



Wesley Methodist Church

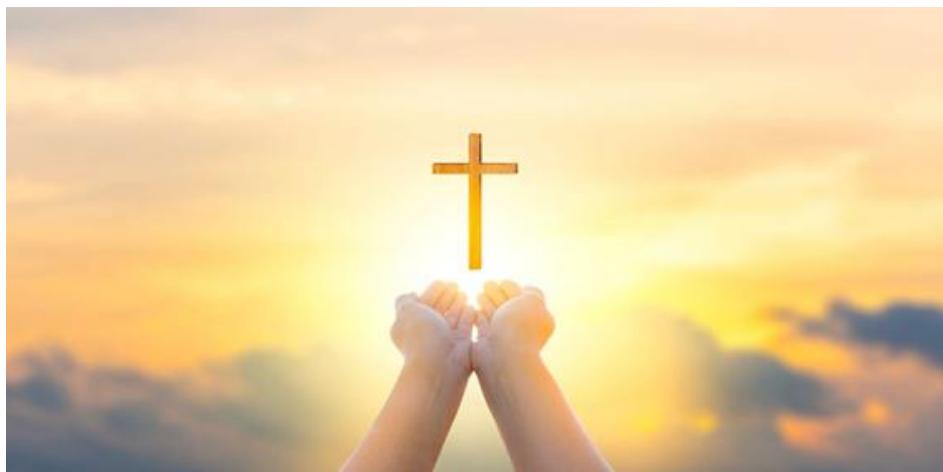
75 Taranaki Street

Wellington

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 25 January 2026

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



BE A REFLECTOR OF CHRIST'S LIGHT

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

**Order of Service
10am Congregation
Sunday 25 January 2026
Epiphany 3**

Worship Leader: Kolosaini Tautala

Organist: Colin Scarf

SAFETY BRIEFING

WELCOME

Call to Worship

Come people of God for the one who brings light into darkness now shines in our hearts

We come to lift our eyes to the Lord, our Maker and Redeemer.

The Lord is our shelter in the storm, our song in the night and joy in the morning

We will trust in his steadfast love and proclaim his goodness to all generations

Let us draw near with gladness and awe

Together we worship the Lord almighty, the king of glory and the giver of life

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

Divine Light, Source of all warmth and truth, as we bring this flame to life we open our hearts to your presence. Let this candle be more than a flicker in the darkness—let it be a living symbol of hope that endures through every trial and tribulation, peace that silences every storm, and love that reaches beyond all boundaries. As it begins to fill this space, may it scatter the shadows that linger within us—shadows of fear, doubt, and weariness. Let its steady light remind us that even the smallest flame can guide the lost, comfort the weary, and pierce the deepest night.

Bless our minds with clarity to see the path you set before us, our hearts with compassion to love without condition, and our spirit with courage to walk in truth.

May this light carry our prayers upward like incense, rising to the heavens, and may its warmth be felt by those we hold dear—whether they are near enough to touch or far beyond our reach.

As the flame burns, let it be a silent companion in my moments of reflection, a witness to my gratitude, my hopes, and my petitions. And when the candle's light fades, may the light it kindled within me remain, shining brightly in all I do. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Leader: We gather here today with grateful hearts, recognizing that every breath we take is a gift from You.

People: We thank You, Lord, for the gift of life, for this new day, and for the chance to be together.

Leader: You have brought us from different places, with different stories, yet united us in one purpose.

People: Unite us in spirit, Lord, and guide our thoughts toward what is good and true.

Leader: We come with hopes and dreams, with burdens and questions, trusting that You hear us.

People: We lay our cares before You, knowing You are our refuge and strength

Leader: May our words today be filled with kindness, our decisions shaped by wisdom, and our actions rooted in love.

People: May we honour You in all we do, and may our work bear fruit that blesses others.

Leader: We open our hearts to your presence among us, asking you to lead us in the way we should go.

People: Dwell with us, Lord, and let Your peace rest upon this place.

Leader: Let this time be fruitful, our fellowship be genuine, and our spirits be renewed.

People: Amen.

HYMN – Guide me, O thou great Redeemer

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
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.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.

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.

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Loving Creator, we come before you with open hearts and quiet minds, grateful for the gift of this moment.

You are the breath in our lungs, the light that guides our steps, the stillness that calms our restless thoughts. Draw us close to your presence,

that we may hear your whisper in the noise of life, and see your beauty in the ordinary and the grand.

Cleanse our hearts of all that distracts, and fill us with a spirit of humility, so we may worship You in truth and joy. Here we are, Lord —ready to listen, ready to learn, ready to be shaped by your love. Amen.

HYMN – Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, How sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost, but now I am found,

Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,

And grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that grace appear

The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares

I have already come,

'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far

And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me

His word my hope secures;

He will my shield and portion be,

As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,

And mortal life shall cease

I shall possess within the veil,

A life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years

Bright shining as the sun,

We've no less days to sing God's praise

Then when we first begun.

Bible Reading

Isaiah 9: 1-4 RSV

1 But there will be no gloom for her that was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them had light shined.

3 Thou hast multiplied the nation, thou hast increased its joy; they rejoice before thee as with joy at the harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

4 For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, thou hast broken as on the day of Midian.

The Gospel – Mathew 4: 12-23 RSV

12 Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; 13 and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali,

14 that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

15 “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—16 the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” 17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” 18 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. 23 And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

REFLECTION – A reflector of God’s light

HYMN – Be Thou my Vision

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 and 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, I thy dear child;
Thou in me dwelling, with thee reconciled.
3. Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight.
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r;
Raise thou me Heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
4. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always. Thou and thou only, first
in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.
5. High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

COMMUNITY TIME - Sharing the Peace

*Let us offer the peace to each other saying:
The peace of God is here to stay.*

NOTICES

SHARING JOYS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Loving God, You hear the cries of the weary and the whispers of the hopeful.

Today, we lift before You the needs of the world, trusting in Your mercy.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those burdened by illness, pain, or grief—wrap them in Your comfort, strengthen their bodies, and renew their spirits.

Lord, bring healing and peace.

For leaders and decision-makers—grant them wisdom rooted in justice, compassion, and humility, that they may serve the common good.

Lord, guide their hearts and minds.

For communities torn by conflict, disaster, or fear—restore what has been broken, and plant seeds of reconciliation and hope.

Lord, make us instruments of Your peace.

For the lonely, the forgotten, and the voiceless—remind them they are seen, loved, and never abandoned.

Lord, surround them with Your love.

LORDS 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 aianei
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.

OFFERING and BLESSING OF OFFERING

Heavenly Father,
We come before You with grateful hearts, acknowledging that every good gift comes from your hand. Today, we return a portion of what You have entrusted to us, not out of obligation, but out of love and thanksgiving.
Bless these offerings, Lord, that they may be used to bring hope to the hurting, light to the lost, and strength to the weary. Multiply them beyond what we can imagine, so that Your kingdom may grow and Your name be glorified.
Bless every giver, Lord — meet their needs, fill their hearts with joy, and let generosity overflow in their lives. May this act of giving draw us closer to You and to one another in unity and purpose.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

HYMN - How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.

Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

BENEDICTION

Go now in the peace that surpasses all understanding.
May your heart be steady in hope,
your hands ready for kindness,
and your words seasoned with grace.
May the light of God guide your steps,
the love of Christ dwell richly within you,
and the Spirit's joy be your strength each day.
Go in blessing, and be a blessing,
now and always. Amen.

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 in the New Hall for morning tea.

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Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:
William Williams (1717-91) Hymnary. Together in Song: Australian hymn
book II 569. Guide me, O thou great Redeemer | Hymnary.org
Newton, John (1779) Hymnary. Amazing grace! (how sweet the sound) |
Hymnary.org
Eleanor H. Hull; Translator: Mary E. Byrne (1927). Hymnary. Be Thou My
Vision | Hymnary.org
Carl Boberg; Translator: Stuart K. Hine (1949). Hymnary. How Great
Thou Art | Hymnary.org

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