



Wesley Methodist Church

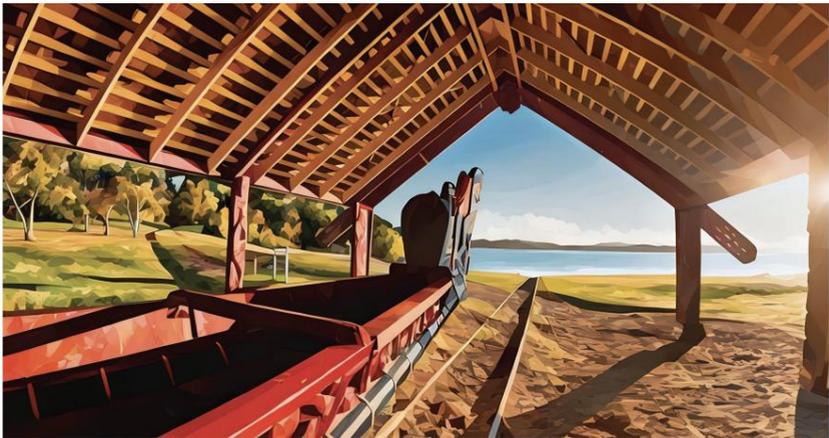
75 Taranaki Street
Wellington

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 8 February 2026

5th Sunday after Epiphany

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



Honouring Covenant and Unity

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!**

Order of Service
10am Congregation
Sunday 8 February 2026
5th Sunday after Epiphany
Leader: Shelly Rao Organist: Vivien Chiu

“Toitū te kupu, toitū te mana, toitū te whenua.”

Let the word endure, let the mana endure, let the land endure.

Welcome & Introduction

Ata mārie e te whānau.

Welcome to our service on the 5th Sunday after Epiphany at the Wesley Methodist Church in Wellington. A special welcome to any visitors here today and to those who are joining us online.

A Call to Worship (Response in bold)

We gather today to remember and to reflect.

To honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi

not only as a founding document of this nation,

but as a covenant that calls us into right relationship with one another.

**We come with open hearts—
to listen deeply, to learn humbly,
to lament where trust has been broken,
and to hope for healing and renewal.**

As followers of Christ,

we know that covenant is not merely a contract,

but a sacred bond grounded in love, justice, and mutual care.

**We affirm our commitment to reconciliation,
to truth-telling, and to unity in Christ.**

Lighting the Candle

In the spirit of our bicultural journey,
we seek to walk together
tangata whenua and tangata Tiriti
in partnership, grace, and shared responsibility.
Let us worship the God who weaves us together
in covenant and in community.

Amen. Let it be so

Hymn: Make Me a Channel of your Peace (H&P 776)

1. Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love,
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord.
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Refrain: *O Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console.
To be understood as to understand.
To be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

2. Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light.
And where there's sadness, ever joy:

Refrain

3. Make me a channel of your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving to all people that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving

God of all creation, we gather today in gratitude and praise.
You have been present in this land since the beginning
in the breath of the forests, the strength of the mountains,
and the song of the rivers.

**We praise you for Aotearoa,
for the sacred whenua and moana,
for all who have cared for this land across generations.**

We give thanks for tangata whenua
for Māori who have carried stories, wisdom,
and faith through times of challenge and renewal.
We honour their leadership, their language, and their aroha.

**We praise you for the gift of Te Tiriti o Waitangi,
a covenant that still calls us to justice, to right relationship,
and to shared life in this land.**

We thank you for those who have come as tangata Tiriti
settlers and migrants, workers and seekers
who have added to the richness of our shared life.

**You are the God of many peoples,
and your image shines through every face.
We praise you for the beauty of difference
and the unity we find in your love.**

Guide us, O God, as a bicultural and diverse people,
to walk in humility, seek the truth, honour the past,
and shape a future grounded in faith, justice, and compassion.

**Creating God, we praise you with grateful hearts.
Let your reign of peace and justice be known among us. Amen.**

Confession and Renewal of Commitment

As followers of Christ in this land,
we pause to acknowledge where we have fallen short

as a nation, as a Church, and as a people called into covenant.
We name the breaches in relationship and the weight of injustice still carried.

**God of covenant and whanaungatanga,
we confess that we have not always honoured
Te Tiriti o Waitangi as sacred.
We have treated it as history, not as a living relationship.
We have centred ourselves, and silenced others.
We have failed to see clearly, to hear meaningfully,
to feel the heartbeat of the land beneath all our feet.
We have protected systems that exclude,
rather than creating space for shared leadership and truth.
Forgive us. Heal the breaches.
Teach us again how to be partners in this place.**

**We renew our commitment:
to walk the covenant path with humility and courage,
to honour the tikanga and mātauranga that sustain all life,
to uphold the dignity of all people,
and to follow Christ in the work of reconciliation, justice, and peace.**

Words of Assurance

Hear this good news:

God does not abandon covenant.

Even when we forget, God remembers.

Even when we resist, Christ invites us to begin again.

The Spirit moves through every act of truth-telling and every step toward restoration.

In Christ, we are forgiven. By the Spirit, we are renewed.

Through God's aroha, we are empowered to live as covenant people in this land.

All: Thanks be to God. Āmine.

Waiata: He Honore

He hōnore, he korōria
Maungārongo ki te whenua.

*Honour, glory and
peace to the land.*

Whakaaro pai e
Ki ngā tangata katoa
Ake ake, ake ake.
Āmine
Te Atua, te piringa,
Toku orange.

*May good thoughts come
to all men
for ever and ever, for ever and ever
Amen.
The Lord is the refuge
and my life.*

Readings

Isaiah 58: 6–12 *A call to justice and restoration*

(This reading draws on the main message of Isaiah 58 and contextualises it for Aotearoa New Zealand.)

Is not this the fast I long for, says the Holy One of Aotearoa:
to loosen the chains of colonisation and poverty,
to lift the heavy burden laid upon the backs of the vulnerable,
to set the oppressed free—
those crushed by racism, injustice, and greed—
to break every binding cord that keeps people from flourishing?

Is it not to share kai with the hungry,
to open your homes to those without shelter,
to clothe the cold, the forgotten, the excluded,
and not to turn away from your own whānau,
from your neighbours, your Treaty partners, your kin?
Then your light shall rise like the dawn over the whenua,
your healing shall spring up like harakeke after the rain.
Your integrity will lead the way;
the mana of the Lord will protect you from behind.

Then when you call, the Lord will answer;
when you cry out, God will say, “Here I am.”

If you put down the pointing hand,
and the bitter word,
if you offer kai to the hungry
and tend to the needs of the afflicted,

then your light will shine in the shadows,
your darkness will become like the noonday sun.

The Holy One will guide you always,
renewing your wairua in dry places,
strengthening your bones with hope.
You will be like a well-watered māra kai,
like a puna that never runs dry.

You will rebuild what was long left in ruins
restoring not just buildings, but relationships.
You will lay foundations for future generations,
and you shall be called:
The Repairer of the Breach,
The Restorer of Pathways for the People to Dwell In.

Luke 4: 16 -21 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

Jesus declares his mission to bring good news to the poor.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up,
he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom.
He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He
unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:
“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good
news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to
the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the
Lord’s favour.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The
eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your
hearing.”

Reflection: *Covenant, Justice and Unity*

Wall of Reflection – A Personal Response to the Word

Hymn: Christ, Be Our Light!

(Bernadette Farrell, 1993)

1. *Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.*

Refrain

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

2. *Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. **Refrain***
3. *Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. **Refrain***
4. *Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. **Refrain***
5. *Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come. **Refrain***

Community Time

Sharing the Peace

Let's greet each other saying: **"God's peace be with you."**

Notices: Sharing Joys, Things we are Grateful for, Prayers for Sorrows & Concerns.

Prayers of the People

Let us bring our prayers to God—prayers for our land, our peoples, and our future.

Loving God, covenant keeper,

We pray for Aotearoa New Zealand—for all who call this land home. Grant wisdom to our leaders, healing to our land, and courage to all who seek justice and peace.

**We pray for iwi and hapū, for all tangata whenua—
for the strength of culture, language, identity, and sovereignty.
Help us as a nation to honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi not only in word, but in action.**

We pray for all tangata Tiriti—in all their cultural and ethnic diversity. May our Church and our communities reflect the beauty of that diversity as we walk in covenantal relationship with tangata whenua.

**We pray for our Church—Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa
as we walk this bicultural journey.
Give us grace to listen deeply, repent fully, and act justly.**

Strengthen our commitment to the work of redress for those who were harmed in our care. May this be a path of truth, healing, and transformation.

**We remember all who are marginalised or struggling—
those affected by racism, poverty, abuse, or neglect.
Bring comfort to the hurting and hope to the weary.**

And we pray for unity—not uniformity, but covenantal connection. May your Spirit bind us together in love that crosses all boundaries.

We gather these prayers in the name of Jesus, and with the prayer he taught us:

**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.**

Offering

Let us live and give generously in response to all that God has done for us.
(We also acknowledge offerings made by automatic payment and online banking)

Blessing of Offering

God, from you comes every bounty.
Every sacrifice of life that sustains ours
is the sacrifice of your beloved.
As we return a small part of the bounty
you have blessed us with,
We pray that it will be used to forge
stronger connections among all creation
Until the whole world is redeemed by your love. **Amen.**

Hymn: Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart. (H&P 378)

Versifier: Eleanor H. Hull; Translator: Mary E. Byrne (1927)

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, be 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 vain, 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, thou heaven's bright sun
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.*

Blessing

As we go from this place, may we walk gently on this land,
seek truth in our relationships and act justly in our communities.
May we honour the promises of the past, embrace the challenges of the
present, and live with hope for the future.
Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord. **Amen.**

Extinguish the candle.

The Grace (said together)

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.

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Material for this service was sourced from:

*Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa The Methodist Church of New Zealand – Waitangi
Day Reflection and Worship Resource*

*L3 - Liturgy, Learning & (purposeful) Life Worship Resources, MediaCom Ed Inc,
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<https://wesleychurch.org.nz/>

And the 10am Congregation's Facebook Page:

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