

## Hymn

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.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
Let us all thy grace 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.

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 (tune: Blaenwern)*

## The Grace

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

## Western Bay of Plenty Methodist Circuit

Sunday 20 September 2020



## Welcome and Notices

### Call to Worship

*(Psalm 118:24; 105:1-6 CEV)*

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Praise the Lord and pray in his name! Tell everyone what he has done.

**Sing praises to the Lord! Tell about his miracles.**

Celebrate and worship his holy name with all your heart.

**Trust the Lord and his mighty power.**

Remember his miracles and all his wonders and his fair decisions.

**You belong to the family of Abraham, his servant,**

**you are his chosen ones, the descendants of Jacob. Amen**

## Hymn

O God of new beginnings,  
Creator, Spirit, Lord,  
be present in this moment,  
be worshipped and adored.  
We stand upon a threshold,  
seek wisdom for this hour,  
that ministry and mission,  
Your Spirit may empower.

Our past is rich with hist'ry,  
lives lived in love and faith.  
We hold these mem'ries precious,  
affirm your signs of grace.  
To build upon that hist'ry,  
to venture to the new,  
take risks of faith and courage,  
these Lord, we seek to do.

**So bind us now together,  
in ministry and faith,  
enlarge our Christian vision,  
make us true signs of grace.  
Take from us every blind spot,  
give us warm open hearts,  
inspire us by your Spirit,  
commitment, hope, impart.**

*Words © Norman E Brookes (tune: Aurelia)*

### **Prayer of forgiveness and grace**

“Forgiveness is not an occasional art, it is a permanent attitude.” *Martin Luther*

Hear the word of grace: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just,  
and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Therefore I declare to you - our sins are forgiven.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

### **Readings - Psalm 100; Acts 2:14 – 17**

### **Sermon - A Gospel for Our Day - Rev Norman Brookes**

### **Offering**

Let us bring our offerings to God.

**O God, we believe that you receive our gifts, knowing what they cost us,  
knowing where we are in our journey with you.**

**We give them with grateful hearts  
and invite you to call us on in faith. Amen**

### **Prayers for the world**

Loving God, we live in very strange times with the virus threatening people all  
around the world. We live in a time of conspiracy theories, false  
information, and even misunderstandings of faith.

Help us to discern your will, to trust the trustworthy, and to make  
good use of the wisdom you have given to the scientists and  
doctors in our midst.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Loving God, today we remember those in Auckland who have recently been  
infected by Covid 19, those in quarantine and all those who have  
been in contact with them. Help us to remember that the virus is  
the enemy and that people acting wisely are the solution. This  
morning we pray especially for the New Zealand and Cook Island  
families who have been recently bereaved.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Loving God, today we pray for the people of Victoria as they respond to the  
pandemic that is touching many lives in Melbourne and beyond.  
Grant wisdom to those who are seeking to deal with the spread  
of the virus in that city. Remembering them we also pray for  
millions of others around the world whose lives have been  
afflicted, people in hospital, and people dealing with deep  
sadness because they have lost someone they love.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Loving God, today we pray for wisdom and compassion from our political  
leaders not only as they seek to deal with the pandemic but also  
as they prepare for the elections ahead. May they continue to  
inspire us to do what is right, may they be saved from cheap  
political point scoring, and may their focus be on finding the best  
way forward for our country and all its people.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Finally, we pray for all in our Church family here in St Stephens, Wesley and Te  
Puke. May the community of faith to whom we belong continue to be a beacon  
of light and hope in the Western Bay of Plenty and beyond.

Now in silence let us pray for each other, and the city in which we live.

*Silence*

These prayers we offer in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**