



Wesley Methodist Church

75 Taranaki Street
Wellington

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 26 October 2025

20th Sunday after Pentecost

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



Practicing Faith with humility

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 26 October 2025
20th Sunday after Pentecost
Leader: Shelly Rao Organist: Viven Chen

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)

God moves with us throughout this earth and nurtures the soil,

Our neighbours are awed by God's works.

God's river flows with water, and the fields are blessed by the Spirit,

Our neighbours are awed by God's gifts.

God's wilderness fields overflow with joy.

Our neighbours are awed by God's grace.

Lighting the Candle (said together)

Gracious and loving God

Our hearts are open to you.

If a thought crosses our minds,

you are present and are ready to hold it for us.

There is no emotion radiating from our souls

that is too heavy or painful for you.

Your Spirit encourages our dreams

as we seek to find ways to build your Kingdom here on earth.

May we work side-by-side, co-creating a world

of possibilities where all experience your love and joy. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession (said together)

Holy God, your truth is so often sharp and unsettling.
We confess the ways we skirt the hard edges of your Word,
turn up the volume on lesser noises,
and lean into the comfort of our own certainty
rather than submit to the discomfort of your challenge.
You send us messengers, and we sidestep them;
you challenge us, and we defend ourselves.
Again and again, Holy God,
we resist what we do not want to hear.
And yet you keep calling.
Have mercy on us.
Interrupt our evasions.
Soften what pride has hardened in us.
Let us hear and receive your truth.
Amen.

Hymn: What a friend we have in Jesus (JM Scriven) UMH526

1. *What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!*
2. *Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.*

3. *Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.*

Prayer of Approach - A Prayer for Humanity

Gracious Lord

The range of emotions that wash through us are often triggers for the ways we hold ourselves.

At times, we seek humility, but often find ourselves believing we do not deserve your love.

Other times, as we search for confidence, we believe we are your favourites and find ourselves in moments of comparison, contrast, and judgment.

Are we better than our neighbours? How can we relate to siblings in Christ when their lives are not like ours and they stand out when visiting our spaces?

We are misguided as we give thanks that our lives are not as chaotic and unkempt as theirs.

Yet you ask us to seek humility and know that each of your children are loved equally. Help us to extend mercy to our neighbours, and fill their minds with words of encouragement.

May each of us know our value in your Realm and experience your love in its fullness. **Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Hear the Good News!

Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ, and Christ died for us,

Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us,

Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Amen**

Introducing the theme / Story Time

Waiata: Purea Nei

Hirini Melbourne (1949–2003)

Purea nei e te hau

Horoia e te ua

Whitiwhitia e Sulfi

Mahea ake nga pōraruraru

Makere ana nga here,

Makere ana nga here.

E rere wairua, e rere

Ki nga ao o te rangi

Whitiwhitia e Sulfi

Mahea ake nga pōraruraru

Makere ana nga here,

Makere ana nga here.

Scattered by the wind

washed by the rain

and transformed by the sun,

all doubts are swept away

and all restraints are cast down

Fly, O free spirit, fly

to the clouds in the heavens,

transformed by the sun,

all doubts are swept away

and all restraints are cast down.

Readings

When I say ... "I am a Christian"

Maya Angelou

I'm not shouting.... "I'm clean livin'."
I'm whispering "I was lost,
Now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble
and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak
And need His strength to carry on.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed
And need God to clean my mess.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I'm not claiming to be perfect,
My flaws are far too visible
But God believes I am worth it.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches
So, I call upon His name.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I'm not holier than thou,
I'm just a simple sinner
Who received God's good grace, somehow.

Luke 18: 9 – 14 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:

“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’

But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’

I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Reflection: *Humble faith*

Hymn: Rock of Ages, cleft for me (A.Toplady) UMH361

1. *Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure;
Save from wrath and make me pure.*
2. *Not the labours of my hands
Can fulfil thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and thou alone.*

3. *Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Saviour, or I die.*
4. *While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See thee on thy judgement throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.*

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

Gracious God, sustain us today
through your Word and the act of worship.
Deepen our longing to understand and fulfil your will.
Guide our hearts toward your path of righteousness,
enabling us to walk confidently in your guidance.

Hear our prayers, God of love,
as we name not only our own needs
but also, those of people across the world.
God of mercy, **hear our prayers.**

We lift up in prayer those grappling
with the aftermath of natural disasters,
those working to rebuild their lives
after floods and wildfires,
and those mourning the loss of loved ones,
homes, and livelihoods.

We pray for those who are weary,
those facing the daily struggle to pay bills and provide meals,
and those burdened by overwhelming challenges.

We also remember those enduring life in war zones,
individuals yearning for justice and peace amid chaos.
God of mercy, **hear our prayers.**

We pray for leaders, administrators and decision-makers
who face the challenge of not being able to satisfy everyone,
yet remain committed to pursuing justice and righteousness.
We ask that our nation's leaders support those in need,
Stand up for the oppressed and
resist the temptations of wealth and power.

We seek an end to conflicts,
a spirit of collaboration among people,
and a path toward peace for our nation.
God of mercy, **hear our prayers.**

We pray for those who are unwell
and the caregivers who support them.
We remember those battling depression,
anxiety, and other mental health challenges.
Release us from the shame and stigma
that prevent us from recognizing our needs
and seeking the help we truly deserve.
Foster within us a shared sense of responsibility
for the health and wellbeing of all your children.
God of mercy, **hear our prayers.**

Finally, God, shape us for service,
so that we may become the answers to the prayers we raise.
Let our actions reflect your Word and be inspired by Jesus Christ,
the One who saves. United as a family of faith and as the Body of Christ
we lift these prayers to you,
God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
as we pray how Christ taught us, saying..."The Lord's 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 - Let us give and live generously in response to all that God has done for us. (We also acknowledge offerings made by automatic payment and online banking)

Blessing of Offering (said together)

God, from you comes every bounty.
Every sacrifice of life that sustains ours
is the sacrifice of your beloved.
As we return a small part of the bounty
you have blessed us with,
We pray that it will be used to forge
stronger connections among all creation
Until the whole world is redeemed by your love. **Amen.**

Hymn: Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart.

Versifier: Eleanor H. Hull; Translator: Mary E. Byrne (1927)

1. *Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night;
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.*
2. *Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father and I, Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.*
3. *Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart;
O King of glory, my treasure Thou art.*
4. *O King of glory, my victory won;
Rule and reign in me 'til Thy will be done;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall;
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

Blessing

May we leave this house of worship today,
quick to listen,
slow to speak,
open to hearing and responding to God's truth.

May God bless us and keep us,
be kind and gracious to us
may God look upon us with favour
and bring us peace. **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. **Amine**

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>