




KAURIHOHORE / KAMO CO-OPERATING PARISH

kaurichurch.methodist.org.nz 

kaurichurch@gmail.com 

946 0813 

Sunday 15 June 2025 - Trinity

Today's service has been prepared by Mike Nielsen,
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.

Togetherness: we cultivate genuine opportunities to gather together in worship and fellowship.

Community time during the service is a good opportunity to ask for prayers for yourself or others.

**After the service you are invited to share in morning tea,
either in the kitchen or on the deck.**

If you, or someone you know, would appreciate a visit from one of our **Pastoral Network Team**, please speak to the service leader.

*You are invited to stand if you are able,
for the hymns and the offering prayer*

Welcome

Mōrena e te whānau. Good morning church family. My name is Mike, and it is my pleasure to welcome you to worship here at Kaurihohore Church this morning on the first Sunday after Pentecost, also known as Trinity Sunday.

To quote Diana Butler Bass: It is often said that more heresy is preached on this particular day than any other day of the Christian year! Far too many naive sermonizers have sought to explain the mystery of the Trinity to their congregations and ended up with a theological mess on their hands.

Now I sympathise with people trying to come up with metaphors to explain the mystery of the Trinity. There's a hilarious satire clip online where two Irish peasants are trying to understand the Trinity through a discussion with St Patrick that descends into chaos as St Patrick comes up with heretical metaphor after heretical metaphor. I won't play it now but if you're interested can do so after the service.

When it comes to the Trinity, we need to grapple with the mystery and if that means we lapse into heresy from time to time as we try and get our head around it, so be it (and who hasn't!).

Today I'm not going to be delving into the mystery of the Trinity, instead I want to focus on the names we give the members of the Trinity – traditionally God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

This service will be a little bit different in that I'm not going to have a formal reflection, instead I'll be asking us to think about the names of the Trinity used in scripture, poetry and song. So, through the service, I invite you to listen to the names that are being used for the members of the Trinity, and ponder which names resonate for you, and what other names you might create...

Call to worship

Generous God, we know you as Creator
and come to worship you.

Compassionate God, we recognise you in the person of Jesus the Christ
and come to worship you.

Ever-present God, we sense you in the abundant Spirit of life around us
and come to worship you.

Source: L3 — Liturgy, Learning, (Purposeful) Life

Opening prayer

Holy Spirit, truth bringer, you are with us.

God's love will bind us together in this faith community.

Holy Spirit, truth bringer, you are with us.

God's love will enable us to see the dark places, and to change them through the light of Christ.

Holy Spirit, truth bringer, you are with us.

God's love will expose the depth of our fear, and free us from its power.

Holy Spirit, truth bringer, you are with us.

God's love will confront the areas of injustice, and give us strength to bring change. Amen.

Source: Responsive Prayers Year C (David Sparks)

Hymn: Praise with joy the world's creator (TIS 179)

1. Praise with joy the world's creator,
God of justice, love and peace,
Source and end of human
knowledge,
Force of goodness without cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
Power to rescue and release.
2. Praise the Son who feeds the
hungry,
Frees the captive, finds the lost,
Heals the sick, upsets religion,
Fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant
presence -
Friend and Stranger, Guest and
Host.
3. Praise the Spirit sent among us
Liberating truth from pride,
Forging bonds where race or
gender,
Age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure -
Foolishness none dare deride.
4. Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit,
One God in Community,
Calling us to leave behind
Faith's ghettos and obscurity.
Thus the world shall yet believe
When shown Christ's vibrant unity.

Scripture reading: Psalm 8

Poem: Gloria (by Joy Cowley)

Glorious are you, Mystery of Life,
essence of all creation.
You are the symphony of stars and planets.
You are the music of the atoms within us.
You are the dawn on mountain peaks,
the moonlight on evening seas.
Forest and farm, the rush of the city,
everything is embraced in your love.
We rejoice as we sing our gratitude.

Glorious are you, O Jesus Christ,
Cosmic love in human flesh.
You graced the smallness of time and place

to teach us to dance to the music.
You walk on our seas and heal in our streets.
You make your home in our lives,
revealing that cross and resurrection
are one on the road to freedom.

We rejoice as we sing our gratitude.

Glorious are you, O Spirit of Truth,
wisdom and breath of our being.
You are the wind that sweeps our senses.
You are the fire that burns in our hearts.
You are the needle of the inner compass,
always pointing to true North,
guiding us on the sacred dance
into the Mystery of Life.

We rejoice as we sing our gratitude.

Source: <https://liturgy.co.nz/resources/cowley.html>

Hymn: God of creation (Craig Mitchell; Tune: [Bunessan](#))

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. God of Creation
Gentle life-giver
Present at birth, and
all through our days
Author of sunrise
Song in the night sky
Here in this place, we
offer our praise | 3. Spirit of Comfort
blow through Creation
stir up new life, breathe
peace through our world
Healer of hearts, and
hope for tomorrow
weave all our sorrows
into new dawn |
| 2. Jesus, Companion
teacher and healer
friend of the grieving,
suffering, the poor
Stand with your people
whisper among us
promise of mercy
goodness for all | 4. Here we give thanks for
life in its fullness
blessings received
your gifts to us all
Make us a people
filled with compassion
selflessly giving
serving your world |

Lord's Prayer

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your beloved community of peace and freedom sustain our hope
and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.
Amen.**

Adapted from The New Zealand Book of Prayer | He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa

**Scripture readings: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
 John 16:12-15**

Hymn: Womb of life, and source of being (Ruth Duck; Tune: [Austria](#))

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Womb of life, and source of being,
home of ev'ry restless heart,
in your arms the worlds awakened;
you have loved us from the start.
We, your children, gather 'round
you,
at the table you prepare.
Sharing stories, tears and laughter,
we are nurtured by your care. | 2. Word in flesh, our brother Jesus,
born to bring us second birth,
you have come to stand beside us,
knowing weakness, knowing earth.
Priest who shares our human
struggles,
Life of Life, and Death of Death,
risen Christ, come stand among us,
send the Spirit by your breath. |
|--|--|

3. Brooding Spirit, move among us;
be our partner, be our friend.
When our mem'ry fails, remind us
whose we are, what we intend.
Labour with us, aid the birthing
of the new world yet to be,
free of servant, lord, and master
free for love and unity.
4. Mother, Brother, holy Partner;
Father, Spirit, Only Son:
we would praise your name forever,
one-in-three, and three-in-one.
We would share your life, your
passion,
share your word of world made
new,
ever singing, ever praising,
one with all, and one with you.

Reflection

I'm going to share an excerpt from a Trinity Sunday sermon by one of my favourite theologians, Wil Gafney:

We celebrate the relationship between Jesus and his God and Father who sent him into this world, to us, today on Trinity Sunday. Jesus speaks of God as his Father, of himself as the Son of Woman – I know your translations say “Son of Man” but the Greek can mean either... And Jesus speaks of the Spirit who gives birth to us. Throughout the gospels Jesus speaks of God by many names, inviting us to do the same: Wisdom who is justified by her deeds and her children, the male farmer who plants the mustard seed, the baker-woman who kneads yeast into her loaf, the male shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine sheep to find the one lost sheep; the woman house-holder who sweeps her house looking for her precious lost coin; the Advocate and the Comforter and many, many more.

Isaiah named God as “Lord,” and LORD or Commander of Heaven’s armies, and then as the One Who Rules, Commander of Heaven’s armies. First Isaiah calls God “lord” with lower case letters; something like “honoured sir,” a human title shared by Moses and other important men. Then Isaiah calls God something like “LORD” with capital letters, representing God’s Most Holy Name that cannot

be pronounced by human tongues and is related to the verb “I AM;” LORD or Commander of Heaven’s armies or “hosts.” ...

The church has largely settled on one way of naming God to our great poverty. The blessed, holy Trinity is one way and only one way of naming the God of many names, the God of Isaiah, the God of Jesus and our God...

God is beyond numbering and naming. The scriptures use many more than three names or images to describe God and do not limit us to any. And the scriptures do not mention the Trinity at all. Three names make a nice poetic flourish. But God is not bound or limited by our limitations. God is One, and Two – Incarnate and Incorporeal, and Three and Seven (the “seven spirits of God” in Revelation) and God is Many and Ineffable.

But since today is Trinity Sunday, Let’s name God in Threes:

So I now invite you to spend some time coming up with names for the members of the Trinity that resonate with you, whether it’s names we’ve used already today, other names you’re aware of, or new names that you create – feel free to do it individually or in small groups with people around you – while you’re doing so I’ll have some of the artwork on the screen along with some of the names we’ve used so far in the service (plus a few additional names that Wil Gafney uses). There’s space to write them down in the service sheet if you want.

Hold on to those names as we’ll be using them in the commissioning at the end of the service.

*What names resonate with you for the members of the Trinity?
You're invited to create your own names if you wish.*

God the Father

God the Son

God the Holy Spirit

I'm going to finish this part of the service with the final part of Wil Gafney's sermon:

However you name God, the Many-Named God transcends and defies our attempts to number and name. Instead, God conspires. To conspire is *con spiro*, to breathe together, not just deceitful or treacherous planning. God breathes with us, breathes in us, breathes through us in this Pentecost season to change the world through the Church.

We... have been sent. We have been commissioned to tell the story of the God who loves us, who is Love and bids us love one another, world without end. Amen.

Adapted from: <https://www.wilgafney.com/2016/05/17/naming-and-numbering-god-of-many-names-on-trinity-sunday/>

Community Time – Celebration, notices, concerns for prayer

Prayers of the people

Divine Mystery,
you make space for us in the world and have room for each of us in your care and attention.

Help us also to make room for others in our circle of love.

We pray for those in physical need—those who hunger, who are in pain or unwell, who live in fear, or danger or oppression...

A short time of silence.

Open our eyes to notice them, and help us to make room for them in our circle of love.

We pray for those whose minds are troubled—those who struggle with depression or anxiety or live with mental illness;
those who face the world with a difficult personality or feel lost as they try to find their sense of identity...

A short time of silence.

Open our eyes to notice them, and help us to make room for them in our circle of love.

We pray for people everywhere, made in your image—parents and children, leaders and workers, elders and the young. You have made each of us unique, different in gender and race, faith and ethnicity, ability and disability, values and aspirations.

We pray not only for ourselves but also for those who are different from us...

A short time of silence.

Open our eyes to notice them, and help us to make room for them in our circle of love.

Holy One, thank you for hearing our prayers today, those we have spoken out loud and those expressed in the silence of our hearts. Thank you.

May our prayers and our lives reflect your purposes. Amen.

Source: L3 — Liturgy, Learning, (Purposeful) Life

Offering prayer

We bring our gifts today, along with all we have shared for good during the week: **accept our gifts and ourselves so all may thrive in your circle of love. Amen.**

Source: L3 — Liturgy, Learning, (Purposeful) Life

[Hymn: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty \(HFTC 594\)](#)

Commissioning

Go from here as God's well-loved people.

We go trusting God, *[insert your name for God the Father]*.

We will welcome the stranger.

We will stand beside the humiliated.

We go from here as God's well-loved people.

We go trusting God, *[insert your name for God the Son]*.

We will stand beside the fearful.

We will bring comfort to the lonely.

We go from here as God's well-loved people.

We go trusting God, *[insert your name for God the Holy Spirit]*.

We will celebrate with the liberated.

We will celebrate when the power brokers are brought low.

Go from here as God's well-loved people and rejoice!

Adapted from: Responsive Prayers Year B (David Sparks)

Closing karakia:

Kia tau ki a tātou katoa
Te atawhai o tō tātou Ariki, a Ihu
Karaiti
Me te aroha o te Atua
Me te whiwhingatahitanga
Ki te wairua tapu
Ake, ake, ake
Amine

Translation

*May the grace of the Lord Jesus
Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy
Spirit be with you all
Forever and ever
Amen*