

95th Napier Earthquake Memorial Service

Sunday 1 February 2026, 10am

Waiapu Cathedral, 28 Browning Street, Napier



Opening Hymn: *We stand*
O Lord my God/Whakaaria mai

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Whakaaria mai, tōu rīpeka ki au.

Tiaho mai rā roto i te pō.

Hei kona au, titiro atu ai.

Ora, mate hei au koe noho ai.

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in:
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin;

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee;
how great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

*Then sings my soul, my saviour God, to Thee;
how great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, My God, how great Thou art!

Whakaaria mai, tōu rīpeka ki au.

Tiaho mai rā roto i te pō.

Hei kona au, titiro atu ai.

Ora, mate hei au koe noho ai.

Welcome:

The Right Reverend Andrew Hedge, Bishop of Waiapu

Mihi me te Karakia:

NCC Kaumātua

Reflection:

His Worship the Mayor of Napier, Richard McGrath

Musical Reflection:

Waiapu Cathedral Choir

Reflection:

Katie Nimon, Member of Parliament for Napier



Hymn: *We stand*

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change he faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future, as he has the past.

Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.

Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart,
and all is darkened in the vale of tears,
then shall you better know his love, his heart,
who comes to soothe your sorrow and your fears.

Be still, my soul: your Jesus can repay
from his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord
when disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.

Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 46

The Reverend Dr Deborah Broome

Reflection:

The Right Reverend Andrew Hedge

Sounding of the Veronica Bell: *We stand*

Time of Silent Remembrance

Prayers: *We sit or kneel*

The Very Reverend Alister Hendery

*During these prayers, the response to
'God of mercy' is 'Hear our prayer.'*

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever.

Amen.

Musical Reflection:

Waiapu Cathedral Choir

The Blessing:

The Right Reverend Andrew Hedge

Hymn:

God is our strength and refuge,
our present help in trouble,
and we therefore will not fear,
though the earth should change!
Though mountains shake and tremble,
though swirling floods are raging,
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

There is a flowing river
within God's holy city;
God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be moved!
God's help is swiftly given,
thrones vanish at his presence -
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

Come, see the works of our maker,
learn of his deeds all powerful:
wars will cease across the world
when he shatters the spear!
Be still and know your creator,
uplift him in the nations;
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

After Psalm 46, Richard Bewes (born 1934)

© Richard Bewes/Jubilate Hymns

Tune: DAMBUSTERS' MARCH

The Veronica Bell

Historically ships at sea would ring the ship's bell to mark the passage of time throughout the day. The ringing of eight bells signified to the on-watch sailors that their shift was finished, and for those coming on shift that their watch had started.

“Your watch is done” is the euphemism used by seafarers to farewell those who have died. Ringing eight bells at a funeral or memorial can also commemorate the end of the deceased person's time on this earth and their committal.

At various civic commemorations the Royal New Zealand Navy rings the Veronica Bell to acknowledge the support provided to the citizens of Napier by HMS Veronica which was berthed in Port Ahuriri at the time of the 1931 earthquake. Her crew provided aid to the city in the immediate hours and days after the earthquake.

The bell is usually rung eight times to start the “time of remembrance” for all those who lost their lives because of the earthquake and its aftermath. This is followed by a minute silence, after which the bell is rung eight more times to remember all those who emerged from the ashes and took on the work of rebuilding in Napier.

