



# KAURIHOHORE / KAMO CO-OPERATING PARISH

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## Sunday 10 August 2025 – Pentecost 9

The service today has been prepared by Eleanor Ashby, one of our Lay Preachers

### **Welcome to our service this morning.**

In working together on our shared mission, we commit to seven core values:

***Togetherness, Humility, Curiosity, Love, Inclusiveness, Justice,  
Sustainability.***

**Humility:** we recognise we do not have all the answers but are prayerfully journeying together as we try to seek them.

### **Welcome**

### **Call to Worship**

The God who casts the seed,  
**is the God who gives the growth.**

The God who gathers the grain,  
**gathers God's people together.**

We are part of God's family,  
**and we have gathered for worship.**

Come! Sing, pray, listen, reflect.

**We celebrate God's presence among us. Amen**

### **Opening Prayer**

O God, We come to worship you, to know you and to thank you for your wonderful grace shown to us, and to all those who have gone before us. As we share in this time of worship, we seek your presence and to know your love. We have come to learn more of you, and to seek your guidance as we navigate our lives.

Help us to quieten our hearts and minds, that we might hear your word for us, and refocus our thoughts on you, as we pray for ourselves and for each other. We do so in accordance with your will, and to you be the glory, today and every day. **Amen**

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**Mission Statement: Sharing God's love, creating hope, working for justice.**

## Psalm 91

Your greatness and strength are our shelter, LORD;  
we can live secure in your shade.

**We call you our refuge, our place of safety;  
you are the God in whom we trust.**

You steer us clear of the traps that have been laid for us,  
and keep us safe when disease threatens to wipe us out.

**You gather us safely under your wings  
like a mother bird shielding her chicks.**

We are secure behind your armour-plated loyalty.  
Night or day, we have nothing to fear;  
not bullets, nor bombs;  
not illness, nor injury;  
not the withering heat of the sun,  
nor the crippling power of fear itself.

**We have nothing to fear because we have found safety in you;  
we have settled down within your care.**

Thanks to you, LORD of the universe, no evil can touch us;  
disaster cannot get a foot in the door.

Those who know you and love you can depend on you,  
you are always there to pull them out of trouble.

**The moment they call, you answer;  
you're on their side when all hell breaks loose;  
you save their lives and throw a party in their honour.**

You give them long and fulfilling lives, LORD;  
they will see the realization of all you have promised.

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## Centering Prayer

Those who trust in Christ for salvation find refuge under God's wings. [Ruth 2:12](#) remind us there is no need for anxiety or fear under the wings of the God of the universe. No matter what is going on in your life, no matter what this world is bringing at you, you, right now, are under the refuge of the wings of God, of God himself.

Oh God, we praise you for this reality. I pray that those who hear these words right now, would know, experience this reality today. That we realize that we are under your wings, that you are our provider. You are our protector. You are, not only the

one who protects and provides, you're the one who loves and satisfies our souls, and we find refuge in you. Amidst the storms of this world, amidst the temptations of this world, amidst the trials that come at us in this world, you are our constant refuge. And we praise you for the privilege of finding refuge in you. So help us to live with that awareness today. Help us not to be afraid, not to be anxious, not to worry about anything, because we know that we have found refuge under the wings of God. All glory be to your name for taking us under your wings. You are our refuge and strength, and ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear. We trust in you. God, we praise you for this. We pray you help us to live with this awareness today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Hymn:** [For the Fruits of His Creation](#)

HFTC 286

**Reading** Ruth Chapter 2: 1-23

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### **Reflection**

As we heard last week that the first chapter of Ruth depicts a woman named Naomi who has lost everything. In Ruth 1:20-21 she says, "The Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went away full, and the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the Lord has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?" However, the chapter ends with a small picture of hope that she and Ruth (her daughter-in-law) have returned to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest. It is the beginning of a time of hope and reversal.

The second chapter begins with a man named Boaz. He is noble in respect to his character, he is a wealthy man, and he is an influential, prominent man. He is described as a relative of Naomi's husband and from the clan of Elimelech. This description actually shows great social distance. He lives on a whole different level on the social and economic structure of life than Naomi.

In verse 2 we see Ruth asking Naomi to allow her to "go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." Gleaning was a provision for the poor. The farm owner was not allowed to harvest every grain but were to leave some in the field and that which fell to ground while reaping (Leviticus 19:9-10; 23:22; Deuteronomy 24:19-21). You were not to strip the field bare during the harvest but leave some out there for the poor. This is what Ruth is asking to do so that she and Naomi can eat. The language of the account invokes the providence of God. In verse 3 Ruth just so happens to find a field that belonged to Boaz, the distant relative of Elimelech. Further, in verse 4 it just so happened that Boaz came from Bethlehem (the house of bread) to his very field. The account is directly pointing out how God is at work. We can be blind to the plan of God but that does not mean that God is not working!

So Boaz arrives and says to the reapers, "The Lord be with you!" This is amazing because if you remember that these are the days of the judges, a time of great wickedness and evil. But the text is validating for us that this Boaz is a worthy man of noble spiritual character. Then Boaz asks who the woman is and who she belongs to. He is asking if she is married, who is her husband and if she is not married then who is her father. The reapers respond that this is a young Moabite woman who came with Naomi from Moab. She asked to glean and gather and she is taking a lot because she has worked all day (2:7).

With kindness and generosity, Boaz tells Ruth to not leave his field and to stay with the other young women. He tells her to follow the harvesters and gather what she wants. Further, he has told the young men to leave her alone while she is out there working. Finally, when she is thirsty, go to the vessels and drink the water that the men have drawn from the well. What grace and favor! Stay in my field, take what you want, follow the harvesters, stay with the other young women, enjoy my protection, and help yourself to our water. Ruth is stunned by Boaz's generosity and asks in verse 10 why she has found favor in his eyes especially because she is a foreigner. Boaz tells her that he has heard about what she has done since the death of her husband and how she has been steadfastly loyal to Naomi. Then comes the key for this chapter which is found in verse 12: "The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!" Boaz sees himself as an instrument of God's blessing to Ruth. Boaz is declaring a blessing on Ruth for her faithfulness but then sees himself as a means for that blessing to flow from God.

Perhaps we should think of ourselves in the same light. We can be the instruments of God's providence to those who are hurting. We can be the blessings to other people who need help spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Boaz does not begrudge Ruth but provides above and beyond for her. Boaz is going the extra mile (Matthew 5:41) and giving to the one who begs of him (Matthew 5:42). We must desire to be the conduit of God's blessings to others. The apostle Paul told us why we work. In Ephesians 4:28 he wrote, "Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need."

Let's see ourselves as a conduit of God's blessing and providence to others.

But then the blessings become more amazing. At mealtime Boaz tells Ruth to come in and eat with the reapers until she was satisfied and had food left over. This outsider, this foreigner who has no reason to expect a blessing, is receiving an immense blessing by God through Boaz. She is not being treated as an outsider but as one who belongs. She is given equal status among the reapers. Then Boaz tells the young men to let her even reap from the harvest itself and intentionally pull out bundles of grain and leave it for her (2:15).

So Ruth gleanes until the evening and brings back to Naomi this amazing amount of grain along with the leftovers from her meal. Naomi is just in shock Ruth says that she worked in the field of a man named Boaz. This means nothing to Ruth. She thinks she has stumbled upon a random field and does not know that God is at work.

Naomi first expresses praise and gratefulness. **“May he be blessed by the Lord, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!” (2:20).** Notice that Naomi recognizes Boaz as a conduit of God’s blessings. His kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead, in which Naomi is referring to herself as the dead one because she has lost her family and is economically doomed. But Boaz has caused the dead to be alive because of his kindness and generosity. Further, Naomi tells Ruth that Boaz is a close relative, one of their guardian- redeemers.

Now we need to understand what Naomi is saying by calling Boaz a redeemer. He is not one who saves from sins. Rather, the person is a near relative who is responsible for the economic well-being of a relative. He is to help the family in distress when they cannot get themselves out of the crisis. Boaz should be seen as a benefactor for this family. God has brought Ruth in the field of Boaz, who is godly man, a worthy man who has the economic ability to be a benefactor and caregiver for Naomi and Ruth. Therefore, Ruth continues to glean in the field of Boaz until the end of the barley and wheat harvests (2:23).

The people in the book of Ruth are classic examples of the godly in action. Boaz went far beyond the intent of the gleaners’ law in demonstrating his kindness and generosity. He not only let Ruth glean in his field but also told his workers to purposely let some of the grain fall in her path. Out of his abundance, he provided for Ruth and Naomi’s need.

How often do we go beyond the accepted patterns of providing for those who are in need? Perhaps we should all follow Boaz’s example and do more than the minimum for others who are needy.

Naomi had felt bitter about her predicament in Ruth 1:20-21, but her faith in God was still alive, and she praised God for Boaz’s kindness to Ruth. In her sorrow, she still trusted God and acknowledged his goodness.

We may feel bitter about a situation, but we must never despair. Choose to be hopeful. Each day is a new opportunity to experience God’s gracious provision.

Ruth made her home in a foreign land. Instead of depending on Naomi or waiting for good fortune to happen, she took initiative. She went to work. She was not afraid of admitting what she needed or working hard to get it. When Ruth went out to the fields, God provided for her.

Though Ruth may not have always recognized God's guidance, he had been with her every step of the way. She went to glean and "just happened" to end up in the field owned by Boaz, who "just happened" to be a close relative. This was more than mere coincidence.

As you go about your daily tasks, God is working in your life in ways you may not even notice. We must not close the door of hope to what God is presently doing in our lives that we may not be noticing. Events do not occur by luck or coincidence. We should have faith that God is directing our lives for his purposes

So, we have seen in this chapter a couple of important messages. We have seen that God can be at work in our lives, bringing a blessing to us when we do not even see it. The unseen hand of God provides us for us in rich and surprising ways that we simply do not recognize. How terrible it is that we criticize God for something we think he should be doing for us when we have no idea what God may have already done so far! We should consider every blessing as coming from God's hand.

Further, we should see ourselves as instruments of God's blessing. We should look for ways that we can be a conduit of God's blessings to one another and to the world, showing the goodness and glory of God to all. What can you do today to be show the blessing of God to another?

Closely tied to this idea, we are able to see that even in a disaster God is at work. God can work through tragedy. Tragedy does not mean that God is not there. Distress does not mean that God is not working to bring a blessing through the distress. Sometimes we are given just a small sliver of hope like Naomi is given from Boaz. Things are still a disaster in Naomi's life. But they have found a redeemer, someone who holds the promise of help, protection, security, and hope. How often God works through pain and suffering to bring a blessing and help us in a time of need! Through tragedy, life is moving to a blessing. May we all seek a deeper faith to trust God more. A God who loves his people and blesses his children.

Hymn: [Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You](#)

### Offering and Prayer

On our own, what we have to give, doesn't amount to much  
in the light of all you have given to us, and in the face of so much need.

**Put together as a congregation, what we offer you here in love,  
becomes more, not simply added together, but somehow multiplied in its  
usefulness.**

**We ask you to bless our gifts and with the addition of your blessing,  
just as it was with the loaves and fishes, may there be enough for all.  
Amen**

## Community Time

### Prayers of the People

Lord God, we offer now our prayers for ourselves and for each other.

We pray for those who have to work hard to provide for their families in sometimes back-breaking situations, in dangerous places, for uncaring employers. We pray for the poor and the homeless, the refugee, for those exiled from their homelands, for the hungry and the unloved.

May we reflect the grace of Boaz as we offer what we can to help.

We pray for our families and friends, and for all those in need at this present time.

Lord, we pray for all those who are hurting, lonely, or facing difficult times. May they feel Your love and presence with them.

We pray for unity and peace among all people, that they may live together in harmony and understanding.

Heavenly Father, we lift up those who are in positions of leadership. Grant them wisdom and guidance as they make decisions that affect many.

Today, Lord, we give thanks for the generosity of others, for all who share of their time, their possessions and themselves. We pray for a generosity of spirit, that we might offer the gifts you have given us for the good of those in need.

Lord of Glory, hear our prayer.

**Amen**

**Hymn:** [Amazing Grace](#)

HFTC 28

### Blessing

May the glory of God enrich your life;

may the wisdom of God inspire your thoughts;

may the love of God envelop your heart;

may God bless you, this and every day.

And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you, now and forever more. **Amen**

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