



Wesley Wellington

75 Taranaki Street

www.wesleychurch.org.nz

Sunday 25 July 2021
Pentecost 9

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



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

ORDER OF SERVICE

Officiating: Doug Rogers

Organist: Colin Scarf



WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader How foolish it is to deny the existence of God or to say that "God is dead"!

All And yet there are many who do so.

Leader It is obvious that God works through those who trust in God,
All through those who dedicate their lives to the service of God.

Leader It is they who are set free from self-glory to enjoy and to serve the living God.

All They can truly celebrate the eternal presence of God.

OPENING PRAYER

Leader Loving God, open our eyes to the beauty of your holiness;
open our ears to the message of your word;
open our minds to the challenge of your truth;
open our hearts to the power of your love.
Open our lives to the coming of your Spirit,
that we may truly worship you,
now and forever.

All Amen.

HYMN: *God is Love, let heaven adore him*

H&P 36

1. God is love, let heaven adore him;
God is love, let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
He who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heavens above,
he who breathes through all creation,
he is love, eternal Love.
2. God is love, and he, enfolding
all the world in one embrace,
with unfailing grasp is holding
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.
3. God is love, and, though with
blindness
sin afflicts our human hearts,
God's eternal loving kindness
holding, guiding, grace imparts.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is love, so love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.

- Timothy Rees (1874-1939) alt.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader Loving God, open our eyes to see your hand at work in the splendour of creation and in the beauty of human life. Help us to cherish the gifts that surround us, to share your blessings with our brothers and sisters, and to experience the joy of life in your presence;

All God of love, We thank you.

Leader In you - is utter strength,
In you - is ultimate goodness,
In you - is complete faithfulness,
In you - is total compassion.

All God of love, We thank you.

Leader From you - the light of your word,
From you - the call to your people,
From you - the promise of your grace,
From you - the prospect of life.

All God of love, We thank you.

Leader With us - in your Word become flesh,
With us - in your Son, Jesus Christ,
With us - in your gift for the World,
With us - in your pledge for our peace.

All God of love, We thank you.

(continued overleaf)

Leader Around us - in our family and friends,
 Around us - in our congregation and Parish,
 Around us - in our home and community,
 Around us - in our nation and world.

All God of love, We thank you.

Leader For us - in the presence of your Spirit,
 For us - in the finding of faith,
 For us - in the offer of forgiveness,
 For us - in the hope of a new dawn.

All God of love, We thank you.

Leader Loving God, we pray that we may know your Spirit in us and
 amongst us as we gather for worship:
 to offer our praise to you;
 to seek to know your will for us;
 to grow in faith and understanding,
 and so to live out in actions day by day
 the faith we now proclaim in words.

Let us sing the Lord's Prayer together.

**All 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.**

CHILDREN'S TIME: HOW BIG IS GOD'S LOVE?

Doug Rogers

The children will now leave with Fuailagí for Children's Time.

BIBLE READING

2 Samuel 11:1-7 (printed from the Good News Bible)

The following spring, at the time of the year when kings usually go to war, David sent out Joab with his officers and the Israelite army; they defeated the Ammonites and besieged the city of Rabbah.

(continued overleaf)

But David himself stayed in Jerusalem. One day, late in the afternoon, David got up from his nap and went to the palace roof. As he walked about up there, he saw a woman having a bath. She was very beautiful. So he sent a messenger to find out who she was, and learnt that she was Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite. David sent messengers to fetch her; they brought her to him and he made love to her. (She had just finished her monthly ritual of purification.) Then she went back home. Afterwards she discovered that she was pregnant and sent a message to David to tell him. David then sent a message to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." So Joab sent him to David. When Uriah arrived, David asked him if Joab and the troops were well, and how the fighting was going. Then he said to Uriah, "Go home and rest a while." Uriah left, and David sent a present to his home. But Uriah did not go home; instead he slept at the palace gate with the king's guards.

When David heard that Uriah had not gone home, he asked him, "You have just returned after a long absence; why didn't you go home?" Uriah answered, "The men of Israel and Judah are away at the war, and the Covenant Box is with them; my commander Joab and his officers are camping out in the open. How could I go home, eat and drink, and sleep with my wife? By all that's sacred, I swear that I could never do such a thing!" So David said, "Then stay here the rest of the day, and tomorrow I'll send you back." So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day and the next. David invited him to supper and made him drunk. But again that night Uriah did not go home; instead he slept on his blanket in the palace guardroom. The next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by Uriah. He wrote: "Put Uriah in the front line, where the fighting is heaviest, then retreat and let him be killed." So while Joab was besieging the city, he sent Uriah to a place where he knew the enemy was strong. The enemy troops came out of the city and fought Joab's forces; some of David's officers were killed, and so was Uriah.

HYMN: He came singing love

AA 59

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.

SERMON: The great love of God

HYMN: Joy to the world

H&P 77

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and
nature sing.
2. Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks,
hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. He rules the earth with truth and
grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his
love.

- Isaac Watts (1674-1748), based on Psalm 98

PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

Leader Loving God, we come to pray for the world where there is a lack of love.

We look to you for guidance.

All Show us your love that we might show love to others.

(continued overleaf)

Leader Your love is patient and kind.
 We pray for those who are sick and suffering
 For those who are looking after family at home,
 And for carers in homes, hospitals and hospices.
 We pray for those grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic.
 We particularly think today of those in Fiji and Australia.
 For those who suffer and those who seek to care.
 For those bringing vaccines and for all who seek to bring hope.

All May they all be supported by love.

Leader Your love is never arrogant, nor boastful, nor rude.
 We pray for those who are oppressed, bullied, or put down,
 And for those who torment them.

All May both find a love that is firm but free.

Leader Your love never insists on getting its own way.
 We pray for those in marriages that are stretched to breaking point,
 And for those wrapped up in their own selfishness.
 We pray for those who are irritable because they are tired.
 We pray for those who are resentful because they feel hard done by.

**All May they know the love which softens hard hearts,
 Sees both sides of a question, and is willing to compromise.**

Leader Your love never rejoices in the wrong, but only in truth.
 Love is never displeased when other people are successful.
 We pray for all people that their gifts may be recognised and their value affirmed.
 We pray for those caught up in corruption or a web of lies,
 And for those who feel manipulated or abused.

All May they know the love which has integrity and delights in the truth.

Leader Love bears all things
 And we pray for those who carry burdens beyond their strength.
 Love believes all things,
 And we pray for those who struggle with faith, and doubt.
 Love hopes all things,
 And we pray for those at the end of their tether.
 Love endures all things,
 And we pray for those who suffer in silence,
 Love covers all things

(continued overleaf)

All **And we pray that your way of love will prevail.
We ask these prayers in the name of Jesus, your love
with a human face.
Amen.**

HYMN: Love divine, all loves excelling

H&P 267

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation
Enter every trembling heart.
2. Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing.
Glory in thy perfect love.
3. Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be:
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee:
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before
thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

- Charles Wesley (1707-88)

EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE

COMMISSION

Leader And now may the peace of God which passes all understanding
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God.

All **Amen.**

LET US SHARE THE GRACE WITH EACH OTHER

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

Thank you for joining us for today's service. Please join us in the New Hall for refreshments.
Thank you to Jima Naikatini for preparing the flowers, and to the Leatuavao family for preparing the refreshments.