



Wesley Methodist Church

75 Taranaki Street
Wellington

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 22 June 2025

Matariki/2nd Sunday after Pentecost

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



Inclusivity and Unity

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 22 June 2025
Matariki/2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Leader: Shelly Rao Organist: Vivien Chiu

Acknowledgment

As we gather, we acknowledge Māori, te tangata whenua, the people of this land, and Te Tiriti o Waitangi, [the Treaty of Waitangi] that established our nation, recognising mana [sovereignty] and rangatiratanga [chieftainship] as the right foundation to govern our people with justice and mercy. We seek to honour this commitment in our lives and in our worship.

Welcome & Introduction

A Call to Worship (Response in bold words)

In the time of darkness, light emerges:

Light to guide us on.

In the heart of a southern winter:

We celebrate the turning of the earth

In the calendar's mid-year:

We celebrate the new year, Matariki.

God, you dance in the stars promising hope and light and love.

***We join ourselves to the earth in transformation and renewal
naming ourselves our home in this place.***

Lighting the Candle (said together)

We give thanks for the abundance of the earth,

for the kūmara from the soil,

for the fish from the rivers,

for the birds of the forest.

We acknowledge the gifts of the sea and sky,

the winds and the rain.

**We are grateful for the food that sustains us,
the community that supports us,
and the love that binds us together.
In the spirit of Matariki,
we also give thanks for the present moment,
for the opportunity to gather,
to celebrate, and to renew our spirits.
We commit to caring for the earth,
to nurturing our relationships,
and to walking forward with hope and unity.
Amen.**

Opening Prayer (said together)

**E te Atua, te Kaihanga o ngā whetū
me te whenua, whakarongo mai ki ā mātou karakia i
te wā o Matariki.
te pō, ka titiro mātou ki ngā whetū,
ka whakaaro ki ngā tau kua pahure,
ka aroha ki ngā mate,
ka mihi ki te ao tūroa.
Ānei mātou,
e karakia ana,
e whakanui ana i te tau hou Māori,
me te aroha me te manaakitanga o te Atua.
Āmine.**

Hymn: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

HP463. Authors: Wm. Williams, John Hughes

1. Guide me, O thou Great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.
2. Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

Prayer of Approach (Response in bold words)

In the rising of the sun and in its going down,

We remember them.

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill winter

We remember them.

In the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring,

We remember them.

In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,

We remember them.

In the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn,

We remember them.

In the beginning of the year and when it ends,

We remember them.

When we are weary and in need of strength,

We remember them.

When we are lost and sick at heart,

We remember them.

When we have joys we yearn to share,

We remember them.

So long as we live, they too shall live,

For they are now a part of us,

As we remember them. Amen.

Words of Assurance (said together)

Whakataka te hau ki te uru

Whakataka te hau ki te tonga

Kia mākinakina ki uta

Kia mātaratara ki tai

E hī ake ana te atakura

He tio, he huka, he hau hū

Tīhei mauri ora!

Introducing the theme / Story Time

Hīmene: Wairua Tapu

Words/Music: Ngāpo (Bub) Wehi

Wairua tapu tau mai rā

Wairua tapu mai runga

Uhia mai ngā taonga pai

Homai tō aroha.

Alight, Holy spirit, come to rest

Holy spirit from up above

Cover all that we hold dear

Give us your love.

Wāhia, kia tika
Akona mai rā kia ū ki te pai
Horoia, kia mau tonu rā
Mōhou te tino kororia.

Lay us down, so all is right
Teach us to hold firmly to the right
Clean us, so we may keep holding
Yours is the true glory.

Wairua tapu tau mai rā.

Alight, Holy Spirit, come to rest.

Readings

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow."

Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors."

Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. He ate and drank and lay down again. The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you."

He got up and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.”

He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake, and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” Then the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram.”

Luke 8:26-39 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

Then they arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time, he had not worn any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs.

When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell before him, shouting, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me,” for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under

guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.)

Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion,” for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So, he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened.

Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So, he got into the boat and returned.

The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So, he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

Reflection: “Before” is long gone. “After” is a whole new world.

Hymn: Freely, Freely

CMP 181. *Author: Carol Owens*

1. God forgave my sins in Jesus' name
I've been born again in Jesus' name
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share his love as he told me to.

Chorus:

*He said: "Freely, freely, you have received,
Freely, freely give;
Go in my name, and because you believe
Others will know that I live.*

2. All power is given in Jesus' name,
In earth and heaven in Jesus' name
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share his power as he told me too. *Chorus*
1. God gives us life in Jesus' name
He lives in us in Jesus' name
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share his peace as he told me to. *Chorus*

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 Prayers for Sorrows & Concerns

Prayers of Intercession

In the spirit of Matariki, we pray for the Christ's light to shine, to bring healing, justice, wholeness to areas in our world, individual countries and regions, and in the lives of people, where there is conflict and disaster.

After the bidding – *Healing God*

Please respond – **hear our prayer.**

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)

Blessing of Offering (said together)

**As our ancestors did,
we present our offerings to the stars.
We place before us food**

that nourishes the body and spirit.
These offerings are a symbol
of our gratitude and respect.
We offer kūmara for Tupuānuku,
a bird for Tupuārangi,
freshwater fish for Waitī,
and shellfish for Waitā.
We offer the fruits of the land and sea,
and the fruits of our labour and love.
Let us place our offerings with reverence,
knowing that they rise to the heavens as a sign of our devotion.
Āmine.

Hymn: *As the Deer Pants for the Water*

CMP 37 Author: Martin J Nystrom

1. As the deer pants for the water,
So my soul longs after You.
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You.

Chorus:

*You alone are my strength, my shield,
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You.*

2. I want you more than gold or silver,
Only you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver
And the apple of my eye. *Chorus*
3. You're my friend and you're my brother,
Even though you are a King.
I love you more than any other,
So much more than anything. *Chorus*

Blessing

As we conclude this time of celebration,
we carry with us the light of Matariki,
the warmth of community,
and the hope for the future.

May we walk forward together,
guided by the stars and the love of our ancestors.

May the new year bring peace, prosperity, and joy to all.

E te Atua, bless us as we go forth, and may your presence be with us
always. **Āmine.**

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.**

Material for this service was sourced from:

L3 - Liturgy, Learning & (purposeful) Life Worship Resources, MediaCom Ed Inc,
Aust.

Words for Worship, MediaCom.

Let Us Pray, Janet Nelson, HarperCollins 1999.

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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>