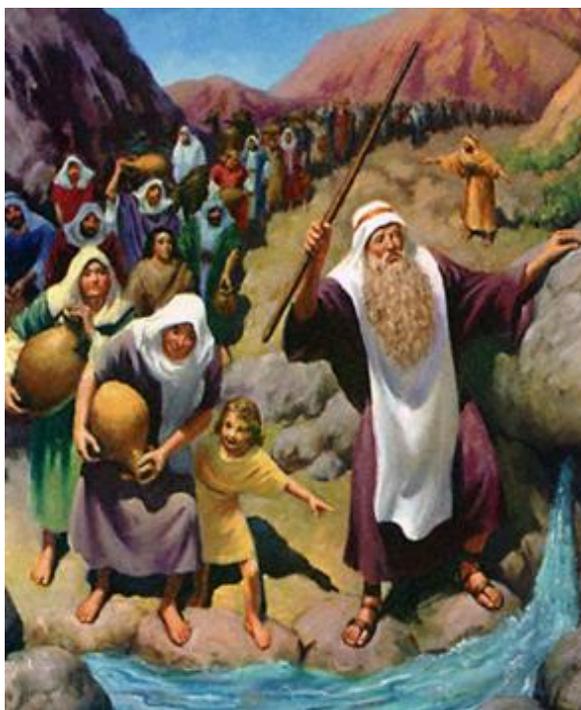




Wesley Methodist Church
75 Taranaki Street
Wellington
www.wesleychurch.org.nz

ORDER OF SERVICE
SUNDAY 08 MARCH 2026 - LENT 3



**RIVERS IN THE WASTELAND -
FINDING GOD IN OUR DEEPEST NEEDS.**

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 08 MARCH 2026 - LENT 3

Leader: Niko Bower
Organist: Vivien Chiu

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

SAFETY BRIEFING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

Congregation: For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Leader: In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land.
O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

Congregation: For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Leader: For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

Congregation: For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Amen

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and Living God,
We come before You today with thankful hearts, grateful for the opportunity to gather in Your presence. We thank You for the gift of this day and for the fellowship we share as Your people.

Open our hearts and minds during this hour of worship. Quiet the distractions of our busy lives so that we may hear Your voice and feel Your peace. Let Your Holy Spirit move among us, inspiring our prayers, our songs, and our reflections. May all that we do here bring glory to Your name and strengthen us to serve You in the world. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

HYMN: All people that on earth do dwell H&P 1 WOV10

1. All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice:
Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;
Come ye before him and rejoice.

2. Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid he did us make:
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.

3. Enter then his gates with praise,
Approach with joy his courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

4. For why the Lord our God is good;
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Leader: Most Merciful God, we admit that we often wander from Your path. We confess that we grumble when life is difficult and doubt Your presence when we face trials. We have sought satisfaction in things that do not last and have turned away from Your perfect love.

Congregation: Forgive us, O Lord, and renew us by Your grace.

Leader: Hear the good news: God proves His love for us in this—that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Through Him, we are justified by faith and have peace with God.

Congregation: Thanks be to God! Our hope is in You.

WORD OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news of the Gospel: Just as God brought water from the rock in the wilderness, He brings life out of our brokenness. God proves His love for us in this—that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. In Jesus Christ, the Living Water, we are forgiven, refreshed, and made new. Through faith, we have peace with God and a hope that does not disappoint.

Congregation: Thanks be to God! Amen.

OUR FATHER'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 and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

CHILDRENS TIME

INTRODUCING THE THEME

PRAYER FOR THE CHILDREN

Loving God, we thank You for the gift of children and for the joy they bring to our church family. We ask Your blessing on the children gathered here today as they learn and grow in Your love.

We also lift up those who are not with us this morning—our own children and grandchildren, wherever they may be. Keep them safe and guide their steps. We remember, too, the children of the whole world, especially those in need or in danger. Protect them and surround them with Your peace.

All: Bless all children, Lord, and keep them in Your constant care.

Amen.

HYMN: Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven (H&P 13)

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like thee his praise should sing?
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise the everlasting King!

2. Praise him for his grace and favour
To His people in distress.
Praise him, still the same forever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Glorious in his faithfulness!

3. Fatherlike, he tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame he knows.
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Widely as his mercy flows.

4. Angels in the height, adore Him;
Ye behold Him face to face.

Sun and moon, bow down before Him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise with us the God of grace!

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Exodus 17: 1-7

Water From the Rock

¹ The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² So they quarrelled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?"

³ But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

⁴ Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."

⁵ The Lord answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarrelled and because they tested the Lord saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

John 4: 5-15

⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

¹¹ “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

¹³ Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

Romans 5: 6-11

⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

HYMN: Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty H&P 7

1. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;

Holy, Holy, Holy! merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

2. Holy, Holy, Holy! all the saints adore Thee,

Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;

Cherubim and seraphim, falling down before Thee,

Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

3. Holy, Holy, Holy! though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

4. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky
and sea;
Holy, Holy, Holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Words: Reginald Heber (Rev 4:8-11). Music: JB Dykes. Tune: NICAEA

REFLECTION: Rivers in the Wasteland- Finding God in our deepest needs.

NOTICES & OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Generous God, we thank You that You are the source of every good gift. Bless these gifts and those who give them. May our lives, like these offerings, be a spring of hope for our community and the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Leader: Almighty God, we come to You as a people thirsty for Your justice and Your peace. We lift up the world You love, asking that Your living water would flow into every dry and weary place.

We pray for the Government of the day, for our leaders and all who hold authority. In the desert of difficult decisions, give them the wisdom that comes only from You. May they lead with hearts of compassion, seeking the flourishing of all people, especially the most vulnerable.

Response: Lord, pour out Your living water.

Leader: We pray for the sick and the suffering, for those in hospitals or facing long recoveries. We pray for the homeless, the unfortunate, and those who feel forgotten by society. For those whose spirits feel parched by pain or poverty, be their comfort and their provider.

Response: Lord, pour out Your living water.

Leader: We turn our hearts to the world and its many conflicts. We cry out for those enduring "tough times" in the Middle East and every place where violence and fear cast long shadows. For families displaced by war and children who know only the sound of sirens—bring Your peace that passes understanding. Provide them with the support they need and the hope that does not disappoint.

Response: Lord, pour out Your living water.

Leader: We pray for our own Parish and this Congregation. For every member, every family, and every person seeking a place to belong. We give thanks for those who work within the Parish, for their dedication and their service. Refresh them, Lord, so that this church may be a "well" in this community where anyone can come to find rest and life.

Response: Lord, pour out Your living water.

Leader: Lord, hear our prayers, both those spoken aloud and those held in the silence of our hearts. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Rock and our Redeemer. **Amen**

HYMN: ‘When peace like a river attendeth my Way’ (CMP 757)

1. When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea-billows roll;
Whatever my lot You have taught me to say,
‘It is well, it is well with my soul.’

Refrain:

*It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

2. Though Satan should buffet, if trials should come,
Let this blessed assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And has shed his own blood for my soul.

3. My sin - O the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part, but the whole;
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul.

4. For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live!
If Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life,
You will whisper Your peace to my soul.

5. But Lord, it's for You - for Your coming we wait,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal:
O trump of the angel! O voice of the Lord!
Blessed hope! Blessed rest of my soul.

*Words: H G Spafford, Music: Philip P Bliss
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EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLE

BENEDICTION

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

As you leave this place, remember:

The Rock is with you in the wilderness;

The Savior is waiting for you at the well;

And the love of God has been poured into your hearts.

Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Amen.

We extend a warm invitation to everyone to gather now for kai in the
New Hall.

Liturgy for this service was sourced and adapted from:

*The Book of Common Prayer
Common Prayer
A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals
The Valley of Vision*

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