



Kaurihohore Historic Church

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Kaurihohore / Kamo Co-operating Parish

Sunday 15 September 2024 – Creation 3 - Sky

The service this morning has been prepared by Kimberley 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.

Inclusiveness: we recognise the full equality of the entire human family to share in ministry, leadership, and worship, regardless of race, age, physical ability, neurodiversity, marital or economic status, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

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

Community time during the service is a good opportunity to ask for prayers for yourself or others. If you, or someone you know, would appreciate a visit from one of our **Pastoral Network Team**. please speak to the service leader.

Welcome

https://youtu.be/F_NZy7ov7aA?si=boh6nQrZWJfTO_IK

Call to Worship

We invite the skies to worship with us:

the subtle orange skies at dawn and the bold red skies at sunset.

We join the heavens in praising God:

proclaiming God's glory across the globe and hailing God's name with the evening stars.

We join with the atmosphere in worship:

the air, the moisture, the oxygen, the wind and all the expressions of God's Spirit.

We call the clouds to celebrate with storms:

to carry the life giving drops of rain, that give hope and healing to Earth.

We invite the winds to join our petitions:

to carry our prayers to God above and breathe our hopes to Christ in person.

We celebrate the song of the skies!

Sing! Skies! Sing!

Opening Prayer

Hymn – [Song of Sky](#)

(Norman Habel; Tune: Nettleton)

Lord of suns and star exploding
Galaxies and swirling skies,
Where you chose to show your glory
Took the heavens by surprise.
Lord of solar winds and wisdom,
Super stars that blow our mind,
Choosing such a fragile planet
Hardly seems a grand design.

On this piece of stardust swirling,
On this spinning spot in space,
Life itself was born like music,
When you showed your hidden face.
What an honour to be chosen,
Silent planet blue and green,
Filled with glory, grace and gardens,
Where the breath of God is seen.

What is even more amazing
We have poisoned Earth like fools.
Help us change our way of living,
Love the Earth and love her rules.
Help us stem the tide of traders
Leaving Earth an empty store;
Join us now Creator Spirit,
Come renew your Earth once more.

Contemporary Reading #1 – The Night Sky

(Val)

From Psalms for the Road, by Joy Cowley

He Tangi mo te Rangi (A Lament for the Atmosphere)

From 'Season of Creation' by the Methodist Church of NZ

Auē! Auē! Auē!
E te Atua,
what are we doing to te rangi?
How humanity hurts him!
“The sky’s the limit!” we vainly exclaim
as a way of saying there are no limits
the sky is limitless we can do what we want.

**E te Atua, forgive our arrogance,
turn us towards gratitude and respect.**

Heavenly One, we are asking too much of the sky.
We burden the atmosphere by asking him
to carry our careless waste .
We are releasing into the air what nature
had stored away underground .
We burn carbon fuels like there is no tomorrow
discharging greenhouse gasses with reckless abandon
changing the structure of the atmosphere
changing the climate for life
to a climate of death.

**E te Atua, forgive our arrogance,
help us to choose life instead of death.**

God, we use and abuse the sky,
when we use it as a giant disposal unit
for what we don't want.
We too easily discard and forget.
We unthinkingly release industrial emissions,
vehicle emissions,

solid wastes,
that release atmosphere damaging toxins.

**E te Atua, forgive our arrogance,
may we grow in humility and wisdom.**

Creator and Creating God,
as the prophet Jeremiah had a bleak vision
of the skies growing dark
and even the birds flying away
because of human arrogance,
we too are taking this dangerous flight path.
We are reversing your creation.
On the first day you said "Kia mārama.
Let there be light."

In our disrespect for the sky
we are returning our planet
into a place of no light
our actions are the work of dis-creation.

**E te Atua, forgive our arrogance,
Turn us toward your light,
that we might be co-creators with you.**

O God,
Give us courage to reject the climate of greed
that fuels our human arrogance,
Keep us strong in our resolve to resist those who ask us
to sacrifice the health of the sky for their god of money.
Keep us resolute despite their atmosphere of disdain and ridicule
for those who love and respect te rangi.
Keep us awake to their lies and deception.
Help us to go on working for climate justice
and the decolonisation of the skies.
With the prophet Isaiah
may our prayer always be,
"Let the skies rain down righteousness." **Āmine!**

Song – [Your Love O Lord](#)

(Nathan)

(Lyrics and music by Third Day)

Your love oh Lord
Reaches to the heavens
Your faithfulness
Stretches to the sky
Your righteousness
Is like the mighty mountains
Your justice flows
Like the ocean's tide

*I will lift my voice
To worship You my King
I will find my strength
In the shadow of Your wings*

Your love O Lord
Reaches to the heavens
Your faithfulness
Stretches to the sky

Contemporary Reading #2 – Anne of Green Gables (Rory)

From Anne of Green Gables, by LM Montgomery

Reading – Psalm 8, paraphrase by Sylvia Purdie (Mike)

Video – [Psalm 8 \(The Bible Project\)](#)

Hymn – [Psalm 8](#)

(<https://psalms.seedbed.com/psalm-8/> Tune: Ode to Joy)

Lord, our Lord, majestic is Your name throughout the whole wide earth;
You display and set Your splendor o'er the heav'ns which show Your worth.
From the mouths of infant children, You establish strength and praise;
Make the enemy and vengeful cease before Your wondrous ways.

When I see Your glor-ious heavens, moon and stars which You ordain;
What is man that You regard him, son of man with care maintain?
Yet You made him slightly lower than the angels high above;
Crowning him with glory, honour, just beneath the God of love.

You made him to rule creation, put all things beneath his feet—
Sheep and oxen, beasts and cattle, birds of heav'n and fish of sea;
All that swim within the pathways of the sea declare Your worth.
Lord, our Lord, majestic is Your name throughout the whole wide earth.

Offering Dedication

God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and our concern for those in need, including our fellow creatures on planet Earth.

With all creation, we bless our Creator. Amen.

Community Time – Notices; Celebrations; Prayer Requests

Rainbow Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

From <https://worshipwords.co.uk/rainbow-prayer-thanksgiving-intercession-cara-heafey-uk/>

God our creator,
thank you for those moments when the natural world
surprises, delights, and stops us in wonder.
The brilliant blue flash of a kingfisher.
Rose-gold sunlight on bare-limbed trees.
A rainbow, radiant against dark grey clouds.
May we notice and appreciate these shining gifts.
May we feel our connection to the earth and her seasons.
May we remember our smallness and find our belonging.
Remember your faithfulness,
hear our prayer.

Painter of every colour,
thank you for the beauty of diversity.
Rid the earth of racism, misogyny, and homophobia.
Help us to see all flesh as holy,
all love as divine in origin,
all people as temples of your Spirit
and bearers of your likeness.
We ask for your healing, for the wounds we bear,
and those we have inflicted in your name.
May we acknowledge and overcome our prejudice.
May we honour and celebrate our difference.
Make this church a place of safety and welcome for all.
Remember your faithfulness,
hear our prayer.

As you place your bow in the heavens,
so you bend the arc of history towards justice.
Make us partners in this work of raising up
all who are mistreated and disadvantaged.
Bring an end to poverty, exploitation, and corruption.
Reveal to us where we are complicit.
Help us to act justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Remember your faithfulness,
hear our prayer.

As a rainbow graces the sky in the peace that follows a storm,
we pray that war and violence will cease,
that hope will survive,
that peace will prevail at last.

We remember today the people whose homes, lives and families are being torn apart by war, especially those in Gaza and the Ukraine.

Do not forget them, God.

Remember your faithfulness,

hear our prayer.

Finally, eternal one, we give thanks for your promise,
and every reminder of your grace.

May we know your steadfast presence
with us in the wilderness.

May we know ourselves beloved.

You are our God.

Make us your rainbow people:

radiant with your love,

reflecting and dispersing your light,

symbol of hope for the world.

Remember your faithfulness,

hear our prayer. Amen.

Prayer of Gratitude for the Aotearoa Sky

From 'Season of Creation' by the Methodist Church of NZ

For the wondrous gifts of our beautiful skies,

E te Atua, **we give our thanks!**

For the ever-changing clouds that inspired the first name given to this motu,
Aotearoa, the Land of the Long White Cloud,

E te Atua, **we give our thanks!**

For the clean, lung-filling air we breathe, and the atmospheric shield protecting us
from ultraviolet solar radiation,

E te Atua, **we give our thanks!**

For the booming nor'wester blowing from the maunga, and gentle coastal
breezes,

E te Atua, **we give our thanks!**

For clear blue skies by day, and bejewelled skies by night,

E te Atua, **we give our thanks!**

For the sun and the moon, the stars and planets, for constellations and the Milky
Way,

E te Atua, **we give our thanks!**

For the long summer dusk of the deep south, and big skies of a high-country
station,

E te Atua, **we give our thanks!**

For thunder and lightning,

E te Atua, **we give our thanks!**

For rain, sleet, hail, rain, and snow; for frost and dew,

E te Atua, **we give our thanks!**

For aurora and rainbows; for solar and lunar eclipses,

E te Atua, **we give our thanks!**

For geese flying in formation at twilight; and murmurations of starlings,

E te Atua, **we give our thanks!**

For the ancient pouākai who once ruled these skies; and for kāhu who circles still in search of prey,

E te Atua, **we give our thanks!**

For dark sky reserves, and the global agreement to protect the stratospheric ozone layer,

E te Atua, **we give our thanks!**

For gorgeous sunrises and sunsets,

E te Atua, **we give our thanks!**

In the name of the one, called Te Whetū Marama o te Ata, the Bright Morning Star, who heralded the dawn from on high we pray,

Āmine

Hymn – [Oh God of Earth and Sea and Sky](#)

(Words: Jan Chamberlain; Tune: Melita)

1. O God of earth and sky and sea,
of bounteous gifts for all our days;
the sun, the rain, the very air,
for these we give you thanks and praise.
O blessed Lord, help us to do
the things that best will honour you.

2. Help us to nurture what we have,
to save our world from strife and war;
to fight pollution, heal its wounds,
preserve for generations more.
O blessed Lord, help us to do
the things that best will honour you.

3. Give us the will to save your world

from human folly, human greed;
that all your children here on earth
may live in peace with all they need.
O blessed Lord, help us to do
the things that best will honour you.

Blessing

Like a vivid rainbow arching across a darkening sky, may God give us hope in the storms of life.

Like the shining moon orbiting the Earth, may we live radiantly in the sway of the Christ.

Like an ocean breeze billowing the sails of a yacht, may the Spirit fill us with courage in these turbulent times.

Sung Amen x3