
and come into his courts!

People: **Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble
before him, all the earth!**

All: **Let us enter into His presence with joy and adoration, for
He alone is God, and He alone is worthy of our praise!**

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

People: **Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

People: **For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.**

All: **Let us worship the Lord with all our hearts, for He is our Creator, our Shepherd, and our everlasting King! Amen.**

Opening Prayer

Loving Father, we give you thanks for this day and for the blessings you pour out upon us. As we come together to worship, we ask that you would soften our hearts, clear our minds, and fill us with your peace.

Help us to set aside our worries and distractions, and to focus our hearts and minds on you. Speak to us through your Word and unite us in your love. Guide us in your truth, and empower us to serve you faithfully. In Jesus name we ask, and we pray!

Amen.

Hymn: Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven (H&P 13)

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like thee his praise should sing?
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise the everlasting King!
2. Praise him for his grace and favour
to his people in distress.
Praise him, still the same forever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Glorious in his faithfulness!

3. Fatherlike, he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Widely as his mercy flows.
4. Angels in the height, adore him;
Ye behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise with us the God of grace!

Henry Francis Lyte

Prayer of Approach: A Prayer for our Humanity

Leader: Gracious God, we gather in your presence, humbled by your boundless generosity. You have entrusted us with the care of your Church, a beacon of hope in this world.

Response: We acknowledge your abundant blessings.

Leader: Remind us, Lord, that stewardship is more than just financial giving. It is the faithful management of all you have given us: our time, our talents, our resources, and our very lives.

Response: Help us to be responsible stewards.

Leader: Your Word teaches us to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Ignite in us a passion for prayer, that we may seek your guidance in all we do, both individually and as a church community.

Response: Fill us with a spirit of prayer.

Leader: May our prayers be a reflection of our dependence on you, a source of strength in times of challenge, and a wellspring of gratitude for your countless blessings.

Response: May our lives be rooted in prayer.

Leader: Guide us, as stewards of your Church, to make wise decisions that honour you and serve our community. May our

actions be rooted in prayer, our giving be motivated by love,
and our service be a testament to your grace.

Response: ***Lead us in your paths of righteousness.***

Leader: Help us to cultivate a life of prayer, seeking your will in all things, and trusting in your provision. May our church be a house of prayer, where all are welcome to find solace, strength, and guidance in your presence.

Response: ***May your will be done in our lives and in our church.***

Leader: We dedicate ourselves anew to the stewardship of your Church and to a life of prayer, trusting in your faithfulness and seeking your glory in all we do. In Jesus' name, we pray.

Response: ***Amen.***

Words of Assurance

Hear these words of assurance:

Beloved brothers and sisters, remember this: you are not just part of a church, but a vital piece of God's grand story. His purpose for you, right here and now, is unfolding. The salvation offered through Christ is a personal gift, a lifeline meant for you. Embrace the truth that you are cherished, chosen, and equipped to make a difference. Let His love fuel your actions, His Spirit guide your steps, and His promise of hope light your way, today and always.

Introducing the theme

Hymn: **Great Is Thy Faithfulness (H&P 66)**

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
 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 hath 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. [Refrain]
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! [Refrain]

(Thomas O. Chisholm 1923)

Readings

Luke 16:1-13 (New International Version)

The Parable of the Shrewd Manager

Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’ “The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’ “So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ““Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied. “The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’ “Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’ ‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied. “He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’ “The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own? “No one can serve two masters. Either you will

hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

1 Timothy 2:1-7 (New International Version)

Instructions on Worship

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles

Hymn: Be still and know that I am God

1. Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.
2. I am the Lord that healeth thee
I am the Lord that healeth thee
I am the Lord that healeth thee
I am the Lord that healeth thee
3. In thee, O Lord I put my trust
In thee, O Lord I put my trust
In thee, O Lord I put my trust
In thee, O Lord I put my trust.

(Repeating first verse)

4. Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.

John L Bell

Sermon: "Faithful Living in the Present: Prayer, Stewardship, and Eternal Perspective"

Community Time

Sharing the Peace

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

Notices

Prayers of Intercession – Prayers for Ourselves and Others

Leader: Compassionate God, we come before you, acknowledging our own imperfections and needs. We seek your strength, your wisdom, and your healing touch in our lives.

(Pause for silent personal reflection)

Leader: For those who feel lost or uncertain, we pray for clarity and direction.

Response: *Guide our steps, O Lord.*

Leader: For those who are struggling with illness, pain, or hardship, we pray for comfort and healing.

Response: *Lord, have mercy. Grant them peace.*

Leader: We lift up all of humanity to you – those who are suffering, those who are oppressed, those who are forgotten.

(Pause for silent reflection on specific needs in the world)

Leader: For those who are working for peace, justice, and reconciliation, we pray for strength and perseverance.

Response: *"God, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, courage to change the things we can, and wisdom to know the difference."*

Leader: For those who are carrying out violence, injustice, or hatred, we pray for a change of heart.

Response: *May your love transform them.*

Leader: Guide us all, O God, towards greater understanding,
empathy, and love. Help us to see each other as you see us
– as your beloved children.

All: ***Amen. May it be so.***

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).

Blessing of Offering *(said together)*

Gracious God, we give you thanks for all your blessings. We offer these gifts as a symbol of our gratitude and a commitment to using your resources wisely. May they be used to further your kingdom, feed the hungry, heal the sick, and spread the good news of your love to all the world. We offer ourselves, our time, and our talents to you as well. Amen.

Hymn: To God be the Glory (WOV 85)

1

To God be the glory, great things he has done! So loved he the world that he gave us his Son, who yielded his life an atonement for sin and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice! O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son, and give him the glory! great things he has done!

2

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, to every believer the promise of God! and every offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

3

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done, and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; but purer, and higher, and greater will be our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.

Frances Jane van Alstyne

Blessing

Go forth into the world, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to live lives of prayerful action and wise stewardship. Remember that God desires all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. Therefore, pray without ceasing for those in authority, for those who are marginalized, and for all who do not yet know the love of Christ. Use your resources, both material and spiritual, to make a difference in the lives of others, always seeking to invest in eternity. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and forevermore.

Amen.

The Grace (*said together*)

**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**

*To keep up to date with services and news, visit the parish
website: <https://wesleychurch.org.nz/>*

*I would like to acknowledge the use of materials sourced from
<https://www.biblegateway.com/>
Anglican Patrimony: Prayer of Intercession*

*Matthew Henry - Introduction and Exhortation to Pray for the Whole Lost World of
Mankind:*

And the 10am Congregation's Facebook Page:

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

Hymns used are covered by CCLI Licence 230381