



Wesley Wellington

75 Taranaki Street

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 8 August 2021
Pentecost 11

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

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



God Lifts Us Up

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

Order of Service
Wesley Methodist Church, 75 Taranaki Street
10am Congregation
8 August 2021 Pentecost 11

Leader: Philip Garside.

Organist: Colin Scarf. Guitar: Heather Garside

Welcome, Introduction & Safety Briefing

Call to Worship

Jesus became the talk of the town and was highly criticized
when he ate with those considered unclean and unacceptable.

The apostle Paul was challenged and criticized **when he visited those considered unclean and unacceptable.**

Acceptance, generosity, healing, forgiveness:
those are the words that defined what Jesus was all about.

Acceptance, generosity, healing, forgiveness:
the early church shaped their life together around those spiritual practices as well.

Acceptance, generosity, healing, forgiveness:
may these words define our life together as a congregation and the way that each of us lives and works in this world.

Come, let us worship God, who strengthens these gifts within us!

Lighting the Candles

As we light these candles:

Kindle a flame within our hearts, O God
and let your *light* shine through

Kindle a flame within our hearts, O God
and let your *justice* shine through

Kindle a flame within our hearts, O God
and let your *hope* shine through

Kindle a flame within our hearts, O God
and let your *peace* shine through

Kindle a flame within our hearts, O God
and let your *love* shine through. Amen.

Opening Prayer [Said together]

**Loving God,
you live in us through the Spirit.
We feel the holy breeze on our hearts,
as surely as the trees feel the gentle wind
on their leaves.
Thank you for always being with us,
for giving us the courage and strength
to let the Spirit into our lives,
to let it fill our spiritual sails and carry us forward,
so that we may be winds of change
in a becalmed world.
Through your love, O God, this is possible. Amen.**

Hymn: Awake, awake to love and work. H&P 631 (Tune: Sheltered Dale)

- 1 Awake, awake to love and work,
 The lark is in the sky,
 The fields are wet with diamond dew,
 The worlds awake to cry
 Their blessings on the Lord of life,
 As he goes meekly by.
- 2 Come, let thy voice be one with theirs,
 Shout with their shout of praise;
 See how the giant sun soars up,
 Great lord of years and days!
 So let the love of Jesus come,
 And set thy soul ablaze —
- 3 To give and give, and give again,
 What God hath given thee,
 To spend thyself nor count the cost,
 To serve right gloriously
 The God who gave all worlds that are,
 And all that are to be.

Prayer of Approach [Said together]

**So often we have a fear of missing out –
whether missing out on social media happenings,
or missing out on the latest brand products,
or missing out on the most modern updates to our homes.
Focusing on the siren calls of consumerism and status,
we can easily miss out on your most powerful gift – love.
Work within us, creative God, showing us our place and,
our purpose in walking humbly with you.**

Words of Assurance

Hear now words of assurance:

Here's the good news.

We are worthy of love because God first loved us.

Because we are so completely loved, we learn how to love.

We are worthy of love so we can love ourselves.

Knowing how to love, we can risk loving others just as Jesus loved.

In this loving is our forgiveness.

In the power of love, we become ever more whole.

Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

Time with children / Introducing the Theme

Song/Round: Happy are we who have work to do

♩ = 95

Dm C Dm G Dm C G

Hap-py are we who have work to do, Come and help us serve the Lord.

Readings: (NRSV)

Ephesians 4:25 - 5:2 – Rules for the New Life

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another.

Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil.

Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy.

Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption.

Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice,

and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

John 6:35, 41-51 – The Bread of Life

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' They were saying, 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"?''

Jesus answered them, 'Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me.

Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life.

Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

Sermon: God Lifts Us Up

*Psalm 130 – Waiting for Divine Redemption (NRSV)
A Song of Ascents.*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.
Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!
If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.
I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.
O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.
It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

Song: I take Thy promise

Words: Henry Legh Richmond Deck. Music: Jonathan Berkahn

- 1 I take Thy promise, Lord, in all its length,
and breadth, and fullness, as my daily strength;
into life's future fearless I may gaze,
for, Saviour. Thou art with me all the days.
- 2 Days may be coming fraught with loss and change,
new scenes surround my life and faces strange;
I thank Thee that no day can ever break,
Saviour, when Thou wilt leave me or forsake.
- 3 There may be days of darkness and distress,
when sin has power to tempt, and care to press,
yet in the darkest day I will not fear,
for, 'mid the shadows, Thou wilt still be near.
- 4 Days there may be of joy and deep delight,
when earth seems fairest, and her skies most bright,
then draw me closer to Thee, lest I rest
elsewhere, my Saviour, than upon Thy breast.

- 5 And all the other days that make my life,
marked by no special joy or grief or strife,
days filled with quiet duties, trivial care,
burdens too small for other hearts to share.
- 6 Spend Thou these days with me, all shall be Thine,
so shall the darkest hour with glory shine.
Then when these earthly years have passed away,
let me be with Thee in the perfect day.

Community Time

Sharing the Peace

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

Notices

Sharing Joys and Sorrows

Prayers of Intercession

To the bidding: "...Loving God, broken for us, in your mercy," please respond with: **"hear our prayer."**

Lord's Prayer [Sung]

**Our Father in heaven
holy be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Do not put us to the test,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

Offering prayer

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

**God our Creator, giver of all good and perfect gifts,
we bring our praise for who you are,
the one who is and was and is to come.**

**You continue the work of creating, of giving and forgiving,
and we worship you for it all, embracing your grace and love.
Help us in our journey to live the mystery
of being born of water and spirit.**

**Be patient with us as we learn to embrace your grace
and extend it to others.**

**We offer up to you all we are, all we have, and all we are becoming,
in the name of Christ, who gave it all for us. Amen.**

Hymn: We turn to you, O God of every nation H&P 412 [Adapted]

- 1 We turn to you, O God of every nation,
Giver of life and origin of good;
Your love is at the heart of all creation,
Your hurt is people's broken neighbourhood.
- 2 Free every heart from pride and self-reliance,
Our ways of thought inspire with simple grace,
Break down among us barriers of defiance:
Speak to the soul of all the human race.
- 3 Teach us, good Lord, to serve the need of others,
Help us to give and not to count the cost;
Unite us all, for we are born companions:
Defeat our Babel with your Pentecost.

Benediction

Go forth today bathed in the warmth of the love of God
and aware of the relationship God wants to have with you.
In the days ahead, may you be blessed with worship, joy, and connection, and find
time each day to rest at the feet of Jesus.

The Grace (Said together)

**The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen**

Liturgy for this service was sourced from: *Gathering Pentecost 1 2021 (Year B)* – Canada;
Let Us Pray, Janet Nelson 1999; Philip Garside.