



Wellington Methodist Parish

75 Taranaki Street, Te Whanganui-a-Tara

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Rātapu, te 26 o Hōngongoi 2026

Te Rātapu tuaiwa o Petekoha (Pentecost 9)

NOTHING CAN STOP LOVE

The realm of God is love becoming visible

Nothing can separate us from the love of God.
Therefore, nothing need prevent us from making God's love visible.

Living God's love – acting for the common good

Kia ora koutou katoa — Tālofa lava
Mālō e lelei — Bula vinaka — Greetings to you all!

Welcome to today's service. A special welcome to visitors. We hope you will enjoy worshipping with us this morning and will join us again.
Welcoming you today are Philippa Conway & Bill Ryan

10AM Congregation – Order of Service

Worship leader: Hugh Laurensen

Preacher: Rev Peter Norman, Vice-President

Organist: Vivien Chiu

As we gather, we acknowledge Ngāti Mutunga and Te Āti Awa, who hold mana whenua of this land. We acknowledge Te Tiriti o Waitangi that established our nation, recognising mana and rangatiratanga as the right foundation to govern our people with justice and mercy. We seek to honour this commitment in our lives and in our worship.

WELCOME AND SAFETY BRIEFING

Daphne Pilaar

INTRODUCTION

CALL TO WORSHIP | Ngā Kupu Whakapūare

The city is already awake.

And the Spirit is already moving.

In offices and kitchens, on buses and footpaths, in Parliament and on the waterfront—

The life of God is stirring.

Like a seed beneath the soil—

Love is growing.

Like yeast hidden in dough—

Love is rising.

Like treasure hidden in an ordinary field—

Love is waiting to be discovered.

Like a net cast wide across the sea —

Love is gathering every kind of person.

What can separate us from the love of God?

Nothing!

Then let us rise, sing, breathe, laugh, pray and worship the God whose love will not let creation go!

Nothing can stop love. Let us worship God!

LIGHTING THE CANDLE | Kānara Whakamāmā

In the brightness of day, we lift these small flames – gentle beside the sun, yet bold in meaning – to remember that love shines through every moment.

Nothing can stop love.

For healing that unfolds slowly, for hope that glimmers in ordinary hours, for courage quietly growing within us, we raise this light.

Nothing can stop love.

For every heart we hold close, and every soul longing to be seen, we offer this flame.

Nothing can stop love.

Let these candles remind us of what daylight already knows:

Love is patient, love is present, love is still rising. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER | Inoi Tuatahi

Living God, deeper than our deepest longing and nearer than our breath, you hold all creation within your love. You are not confined to this building, yet you meet us here. You are not limited by our words, yet you speak through Scripture, music, silence, laughter and one another. In Jesus Christ, you have shown us what divine love looks like when it takes flesh: welcoming the excluded, confronting injustice, healing the wounded, sharing the table and refusing to let death have the final word. Let your Spirit move through this gathering like wind through the city streets, like yeast through dough, like birds finding shelter in a growing tree.

Wake us. Widen us. Fill us with joy.

May this worship become more than words. May it become courage, compassion, justice and delight.

In the name and Spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.

OPENING HYMN | Hīmene – Christ Is Alive! (AA 15)

1. Christ is alive, and the universe must celebrate,
and the stars and the suns shout every Easter Day!
Christ is alive, and his family must celebrate
in a great alleluia, a great alleluia
to praise the power that made the stone roll away.
2. Here is our hope: in the mystery of suffering
is the heartbeat of Love, Love that will not let go,
here is our hope, that in God we are not separate,
and we sing alleluia, we sing alleluia
to praise the power that made the stone roll away.
3. Christ Spirit, dance through the dullness of humanity
to the music of God, God who has set us free!
You are the pulse of the new creation's energy;
with a great alleluia, a great alleluia
we praise the power that made the stone roll away.

Shirley Murray

ALL-AGE MOMENT | A Seed, a Breath, a City

ANTHEM – Tongan choir

AWAKENING TO GRACE | Te Oho ki te Atawhai

Lord, you place before us the images of the small – the tiny mustard seed, the grain of yeast, the small treasure – and remind us that we, though we think of ourselves as small, are not insignificant in your kingdom. Open our hearts and our spirits to you in thankful remembrance of the ways in which we can serve you throughout all our lives, in the way of Christ our Lord.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE | Kupu Kī Pono

Hear the good news: The God who works through mustard seeds and hidden yeast is at work in you. What you offer in faith is never too small for God's kingdom. In Christ, you are seen. You are welcomed. You are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

INTRODUCING THE THEME | Timatanga Kōrero

Jesus rarely explains the Realm of God with arguments or theories. He tells stories. A tiny seed. Yeast hidden in dough. Treasure in a field. A pearl of great value. A net cast wide. Together they tell us that God's work is often hidden, surprising and life-giving. And beneath them all we hear Paul's great affirmation:

Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

So today we ask not, "How can the Church survive?"

But how can we make God's love visible?

THE LIVING WORD | Te Kupu Ora
Laurenson

Sarah

Romans 8: 26-39 (NRSVUE edition)

Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ[f] who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So, it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

HYMN | Hīmene - He Came Singing Love (WOV 636, and AA59)

1. He came singing love
and he lived singing love;
he died singing love.
He arose in silence.
For the love to go on
we must make it our song;
you and I be the singers.

2. He came singing faith
and he lived singing faith;
he died singing faith.
He arose in silence.
For the faith to go on
we must make it our song;
you and I be the singers.

3. He came singing hope
and he lived singing hope;
he died singing hope.
He arose in silence.
For the hope to go on
we must make it our song;
you and I be the singers.

4. He came singing peace
and he lived singing peace;
he died singing peace.
He arose in silence.
For the peace to go on
we must make it our song;
you and I be the singers.

Colin Gibson

REFLECTION AND TRANSFORMATION | He Whakaaroaro – ‘Nothing Can Stop Love’

WAIATA: He Hōnore (Te Ringatū hāhi o Ngāi Tūhoe)

He hōnore, he korōria
Maungārongo ki te whenua
Whakaaro pai e ki ngā tāngata katoa
Ake ake, ake ake
Āmine
Te Atua, te piringa,
Toku oranga.

COMMUNITY, PRAYER AND GENEROSITY | Te Hapori, te Inoi me te Koha

OFFERING | Tātou Koha ki te Hāhi

We also acknowledge offerings made by automatic payment and online banking

BLESSING OF OFFERINGS (said together)

Steadfast God, you search our hearts and know our needs even when we struggle to find the words. In your mercy, you strengthen us in our weakness and bind us together in love that cannot be broken. As we bring these gifts today, may they bear witness to your enduring promise: that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus. Bless these offerings, that they may bring hope to the weary, peace to the troubled, and joy to the hearts of your people. Through Christ, our Redeemer and Companion, we pray. Amen.

COMMUNITY TIME AND NOTICES | Te Wā Hapori me ngā Pānui

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE | Ngā Inoi Mō te Whānau

Spirit who prays within us when words fail, gather our prayers into the deep prayer of Christ.

For Te Whanganui-a-Tara — for those who govern, serve, teach, create, protest, heal, clean, build and care; for those who sleep safely and those who do not—

Let love become visible.

For tangata whenua, for the life of Te Tiriti, for justice that repairs what has been harmed and relationships that honour mana—

Let love become visible.

For the nations and peoples of the Pacific, for communities facing climate change, displacement, conflict and economic hardship—

Let love become visible.

For the Church in all its beauty and brokenness; for Methodist people, for every culture and language gathered in this parish; for courage to honour old treasure and welcome new imagination—

Let love become visible.

For those whose bodies ache, whose minds are overwhelmed, whose relationships are fragile, whose grief is fresh or whose hope is fading—

Hold them where nothing can separate them from your love.

For those we name aloud or carry silently...

For ourselves: free us from fear of failure, fear of difference, fear of change and fear of one another.

Make us brave in love.

May every prayer become a seed. May every seed become shelter. May every act of compassion become yeast in the life of this city.

Through Jesus Christ, in whom your love becomes flesh. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER | He Inoi o te Ariki

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 whakawaia;

Engari whakaorangia mātou, i te kino:

Nou hoki te rangatiratanga,

te kaha, me te kororia,

Ake, ake, ake. Āmine.

CELEBRATION AND COMMISSIONING | Te Whakanui me te Tuku

Friends in Christ, today we have worshipped in many languages, but with one faith, one hope, and one Lord.

We have remembered that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

We have seen that God's Realm begins like a tiny seed,

works quietly like yeast,

is discovered like hidden treasure,

and gathers people together like a great net.

As disciples of Jesus,
our worship does not end here.
It continues in our homes,
our workplaces,
our neighbourhoods,
our schools,
our Parliament,
our streets,
and throughout Te Whanganui-a-Tara, wherever love is needed.
So I invite you, if you are willing, to renew your commitment to Christ's mission.

***With God's help,
we will live Christ's love.
We will seek justice,
show mercy,
walk humbly with God,
and make God's love visible in the world.***

Kia kaha.
Kia māia.
Kia manawanui.
Be strong.
Be courageous.
Be steadfast.
Go in the peace of Christ,
to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Amine.

FINAL HYMN | Hīmene – O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing (H&P 744)

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of our God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!
2. Lo'u Matai ma lo'u Atua
Fesoasoani mai
E talai atu i le lalolagi
Lou suafa mamalu
3. Ko Sisu 'a e Huafa lahi
'O 'ikai hano ua
'Ikai ha taha ke tataui,
He Taha ke kukunga
4. Sa vosa ga, qai reki mai
Na yalo vutugu
Na mataboko era rai
Na bale era tu
5. He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
He sets the prisoner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean
His blood availed for me

Charles Wesley

BLESSING | Manaakitanga

Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

May the love of God hold you,
the grace of Christ surround you,

and the Holy Spirit strengthen you
as you seek the flourishing of all your neighbours.

Haere i runga i te rangimārie.
Mālō mo e melino.
Ia manuia.
Kalougata.
Amine.

Himene: ‘Mā te mārie’ (sung unaccompanied to tune: Old 100th)

Mā te mārie a te Atua	The peace of God
Tātou katoa e tiaki.	Keeps us all.
Māna anō e whakaū	He will confirm
ō Tātou ngākau ki te pai.	Our hearts in goodness.

Mā te Atua Tamaiti rā,	May the Son of God
mā te Wairua Tapu hoki	and the Holy Spirit too,
rātou, Atua kōtahi nei,	one God
tātou katoa e whakapai.	Bless us all.
Amine	Amen.

***Please join us for morning tea in the New Hall following the service.
Many thanks to the Leatuavao whānau for supporting our shared kai
and manaakitanga.***

Hymns used are covered by CCLI Licence #230381

To keep up to date with services and news, visit the parish website:

<https://wesleychurch.org.nz/>

Or the 10AM Congregation’s Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/wesleywellington.methodistchurch.10am>

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Methodist Parish’