

**Order of Service**  
**Wesley Methodist Church 75 Taranaki Street**  
**10am congregation**  
**13 August 2017      Season of Pentecost 10**  
**Leader: Philip Garside      Organist: Colin Scarf**

Theme:  
**God's Enduring Love**  
Learning from a 200 year old Scottish civil engineering project

**Welcome, Introduction, Safety Briefing**

**Call to Worship:** *In all things be our strength*

Eternal and ever loving God, we pray that in  
all things you will be our strength, so that:

**We may accept the responsibility of our freedom,  
the burden of our privilege, and  
conduct ourselves in ways that set a good example  
for those who will follow after;**

We may not be content with a second hand faith,  
worshipping words rather than the Word;

**We may find joy in the study of Scripture,  
and grow through exposure to new insights;**

We may be a part of our community,  
Sharing the great mission you have set before us, and  
Always seeking the common good;

**We may find in your church a prod to our imaginations,  
A shock to laziness, and  
A source of power to do your will.**

O God, who gave us minds to know you,  
Hearts to love you and voices to sing your praise;

**Send your spirit among us, confront us with your truth, and  
Free us to worship you as we should.**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*Adapted from Be Our Freedom Lord. Terry C Falla*

## Lighting the candles *[Invite someone to light 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.**

### Theme: Introducing today's theme

Ask congregation why the date 10 April 1968 is important? *[Pause for response]*

- The inter-island ferry *Wahine*, which sailed between Wellington and Lyttleton was wrecked on Barrett's reef in the entrance to Wellington Harbour that day. **Show photo of Wahine sinking**
- This event affected many New Zealanders at the time.
  - The grandparents of a friend at Intermediate school survived the wreck.
  - A neighbour in Northland owned a boat and helped rescue people from the *Wahine*.
  - A previous minister here was a nurse at the time and helped care for a boy injured in the wreck.
  - I sailed on *Wahine* the previous December 1967 – aged 7.
  - Do any of you have memories of that day? *[Pause for response]*

**Hymn: Eternal Father, Strong to Save** (For those in peril on the sea.) Hymns & Psalms 379. Tune: Melita

### Theme: Identifying a need

- **Show map of Bell Rock location**
- Ships had been wrecked on the rock for hundreds of years.
- The rock was submerged, and invisible to ships, except for 2-3 hours at high tide
- **Show Intro video clip** of the stormy sea and the rock. **Bell\_Rock 01 Danger\_intro.wmv**

### Time with Children

- Ask for solution to wrecks on rocks – **Lighthouse!**
- Invite children to take part in a challenge
- They need to build a lighthouse tower from wooden blocks in a short time [say 4 minutes], must be 1m high, must all work together.
- Use flat board as base at front of top level of sanctuary. Must be level. Use 1m metal ruler to measure. If not enough children, then ask some adults to help. OK if tower falls down – mention design challenges at Bell Rock. If this happens ask children to rebuild it.

### Bible reading: Luke 6:46-49 The Two Foundations

Why do you call me "Lord, Lord", and do not do what I tell you? I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. That one is like a man building a

house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, immediately it fell, and great was the ruin of that house.'

### **Theme: Vision/Response**

Robert Stevenson wanted to build lighthouse, but:

- It was 12 miles out to sea
- You can only work on it 2-3 hours per day at low tide
- You can only work for 2-3 months in summer when the weather and seas are not too rough
- It is very expensive
- Nobody had built anything this difficult before

### **Show clip of Stevenson's hearing in front of the Board. [Bell\\_Rock 02 First\\_Board\\_meeting.wmv](#)**

- Trust board response – Sorry, **too hard!!**

**Hymn: The Solid Rock.** Music: Edward Mote. Words: William B Bradbury

1. My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.*

2. When darkness veils his lovely face  
I rest on his unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale,  
My anchor holds within the veil.
3. His oath, his covenant, his blood,  
Support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay.
4. When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in him be found;  
Dressed in his righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne!

### **Bible reading. John 3 16-21**

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate

the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

### **Theme: Making it happen – courage, hard work, compromise**

- The British warship HMS York was wrecked on Bell Rock 1804 and all 500 sailors drowned. The Board had to act. They consulted another engineer, John Rennie. – **Show clip [Bell\\_Rock 03 1804\\_shipwreck\\_Rennie\\_employed.wmv](#)**
- In 1806 the Board approved the project as proposed by Stevenson, but he had to be supervised by John Rennie. The design curve at the base of tower was critical to enable the lighthouse to withstand the battering it would get from the sea. Stevenson was forced to accept Rennie's design. He swallowed his personal and professional pride and got on with the job.
- Work started August 1807. **Show clip of hiring men and sailing out to rock [Bell\\_Rock 04 1807\\_hiring\\_men\\_leaving\\_for\\_first\\_season.wmv](#)**
- Notice Stevenson asking if the men were religious, i.e. Christian, and did they read the Bible regularly? Think about why that was important.
- Stevenson and the men were away from shore on a boat anchored off the Bell Rock for 2-3 months at a stretch. This was hard on the men and their families.
- Progress was slow at the start. **Show clip of working on Rock and praying with men. [Bell\\_Rock 05 working\\_on\\_rock\\_praying\\_with\\_men.wmv](#)**
- To save time and money had to work on Sabbath, on Sunday. Some refused at first. **Show Clip [Bell\\_Rock 06 working\\_on\\_Sabbath.wmv](#)**
- It was dangerous work. Two men drowned. One suffered badly crush legs – but became first lighthouse keeper.
- The Beacon house allowed the men to stay on rock. But it took a terrible pounding from the North Sea storms. **[Bell\\_Rock 07 Beacon\\_survives\\_storm\\_all\\_now\\_working\\_on\\_sabbath.wmv](#)**
- The light house took 6 years to construct
- Stevenson and the men were sustained by prayer and faith
- The lighthouse was finished 1810. Show clip **[Bell\\_Rock 08 lighthouse\\_completed.wmv](#)**

**Hymn: Song of Faith that Sings Forever.** Faith Forever Singing 57. Tune: Abbeyfield.

### **Reflection: Finding the meaning – enduring love, Christ's light shines through us**

Bell Rock lighthouse has stood and kept ships safe for 200 years. It is now automated and doesn't have a lighthouse keeper. – **Show current photos PowerPoint pages 12, 13, 14**

Here are some of my responses to the Bell Rock story:

I find the story of how Robert Stevenson and his team built the Bell Rock lighthouse inspiring, and wanted to explore what we can learn from it today – 200 years later.

#### **Stevenson identified a need.**

Stevenson knew that hundreds of sailors had died in shipwrecks on Bell Rock, and that they would continue to die if nothing was done. The lighthouse board had done nothing for years. His response was motivated by a strong Christian faith and a desire to help others.

#### **Stevenson had a vision of how to respond**

Using his professional training as an engineer, Stevenson's response was to boldly imagine building a lighthouse, that others had dismissed as being impossible.

And he had the determination to see that it was built.

The Trustees of the lighthouse Board were probably good men, who would have liked to approve Stevenson's plan when he first presented it. But they also had to be good stewards of the money and resources available to them.

However, after the wreck of the *HMS York* they knew they had to act. They got the advice of another engineer - John Rennie.

### **Making the project happen took courage, hard work and compromise**

As we saw in the video clips, work on the lighthouse was dangerous – two men died.

Because they were running out of time, and presumably money, Stevenson and his men had to compromise their religious principles and work on Sunday – work on the Sabbath. It is not so long ago that Methodists in New Zealand would also have found that a serious problem. My grandfather, a Methodist minister, had strict rules about which activities were acceptable for my mother's family on Sundays.

Stevenson also had to show the humility to accept Rennie's design for the curve at the bottom of the lighthouse. This must have tested his professional pride. But he didn't walk away from the project.

### **What might this story say to us today?**

- The Bible tells us about God's enduring love for the world and its people.
- Stevenson and Rennie between them designed a tower with a strong base that fitted the location – it has lasted for 200 years so far. I can just about imagine that period – about 8 generations. But God's love is forever, and it's hard to get to grips with a concept that big.
- As we heard in the reading from Luke, we can either choose to either build on this solid rock and face life's challenges from a firm foundation, or we can ignore it and be swept away.
- We have the example of Jesus life, teachings and actions to guide and inspire us. Like the Bell Rock lighthouse, God's love for us shines through the light of Jesus Christ.
- As Christians we are called to spread that light in the world: through our worship, through the good works we are involved in and in our daily lives.
- Like the children this morning building this tower, we need to work together and be imaginative.
- We are challenged to faithfully spread Christ's light and the good news of God's love for us.
- Motekiai is challenging us and the other congregations here to find ways to work more closely and effectively together.
- At Cafe Church a few weeks ago, Deanna Rimmer from Christians Against Poverty, challenged us to get involved helping families in our community get out of debt and become Christians. She said, "There is always a way."
- David Hanna and his team at Wesley Community Action need our ongoing prayers and support.
- DCM, Downtown Community Ministry, which Wesley Church helped to found, needs our prayers and support.
- Last Sunday, Falaniko said, "What we give, God multiplies..."
- **What's our lighthouse project for 2017?**