



COVENANT SERVICE

Methodist Conference 2013

Wesley College

Te Hāhi Weteriana O Aotearoa

President: Rev Rex Nathan

Vice President: Miss Jan Tasker

Ex President: Rev John Roberts

Ex Vice President: Mrs Olive Amani Tanielu

General Secretary: Rev David Bush

Tumuaki: Rev Diana Tana

Taiwi Executive Officer: Rev Aso Samoa Saleupolu

Chaplains: Dr Arapera Ngaha
Rev Jill van de Geer

Pianist: Christine Peak

Call to Worship

Please stand

President: Let us worship God who has established an everlasting covenant and calls us through Jesus Christ to be a faithful people.

All: We are here to make our response to God.

Hymn: “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

English O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer’s praise,
The glories of my God and King.
The triumphs of God’s grace!

Samoan Lo’u Matai ma lo’u Atua
Fesoasoani mai
E talai atu i le lalolagi
Lou suafa mamalu.

Tongan Ko Sisu ‘a e Huafa lahi,
‘O ‘ikai hano ua:
‘Ikai ha taha ke tatau,
Ha taha ke kakunga.

Fijian Sa vosa ga, qai reki mai
Na yalo vutugu;
Na mataboko, era rai;
Na bale era tu.

English He speaks; and, listening to his voice,
New life the dead receive
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice;
The humble poor believe.

Charles Wesley, Tune: MHB1

Affirmation

Tumuaki: We are a Covenant People.

All: **We stand within the historic Covenant of Grace affirmed by patriarchs, prophets, priests and people and especially revealed by Jesus of Nazareth.**

Tumuaki: We also stand within the Covenant of Grace as a particular people at particular times in our history.

All: **We honour the covenant renewal that is part of our Wesleyan heritage.**
We affirm the covenant embraced in the Treaty of Waitangi.
We embrace our continuing commitment to be a Covenant people.

The Congregation sits

Confession

Executive Officer: It hasn't all been easy.

All: **At times we have faltered and stumbled.**

Executive Officer: We make our confession:

Loving God, we open ourselves to you and each other in repentance and in faith.

Vice President: Life-Giving God during this Conference, we have committed ourselves to many actions: through these actions we aim to be your visionary people.

All: **But we know how easily we forget: We fail to act on our commitments, and we turn to follow other visions.**

Vice-President: We understand ourselves as your church, and we claim to be a community of grace and love.

All: **But we quickly betray that claim: We go our own ways, and we fail to care for each other.**

President: We have listened for your voice through the life of this Conference.

All: **But our ears are often listening to other voices: We give priority to our own interests and concerns, and we cease to focus on your call to us.**

President: Faithful God, your love continues to be with us and to encourage us, even when we fail to live up to your life-giving vision.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Tumuaki: E Ihowa tohungia matou

All: **E te Karaiti tohungia matou**

Tumuaki: E Ihowa tohungia matou.

All: **E to matou Matua i te rangi
Kia tapu tou ingoa.
Kia tae mai tou rangatiratanga.
Kia meatia tau e pai ai
ki runga ki te whenua,
kia rite ano ki to te rangi.
Homai ki a matou aiane
he taro ma matou mo tenei ra.
Murua o matou hara,
me matou hoki e muru nei
i o te hunga e hara ana ki a matou.
Aua hoki matou e kawea kia whakawaia;
Engari whakaorangia matou i te kino:
Nou hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha,
me te kororia,
Ake, ake, ake. Amine.**

Ministry of the Word

First Reading : Jeremiah 29:11-14 - *Tauivi Executive Officer*

Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-6 - *Tumuaki*

Reflection: Vice President

Response to the Word

The Business Committee Convenors come forward

Conference Question 25: General Secretary

- (a) What is God saying to us now?
- (b) What more can be done to promote the work of God?

*The Conference affirms its work and pledges itself to action as each
Convenor responds to the Conference questions*

Convenor: This is our commitment to action.

All: **May God give us grace and courage so to do.**

*When all committee Convenors have spoken
the Conference Journal is signed*

General Secretary:

This 'Conference Journal' contains the deliberations and decisions we have entered into during the Conference.

Signing of Journal

All: **The signing of the Journal indicates our commitment to incorporate our Conference deliberations and decisions into our ongoing life and witness.**

Renewing the Covenant

President: In covenant God chose Israel to be a servant people. Through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, God has declared the covenant to be with all who trust in Christ. We stand within this covenant and we bear Christ's name. On one hand, God promises to give us new life in Christ: on the other, we pledge to live not for ourselves but for God. Today we meet as generations before us have met, to renew the covenant which bound them and which now binds us to God.

Hymn: ***"Come let us use the Grace divine"***

Come let us use the grace divine,
And all, with one accord,
In a perpetual covenant join
Ourselves to Christ the Lord.

Give up ourselves, through Jesu's power
His name to glorify;
And promise in this sacred hour,
For God to live and die.

The covenant we this moment make
be ever kept in mind:
We will no more our God forsake,
Or cast his words behind.
We never will throw off his fear
Who hears our solemn vow;
And if thou art well pleased to hear,
Come down, and meet us now.

To each the covenant blood apply,
which takes our sins away;
And register our names on high,
And keep us to that day.

*Charles Wesley
Tune French MHB 625*

Congregation remains standing

President: Let us claim this covenant for ourselves and take again the yoke of Christ upon us.
To take this yoke upon us means that we are willing for Christ to appoint us our place and work,
and for Christ alone to be our reward.

All: **Christ has many services to be done;
some are easy, others are difficult;
some bring honour, others bring reproach;
some are suited to our natural inclinations
and material interests,
others are contrary to both;
in some we may please Christ
and please ourselves;
in others we cannot please Christ
except by denying ourselves.
Yet the power to do all these things
is given to us in Christ who strengthens us.**

President: Loving and holy God, with joy we take upon ourselves the yoke of obedience and for love of you commit ourselves to seek and do your perfect will. We are no longer our own, but yours.

All: **I am no longer my own but yours.
Your will, not mine, be done in all things,
wherever you place me, in all that I do
and in all that I may endure;
when there is work for me and when there is none;
when I am troubled and when I am at peace.
Your will be done when I am valued
and when I am disregarded;
when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking;
when I have all things and when I have nothing.
I willingly offer all I have and am to serve you,
as and where you choose.**

**Glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.
May it be so forever.
Let this covenant now made on earth
be fulfilled in heaven. Amen**

Congregation sits

Ministry of the Sacrament

President: We, many as we are, are one body in Christ
If we do not love our brothers and sisters whom we have
seen, how can we love God whom we have not seen?

President: The peace of God be with you.

All: **And God's peace be with you.**

Congregation stands

The communion cloth covering the elements is removed

The Communion

Vice President: Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your
goodness we have these gifts to offer which earth has
given and human hands have made.

All: **Blessed be God for ever.**

Vice President: The Lord is here.

All: **God's Spirit is with us,**

Vice President: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Vice President: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is our joy to give God thanks and praise.**

Vice-President: It is our joy to praise you
for from the beginning
in love and compassion
you have sought and found us.
Over generations
we have become aware of your presence
elusive and disturbing.
Through grace you call us
into covenant relationship
providing assurance
of your abiding presence.

All: **Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory;
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord;
Hosanna in the highest.**

President: When the time was right
the mystery of your presence
was revealed in Jesus
as healing and suffering love.
With thanksgiving we remember that
through cross and resurrection
the cost of new life has been declared.
In him your covenant
was offered to all peoples
and the vision of your new creation
made known to all the earth.

President:

I taua po tuku ai, ia e tangohia e te Ariki,
e Ihu, te taro; a ka mutu te whakawhetai,
ka whatia e ia, na ka mea ia,
“Tangohia, kainga; ko toku tinana tenei
ka whatiwhatia nei mo koutou;
meinga tenei hei whakamahara ki ahau.”
Me te kapu ano i te mutunga o te hapa,
me tana mea ano, “Ko te kawenata hou
tenei kapu i runga i oku toto;
meinga tenei i nga inumanga katoa
hei whakamahara ki ahau.”

*(On the night before he offered up his life
Jesus took bread, and after blessing it
he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said,
“Take, eat: this is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”*

*After supper, he took the cup, offered thanks,
and gave it to them saying,
“Drink this, all of you:
for this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is poured out for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.”)*

All:

**Glory to you, Lord Christ:
Your death we proclaim;
Your resurrection we celebrate;
Your coming we await. Amen.**

The congregation sits

Vice-President:

We rejoice that your Spirit is present
accompanying us on our journey.
Give us grace we pray
to grow in our ability
to discern your presence
within us at all times and in all places.

As a covenant people
may we embody your vision
being a community of hope
offering our common life in service to you.

President: Come, Spirit of God
bless these gifts of bread and wine
which we set before you,
that your transforming love
might nourish and renew our life,
that we might be strengthened
as agents of your mission in the world.

All: **We offer our prayer with all your people
in this land and beyond this land
in this church and beyond this church
in this time and beyond time
to praise Your name. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

After a pause

President: The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

Vice-President: The cup of blessing for which we give thanks is a sharing in the life of Christ.

President: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Silence is kept for a time

Vice-President: Come, for all things are now ready.

Communion will be received at the front of the Church.

All the wafers will be gluten free.

Hymn: "God who sets us on a journey"

God, who sets us on a journey
to discover, dream and grow,
lead us as you led your people
in the desert long ago;
journey inward, journey outward
stir the spirit, stretch the mind;
love, for God and self and neighbour,
marks the way that Christ defined.

Exploration brings new insights,
changes, choices we must face;
give us wisdom in deciding,
mindful always of your grace;
should we stumble, lose our bearings,
find it hard to know what's right,
we regain our true direction
focused on the Jesus light.

End our longing for the old days,
grant the vision that we lack -
once we've started on this journey
there can be no turning back;
let us travel light, discarding
excess baggage from our past,
cherish only what's essential,
choosing treasure that will last.

When we set up camp and settle
to avoid love's risk and pain,
you disturb complacent comfort,
pull the tent-pegs up again;
keep us travelling in the knowledge
you are always at our side,
give us courage for the journey,
Christ our goal and Christ our guide.

Prayer After Communion

President: As we return to our homes, our parishes,
and our communities,
All: **We celebrate that we are indeed your covenant
people.
Thanks be to you, O God.**

Chaplain to extinguish the Conference Candle

Chaplain: Let us pray:

Loving God, in whose light
we have journeyed through this Conference,
kindle in our hearts a flame of love
that may burn in us as we travel home,
giving light to others,
in Christ's name we pray,
Amen.

The Sending Forth

President: Go now into the world in the power of the Spirit,
taking with you these words of John Wesley:
Do all the good you can,
by all the means you can,
in all the ways you can,
in all the places you can,
at all the times you can,
to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can.
All: **We go to serve in the name of Christ.**

Hymn: “Ma te Marie”

Ma te marie a te Atua
Tatou katoa e tiaki;
Mana ano e whakau
O tatou ngakau ki te pai.

Ma te Atua Tamaiti ra,
Ma te Wairua Tapu hoki
Ratou, Atua kotahi nei.
Tatou katoa e whakapai.
Amine

*The peace of God
keeps us all.
He will confirm
our hearts in goodness.*

*May the Son of God
and the Holy Spirit too,
One God,
bless us all*

*Traditional Maori Hymn
Tune: Old 100th sung unaccompanied*

Recessional

Acknowledgements

The Covenant prayer is taken from the British Methodist Church Worship Book.