



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

Sunday 07 December 2025

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



Prepare the way – make room for Christ

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.

ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

Worship Leader: Rev, Suiva'aia Te'o

Organist: Vivien Chiu

**Kia ora koutou katoa — Talofa Lava Malo e lelei —
Bula Vinaka Greetings to you all!**

SAFETY BRIEFING

WELCOME

*The colour party enters and comes to the front.
The Girls Brigade and Boys Brigade flags are
placed in the choir area*

Rev Suiva'aia welcomes everyone at the service.

**Girls' Brigade International Queens Award recipient
followed by Waiata:**

Girls' Brigade Song

Words and Music by Rev V Beaumont & Deirdre Box

1. Our Girls' Brigade is honour bound
to spread Christ's word abroad
so we, its members loyal and true,
pay homage to the Lord.

Chorus:

He is The Way, The Truth, The Life
and to the Lord we will pray
we'll seek, we'll serve,
we'll follow Christ
here in the Girls' Brigade.

2. Our Christ our King encircle us

with your great fire of love
to pass on to others in our lives
the glory of God above.

3. So let us seek to follow Christ
to serve Him all our days
and on life's journey we'll progress
with joyful songs of praise.

Boys' Brigade Kings Badge recipient followed by Waiata:

Boys' Brigade Song

1. Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
when the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides life, and the cables strain,
will your anchor drift, or firm remain?

Chorus:

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll;
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!

2. Will your anchor hold in the straits of fear,
when the breakers roar and the reef is near?
While the surges rave, and the wild winds blow,
shall the angry waves then your bark o'erflow?
3. Will your eyes behold through the morning light
the city of gold and the harbour bright?
Will you anchor safe by the Heavenly shore,
When life's storms are past for evermore?

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Today we light the candle of **Hope**, reminding us that God's promises never fail and that the light of Christ shines in every season of waiting.

Girls' Brigade member to light 1st candle – candle of hope

Prayer:

**God of light and promise,
we thank You for the gift of hope.
As this candle shines, may it remind us
that Your light is stronger than darkness,
and Your hope never fails.
Amen.**

Today we light the candle of **Peace**, remembering that Jesus came to bring peace to our hearts, our homes, and our world.

Boys' Brigade member to light 2nd candle – candle of peace.

Prayer:

**God of peace,
we thank You for sending Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Let this light guide us to live with kindness,
to bring calm where there is conflict,
and to share Your peace with everyone we meet.
Amen.**

*I invite you to take a moment and share a sign of
God's peace with each other saying 'Peace be with
you'*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: We come to worship, seeking the light of Christ.

Leader: In the midst of fear and uncertainty, God's promise still stands.

People: We come to remember God's faithfulness and to renew our hope.

Leader: The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

People: We will walk in the light of the Lord!

Leader: Come, let us worship the God of Hope and Peace.

People: We come with joyful hearts, ready to receive the promise of Advent!

OPENING PRAYER:

Eternal God,
we thank You for this season of Advent —
for the light that shines in our darkness,
and for the hope You bring through Jesus Christ.
As we gather at Your table today,
open our hearts to Your presence.

Fill us with peace, renew our faith,
and help us to wait with joyful expectation
for the coming of Christ, our Saviour and Lord.
In His name we pray. Amen.

HYMN: Alleluia Aotearoa 23 by Shirley Murray

1. Come now Lord Jesus, enter our Christmas
Be to us no stranger, in this new-made manger.
2. Come, small and human, born of a woman
Yet a Son much greater, of our own Creator.
3. Come, cold and crying, comfort denying,
No place to receive you, few yet to believe you.
4. Come poor and simple, our flesh your temple
In your body feeling, hurt as well as healing.
5. Come gift and token, bread to be broken.
Star and sign still point you; myrrh will yet anoint
you.

STORY FOR THE CHILDREN: *‘the little candle
that couldn’t shine’*

SONG: This Little light of Mine
by Harry Dixon Loes

1. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

2. Each and every day, I'm gonna let it shine
Each and every day, I'm gonna let it shine
Each and every day, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine
3. All over my neighbourhood, I'm gonna let it shine
All over my neighbourhood, I'm gonna let it shine
All over my neighbourhood, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine
4. Put it under a bushel - No! I'm gonna let it shine
Put it under a bushel - No! I'm gonna let it shine
Put it under a bushel - No! I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

SCRIPTURE READING:

Matthew 3:1-12 (NRSV) – Norbert Nziramasanga

¹ In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ² and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’”^[a]

⁴ John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and

all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶ Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with^[b] water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with^[c] the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

REFLECTION: *“Prepare the Way — Make Room for Christ”*

HYMN: Come, thou long expected Jesus

H&P 81 by Charles Wesley 1707-88

1. Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.

2. Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.
3. Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
4. By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

Leader: God of hope, as we begin this Advent journey,
we come before You with hearts open to Your light
and truth.

People: Come, Lord Jesus, and shine Your light in our world.

Leader: For those who walk in darkness, facing fear,
loneliness, or uncertainty — bring them the
light of Your comfort and presence.

People: Come, Lord Jesus, and bring Your hope to all people.

Leader: For the nations of the world, for leaders and
peacemakers, that they may seek justice and work for
peace.

People: Come, Lord Jesus, and bring Your peace to the nations.

Leader: For our families, our church, and our community — that this Advent may be a time of kindness, forgiveness, and new beginnings.

People: Come, Lord Jesus, and fill our hearts with Your love.

Leader: For the sick, the weary, and those who grieve — may they feel the warmth of Your healing and the promise of new life.

People: Come, Lord Jesus, and bring Your healing light.

Leader: For ourselves, that we may prepare room in our hearts for Christ to dwell and live as people of light.

People: Come, Lord Jesus, come soon and make all things new.

Leader: Through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

People: Amen.

Lord's Prayer (said together)

**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**

10AM SINGING GROUP:

OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER:

(we acknowledge offerings made by automatic payment and online banking)

Generous and loving God,
You have given us the greatest gift of all —
Your Son, Jesus Christ, the light of the world.
As we bring our offerings, we do so with grateful hearts.
Bless what we give,
bless those who give,
and bless those who long to give but have little to share.

**Use these gifts, O God,
to bring hope, peace, joy, and love to our world.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION:

THANKSGIVING PRAYER:

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right and a joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

In this holy season of Advent,
we thank You for the light of hope that breaks through
our darkness,
for the promise of peace that the world cannot give,
and for the joy of Your coming among us in Jesus Christ.

With prophets and angels,
and with all who have prepared the way for Christ,
we lift our hearts in praise, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread and after giving thanks
broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, “Take, eat; this is my body
which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”
In the same way he took the cup after supper and said,
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”

**Glory to you, Lord Christ: your death we proclaim;
your resurrection we celebrate; your coming we await.
Amen.**

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come Holy Spirit, that these gifts of bread and wine may be
to us the bread of life and the cup of salvation.
Bind us into one body, that we may grow into the fullness
of
Christ who is the head.
Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
The wine which we pour is a sharing in the blood of Christ.
Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ, We thank you with all our heart for your mercy and grace. Grant us now and in the days to come a living hope in you; and as we serve you in the world, help us look and work for that day, when at your name every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess you Lord, to the glory of God.

Amen

COMMUNITY TIME

Notices

Sharing Joys – things we are grateful for – sorrow & concerns

HYMN: Joy to the World

H&P 77 – by Isaac Watts 1674-1748 based on Psalm 98

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

3. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love

BENEDICTION AND DISMISSAL:

Go now in peace,
for the light of hope and peace has dawned.
Prepare the way of the Lord in all you do this week.
And may the blessing of God
the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer
be upon you and remain with you,
this Advent and always.
Amen.

THE GRACE (said together)

**Kia tau ki a tātou katoa,
te atawhai o tō tātou Ariki o Ihu Karaiti,
me te aroha o te Atua,
me te whiwhinga tahitanga
ki te Wairua Tapu.
Āmine**

**We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year**

***All are invited to morning tea & fellowship in the
New Hall
Thank you very much to the leaders of Girls and
Boys Brigade
for providing some of the morning tea today.***

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