



**Wesley Methodist Church
75 Taranaki Street
Wellington**

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

**ORDER OF SERVICE
SUNDAY 16 AUGUST 2026
12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**



GOD'S MERCY BREAKS THROUGH BARRIERS

Haere mai ki tēnei Whare Karakia
Welcome to this House of Prayer
Kia ora koutou katoa — Talofa Lava
Malo e lelei — Bula Vinaka — Greetings to you all!

We are a multi-racial Christian community: Methodist in affiliation – Ecumenical in intention Diverse in theology – Inclusive in outreach.

ORDER OF SERVICE
10AM CONGREGATION
SUNDAY 16 AUGUST 2026

Leader: Niko Bower
Organist: Colin Scarf

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION
SAFETY BRIEFING
CALL TO WORSHIP

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP – PSALM 133

Whānau of God, come — let us gather in unity. How good it is, how life-giving it is, when God's people come together with one heart and one purpose.

We come as one body, seeking God's presence.

Unity is like precious oil poured out — a blessing that flows, softens, heals, and brings us together. It is like refreshing dew on the mountains, a gift that nourishes and restores the land and our spirits.

We welcome God's blessing among us.

Where God's people dwell in harmony, there the Lord commands his blessing — life, hope, and joy that endures.

We gather as one people, one parish, one whānau.

Praise be to God.

Āmine.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

As we light this candle, we welcome the light of Christ into our gathering. May his presence guide us, warm us, and lead us in truth and love.

Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, as we gather today as your parish family, we pause to seek your wisdom — not just knowledge, but hearts shaped by your truth. Holy Spirit, lead us. Guide our thoughts, steady our minds, and open our eyes to what you want to show us. Teach us to walk in your ways and to live out your covenant of love with integrity.

Lord, take this service into your hands. Shape our worship, our listening, and our lives so that we grow in true wisdom and reflect your grace in all we do.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

HYMN (Himene): **Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah** H&P 437

Words: William Williams, Peter Williams

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,
Feed me now and evermore.
2. Open thou the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire, cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through:
Strong Deliverer,
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
I will ever give to Thee.

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Merciful God, we come as we are

Meet us with grace

We bring the wounds we still carry

Meet us with healing

We bring the bitterness we struggle to release

Meet us with mercy

We bring the words we regret speaking

Meet us with truth

We bring the people we find hard to welcome

Meet us with wider love

We bring our fear of change and growth

Meet us with courage

We come longing to belong and to become

Meet us with grace.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God's love is not withheld from us.

Grace meets us before we know how to ask.

We are forgiven, beloved, and called into new life.

Mercy is already making a way.

Amen.

INTRODUCING THE THEME/STORY TIME:

HYMN (Himene): **Be Thou My Vision**

H&P 378

Words: Irish c 8th century; Tr: Mary Byrne

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art;
Be Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word,
Be Thou ever with me, and I with Thee, Lord;
Be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;

Be Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.

3. Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
Be Thou my whole armour, be Thou my true might;
Be Thou my soul's shelter, be Thou my strong tower,
O raise Thou me heavenward, great power of my power.
4. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:
Be Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart:
O high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.
5. High King of Heaven, my victory won,
O grant me its joys, after victory is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be Thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

GENESIS 45:1-5 (NIV)

Joseph Makes Himself Known

¹Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone leave my presence!" So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. ²And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it.

³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.

MATTHEW 15:21-28 (NIV)

The Faith of a Canaanite Woman

²¹ Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²² A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.”

²³ Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.”

²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”

²⁵ The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said.

²⁶ He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

²⁷ “Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”

²⁸ Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.

ROMANS 11:1-2 (NIV)

The Remnant of Israel

¹ I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. ² God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Don’t you know what Scripture says in the passage about Elijah—how he appealed to God against Israel:

ROMANS 11:29-32 (NIV)

²⁹ for God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, ³¹ so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now^[h] receive mercy as a result of God’s mercy to you. ³² For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

SERMON: ‘GOD’S MERCY BREAKS THROUGH BARRIERS’

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
As thou hast been, thou forever will be.

Refrain

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain

COMMUNITY TIME

SHARING THE PEACE

Leader – the Peace of God be with you

People – and also with you.

(Please share that peace with one another)

RESPONSIVE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of compassion and hope, we lift before you our congregations and our whole parish family. Strengthen our faith, deepen our love, and unite us in your purpose.

Gracious Lord, receive our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick, in pain, or recovering. Bring comfort, healing, and peace to all who suffer.

God of mercy, be near to them.

We remember those who are homeless, struggling, or without support. Provide safety, dignity, and people who will walk alongside them.

Lord, show your kindness and care.

We pray for the vulnerable — the lonely, the anxious, the forgotten. Surround them with your care and remind them they are not alone.

Compassionate God, hold them close.

We lift up all who work, serve, or wait in hospitals, rest homes, and hospices. Give strength to caregivers and hope to those receiving care.

Lord, bless and sustain them.

We remember those in prisons and detention centres. Bring transformation, mercy, and the possibility of new beginnings.

God of freedom, renew their lives.

We pray for our government and for the coming elections. Grant wisdom, integrity, and a commitment to justice for all. Help voters seek truth and peace as they make decisions.

Lord, guide our nation in your ways.

We pray for places torn apart by war and conflict. Bring protection to the innocent, relief to the suffering, and courage to all who work for peace.

God of peace, bring your healing to the world.

We remember those protesting against injustice, and those lacking food, shelter, and basic necessities. Stir compassion in communities and leaders, and empower us to be part of your healing work.

Lord, let justice and compassion rise.

For our parish, our ministries, and our mission in this community, guide us by your Spirit and make us faithful to your calling.

Holy Spirit, lead us forward.

God of grace, hear the prayers we have spoken and the prayers held quietly in our hearts. In your love, answer us.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

NOTICES & OFFERING

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

We give because mercy has first been given to us.

We offer our gifts for healing, justice, and hope.

Your free will offering will now be received.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Bless these gifts, O God of mercy.

Bless the givers with humility and courage.

Use what we offer to widen compassion and restore community.

May our lives become signs of your boundary-crossing love. Amen.

1. Love divine all loves excelling
Joy of heaven to earth come down
Fix in us thy humble dwelling
All thy faithful mercies crown
Jesu, thou art all compassion
Pure, unbounded love thou art
Visit us with thy salvation
Enter every trembling heart.
2. Come, Almighty to deliver
Let us all thy life receive
Suddenly return and never
Never more thy temples leave
Thee we would be always blessing
Serve thee as thy hosts above
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing
Glory in thy perfect love.
3. Finish then thy new creation
Pure and spotless let us be
Let us see thy great salvation.
Perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory
Till in heaven we take our place
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE

As we extinguish this candle, we remember that Christ's light is never gone. It goes with us, shines through us, and remains in the world through our lives.

Amen

BENEDICTION

Gracious God, thank you for meeting us in this time of worship. As we go from this place, keep our hearts steady, our faith strong, and our lives centred on you. Let the words we have heard and the praise we have offered take root and bear fruit in the week ahead. Lead us by your Spirit, and keep us faithful to your calling.

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.**

Please join us for Refreshments in the New Hall

.....

Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:

CCLI Licence #230381

Worship at hand- – Copyright © Philip Garside Publishing Ltd 2026.
Methodist Church of NZ Lectionary

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>