



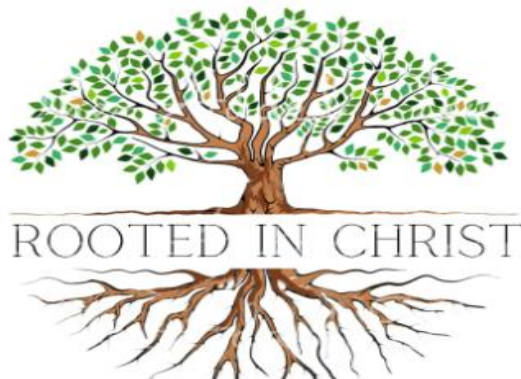
Order of Service
Wesley Methodist Church
75 Taranaki Street
Wellington
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 27 July 2025

Pentecost 7

Haere mai ki tēnei Whare Karakia

Welcome to this House of Prayer



Rooted in Christ, Not Captured by the World

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

Welcome & Introduction

Call to Worship

God is near, not far off.

We gather to pray with open hearts.

Jesus teaches us how to reach toward the Holy.

We listen for the rhythm of sacred breath.

Not with many words, but with faithful longing,

We seek God's way in silence and speech.

In asking and knocking, in trusting and trying,

We come again to the Source of all life.

The One who gives bread, not stone,

Welcomes us with compassion and care.

Let us worship with courage and hope.

Let us worship the One who answers love with love.

Amen.

Lighting the Candle

We light this candle for the Christ who dwells in us,
the fullness of God in a fragile body.

We light it for the Way we walk daily,
rooted in grace, shaped by love.

Let it shine in all our questions,

and call us again to the truth of who we are. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Christ, you are the ground beneath our feet.

Root us again in your life and love.

When distraction pulls us away,

Draw us back to what truly matters.

In your fullness, you dwell with us still.

Give us hearts to welcome your presence.

In all our thinking, speaking, and acting,

Let your grace take root and grow. Amen.

Hymn: Loving Spirit (AA94 (ii)) Words: Shirley Murray; Music: Colin Gibson

1. Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be,
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.

2. Like a mother, you enfold me,
hold my life within your own,
feed me with your very body,
form me of your flesh and bone.

3. Like a father, you protect me,
teach me the discerning eye,
hoist me up upon your shoulder,
let me see the world from high.

4. Friend and lover, in your closeness
I am known and held and blessed:
in your promise is my comfort,
in your presence I may rest.

5. Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be,
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.

Prayer of Approach

We come to you again, O God,
knocking on the door of your presence.

Our hearts are noisy, our lives are full,
but still we long for quiet and connection.

Teach us to pray, not for answers only,
but for courage, trust, and inner peace.

Let your name be holy in our lives,
in our choices, our speaking, our silence.

Let your reign come near – in us,
and through us, in this hurting world.

Give us today what we truly need,
and help us to release what we cannot hold.

Forgive our forgetting, and help us to forgive,
as you shape us again into your likeness.

Words of Assurance

In Christ, the fullness of God's love has already been given.

We are not condemned but made alive with grace.
Our old burdens are nailed to the cross,
and we are raised to walk in freedom. **Amen.**

Introducing the Theme / Story Time -

Hymn: Trust and obey (H&P 687) by John Henry Sammis 1846-1919

1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain:

*Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*

2. Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief nor a loss, not a frown nor a cross,
But is blessed if we trust and obey.

3. But we never can prove the delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favour He shows, and the joy He bestows,
Are for them who will trust and obey.

4. Then in fellowship sweet, we will sit at his feet
Or we'll walk by his side in the way.
What he says we will do, where he sends we will go.
Never fear, only trust and obey.

Scripture Readings

Colossians 2:6-19 (NRSVUE)

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles^[a] of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision,^[b] by the removal of the body^[c] of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God^[d] made you^[e] alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed^[f] the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

¹⁶ Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or^[g] drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. ¹⁷ These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions,^[h] puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking,^[i] ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.

Luke 11:1-13 (NRSV)

¹ He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” ² So he said to them, “When you pray, say: Father,^[a] may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.^[b]

³ Give us each day our daily bread.^[c]

⁴ And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.”^[d] ⁵ And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ ⁷ And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for^[e] a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit^[f] to those who ask him!”

Sermon: *‘Rooted in Christ, Not Captured by the World’*

Hymn: Take my life and let it be (H&P 705) by Frances Ridley Havergal 1836-79

1. Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2. Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee,
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

3. Take my voice and let me sing,
Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips and let them be

Filled with messages from Thee,
Filled with messages from Thee.

4. Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose,
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

5. Take my will and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for 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, Sorrows & Concerns

Prayers of Intercession

God of all nations, we pray for the peoples of the world,
for those seeking justice, safety, and daily bread.
In the noise of violence, let peace be heard.

Hear our prayer, O God of love and justice.

We pray for Aotearoa and all who lead,
for wise decisions shaped by compassion and care.
May your reign of equity and courage be near.

Hear our prayer, O God of love and justice.

We pray for the church, your body in every place,
that we might live what we proclaim in prayer.
Teach us to forgive, to serve, and to speak boldly.

Hear our prayer, O God of love and justice.

For our neighbourhoods and communities,
where loneliness hides and needs go unseen,
may we bring connection, welcome, and healing.

Hear our prayer, O God of love and justice.

For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit,
who cry out in silence, or who have lost the words,
give comfort through your Spirit and through us.

Hear our prayer, O God of love and justice.

And we remember those who have gone before us,
whose faith and witness light our path still.
Raise us too in hope to life beyond death.

Hear our prayer, O God of love and justice. 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 rangatira-tanga,
te kaha,
me te kororia,
Ake, ake, ake. Āmine.

Offering

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

Just as Christ gave everything to raise us to new life,
we bring these gifts as signs of gratitude and hope.
Your free will offering will now be received.

Blessing of Offering (said together)

Bless these gifts and all who give.

Root our generosity in love, not obligation.

Use these offerings to build your reign of grace.

And grow in us a spirit of joyful trust. Amen.

Hymn: Guide me, O thou great Jehovah (H&P 437) *by Peter Williams 1727-1796*

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 now and evermore,
Feed me now and evermore.

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.

Benediction / Sending Forth

Go now in the strength of persistent prayer.
Let your life be shaped by grace and trust.
Seek God in the daily and the difficult.
Forgive as you are forgiven.
Give as you have received.
And walk always in the Way of Christ.

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.

• • •

Material for this service was sourced from *Worship at Hand*
Copyright © Philip Garside Publishing Ltd 2025.

Hymns used are covered by CCLI Licence #230381