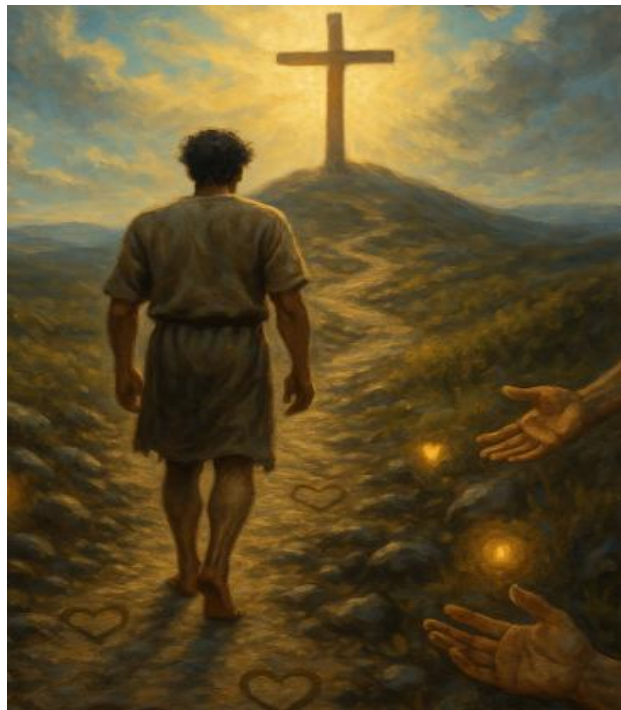




WESLEY WELLINGTON
75 Taranaki Street
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Café Church Service – 29 June 2025

Wesley New Hall



Free, love and the hard road of discipleship

Worship Leader – Rev Suiva'aia Te'o

Welcome to our gathering as a community of faith

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!

Welcome & Safety Briefing:

Opening Prayer:

Loving God, we thank You that we can gather in this space, not as strangers, but as companions on the road of faith. As we share food and conversation, may we also share Your Spirit—guiding us in truth, in love, and in freedom. Amen.

Opening Song – I have decided to follow Jesus (CMP)

(Simon K. Marak 1877-1975)

1. I have decided to follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus

No turning back, no turning back

2. Though none go with me, still I will follow

Though none go with me, still I will follow

Though none go with me, still I will follow

No turning back, no turning back

3. The world behind me, the cross before me

The world behind me, the cross before me

The world behind me, the cross before me

No turning back, no turning back

4. Will you decide now to follow Jesus?

Will you decide now to follow Jesus?

Will you decide now to follow Jesus?

No turning back, no turning back

Prayer of Confession:

Loving God, we have just sung, “I have decided to follow Jesus” but we admit that we don’t always follow well.

We wander. We get distracted.

We hold on to pride, anger, or fear.

We forget your grace and choose our own way.

Forgive us, Lord.

Forgive the times we have failed to love.

Forgive the ways we've used our freedom to serve ourselves.
Forgive our hesitation to walk the hard road of discipleship.

Thank you that your mercy is new every morning.
Thank you that we don't have to pretend or perform—
we simply return to you, and you welcome us with open arms.

Help us today to walk in step with your Spirit.
To live by your grace.
To love as we have been loved.

In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Galatians 5:13-25 (NRSV)

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters;^[a] only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence,^[b] but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' ¹⁵ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶ Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envy,^[c] drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Luke 9:51-62 (NRSV)

⁵¹When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival, ⁵³but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?”, ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶Then they went on to another village.

⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” ⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” ⁵⁹To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” ⁶⁰And Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” ⁶¹Another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” ⁶²And Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Reflection: *Free, love, and the hard road of discipleship*

Table Discussion:

1. What does it mean to you to be ‘free in Christ?’
2. Which of the ‘fruit of the Spirit’ do you feel drawn to today?
3. What’s something that makes the journey of faith difficult for you?

Creative Prayer Activity:

You are invited to write a short prayer or a word of encouragement on the piece of paper on your table and place it in the ‘Prayer Basket’. or you may wish to write which fruit of the Spirit you want to grow in.

Prayers for others:

Lord's Prayer in Te Reo:

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.

Closing Song: 'The Servant Song' by Richard Gillard

1. Brother, sister, let me serve you
Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant too
2. We are pilgrims on a journey
We are travellers on the road
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night-time of your fear
I will hold my hand out to you
Speak the peace you long to hear

4. I will weep when you are weeping
When you laugh I'll laugh with you
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through

5. When we sing to God in heaven
We shall find such harmony
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony

6. Brother, sister, let me serve you
Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant too.

Blessings:

Go now in freedom, filled with love, and walking the road of discipleship.

May the Spirit of God go with you, guiding every step.

The Grace: (said together)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.