



## Kaurihohore / Kamo Co-operating Parish

### Sunday 23 June 2024 – Pentecost 5

The service this morning is led by Rev Freddy De Alwis

#### **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.***

**Justice:** we hope for a better world for all and work together to be part of making that happen.

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**Please join us after worship for a cup of coffee or tea.**

**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 and Introduction:**

**Song:** [I Will Enter His Gates](#) (Mission Praise 307)

I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart

I will enter his courts with praise.

I will say this is the day that the Lord has made.

I will rejoice for He has made me glad.

He has made me glad. He has made me glad.

I will rejoice for He has made me glad.

He has made me glad. He has made me glad,

I will rejoice for He has made me glad.

## **Call to Worship & Prayer:**

Each new day brings to us  
the experience of the sun rising  
in colours of red, yellow, and orange.  
The sunset revealing its pinks and mauves.  
Birds sing- dogs bark- children laugh.  
Each day we are part of your wonderful creation.

**God of each new day - we adore you.**

As we journey our lives with you God,  
We travel roads that are sometimes hard.  
Roads we do not want to be on-  
That take us where we don't want to go  
But you are there with us, beside us, behind us, before us;  
always with us on our journey.

**God of each new journey - we adore you.**

We are not individuals on our own  
but compatriots with each other in this world.  
We are always in relationship with others-  
our family, friends, co-workers and neighbours.  
In all of our relationships you are there gracious Lord,  
encourage us to keep going when the relationships get tough.

**God of each relationship - we adore you.**

**We love you and adore you.**

**God of all our days, all glory be yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**Hymn: We Are Many We Are One**     *(Faith Forever Singing – 67)*

*(Colin Gibson)*

1. We are many we are one, And the work of Christ is done  
When we learn to live in true community,  
As the stars that fill the night, As a flock of birds in flight,  
As the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;  
As the branches of a tree, As the waves upon the sea,  
As the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

2. All division is made whole, When we honour every soul,  
Find the life of God in every you and me,  
As the fingers of a hand, As the grains that form the sand,  
As the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;  
As the threads upon a loom, As a field of flowers in bloom,  
As the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.
  
3. We will join creation's song, Make a world where all belong,  
Build as one in peace and loving harmony,  
As the voices of a choir, As the flames within a fire,  
As the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;  
As the snowflakes in the snow, As the colours of a bow,  
As the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

## **Celebrations and Notices**

### **Prayer of Confession and Healing:**

God of love, who weaves the connections between us,  
the shared stories, the bonds of love, the power of memory.

**We come before you today to offer you our worship and praise.**

God of relationship, Father, Mother, Son, Comforter God,  
Community of love, we remember that you have made us to be formed by  
relationship. To be child, parent, brother, sister, lover, spouse, and friend.

**We thank you for the pleasure and possibilities of our relationships,  
for family, for our friends, for each love, for every tenderness  
we thank you.**

Yet our thankfulness does not make us naïve.  
It does not take away our experiences of hurt,  
nor the awareness of the hurt we have inflicted on those closest to us.

**Forgive us God, for the hurt we cause,  
for harsh words said, for relationships harmed,  
forgive us and help us to forgive.**

Hear then the good news,  
God hears and heals us.  
God shows us mercy and calls us to be merciful.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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## **Hymn: World Communion**

Tune: [Sheltered Dale](#) Jan Chamberlin

1. Great God, whose love enfolds us all,  
in any time and place:  
we pray this day for all the world,  
whatever creed and race,  
that they may feel your strong embrace,  
and so, great God, may we.

2. We pray that on the battlefields  
the fear and hate will cease:  
that love will move the hardest hearts,  
and give the anguished peace.  
from sorrow may they find release,  
and so, great God, may we.

3. And as we gather here today  
your life and love to share:  
a great communion around the world  
of Christians everywhere:  
we pray that they may know your care;  
and so, great God, may we.

**Reading:** Mark 6: 45 - 53 (page 1566) Reader: Brenda

### **Message: "To Get to the Other Side"**

Over the last three Sundays, Mark's gospel talked about:

Mk 3;2 The Pharisees accusing Jesus and his followers breaking the sabbath. rules.  
Vs. 20-30, Teacher of the law said, "He is possessed by the demons. Then Jesus  
talks about a divided kingdom.

4:1-20 Parable of the Sower, vs 21-25 A lamp on a stand, vs 26-34 Parable of the  
growing seeds and the Parable of the mustard seed. Vs 35-41, Jesus calms the  
Storm.

In this morning's scripture we read about Jesus 'walking on the water'. We can find the same story in the gospels of Mathew and John. However, the account of Peter walking on the water is found only in Matthew.

If we are going to talk about Jesus and Peter actually walking on water as a Miracle, it must have happened once in history, then, what relevance is there for us today? In our own context? Normally miracles and/or supernatural things are far beyond human understanding, and against the nature which God created and the law of gravity. I think in that sense we are missing the point. There is an important lesson that Jesus wants us to learn. Therefore, I have chosen my topic as "**To get to the other side**".

### 1. Why did the disciples (attempt to) cross the lake?

**To get to the other side.** What's on the other side of the lake? What's so important on the other side?

- What Jesus, literally means, "immediately" (*eutheos*) "forces" (*anagkazo* in 14:22, "made" in NRSV -- both words come from Mark 6:45) is for the disciples to get into the boat and head in the direction of Bethsaida, which is on the Gentile side of the Jordan, but they don't make it.
- They end up in Gennesaret (Mk 6:53; Mt 14:34) which is on the Jewish side of Lake Galilee.

In Mark, the lake-crossing episodes illustrate the great problems in the early (Jewish) church of **including the Gentiles into the church**. Crossing the sea from **Jewish to Gentile** territories, there are storms (Mk 4:35-41; 6:45-52). Most of this is also present in Matthew's accounts (8:23-27; 14:22-33).

### 2. Can storms at sea (and "little faith") keep the disciples from reaching the destinations where Jesus wants them to go?

To get to the other side; What does it mean? Who are on the other side? What is so important? It was not about the disciples - it was about the early Church, the issue of admission of Gentiles into the earliest Jewish Christian community.

- At some level in most societies there is a tendency to seek domination as a form of self-protection, (because of fear of inclusiveness, fear of insecurity, fear of sharing resources, jobs, health, education).. etc.

The sad thing is some of those fears end up in self-destruction, tribal and ethnic wars, religious wars and killing, in order to eliminate the others, that's what is happening in Palestine right now and many other nations at war....I will leave it there.

- **The people on "the other side; who are we really talking about?"** And Jesus "**forces**" or "**compels**" us to go to.

They may be the unchurched, or minorities, the homeless, migrants, refugees or people with HIV/AIDS, or the physically and mentally challenged, or people whose first language is not English, or loud, noisy, or hard-of-hearing, the elderly, or LGBTQ community, etc.

They are people who are not quite like "us". **They are people whom we or the Church might consider sinners or unclean, 'Apartheid'** separating, setting apart. Apartheid is a policy that is separating people based on racial, ethnic and colour criteria. Have you heard some of the western leaders say, Palatines are like animals, therefore kill them, because Israelis were the chosen people. If we want to justify these concepts, yes, you can find enough biblical quotations taken out of context to support the evil, self-righteous concept of hierocracy to support apartheid, killing, slavery, treatment of women as second class, as we all know the Bible has been read as a judgemental text towards gays....and people who are living with HIV/AIDS. The question comes to my mind, are we trying to defend justice? or whom we like?

But Jesus "**forces**" or "**compels**" us to go to the other side...

### **3. What keeps us (Church) from doing what is JUSTICE or what Jesus wants us to do?**

- There is a sea Monster operating in our world, in our mind and in the Church, not allowing us to do what Jesus wants us to do in the world.

The monster of racism. It creates hate, in the name of insecurity and fear. The monster of violent culture and the education we were brought up with, wrong ethics and theology.

- How do we overcome the power of this Monster operating in our world that creates chaos. ("walking on" = conquest; "sea" = anti-creation chaos monster).
- In biblical language only God walks on the sea (Job 9:8; 38:16; Ps 77:19; Isa 43:16; 51:9-10; Hab 3:5). Precisely in the midst of these stories, Jesus does what only God can do, and speaks with the voice of God, "I am."

### **Can storms at sea (and "little faith") keep us from reaching the destinations where Jesus wants us to go?**

The Peace:

#### **Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. "Make me a channel of your peace.**

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there is hatred let me bring your love.

Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord

And where there's doubt true faith in you.

#### **Hymn: [Make Me a Channel of Your Peace](#) HFTC S.19**

1. Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there is hatred let me bring your love.

Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord

And where there's doubt true faith in you.

*O Master grant that I may never seek,  
so much to be consoled as to console.  
To be understood as to understand.  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.*

2. Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there's despair in life let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness only light  
And where there's sadness ever joy.

*O Master grant that I may never seek,  
so much to be consoled as to console.  
To be understood as to understand.  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.*

3. Make me a channel of your peace.

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.  
In giving of ourselves that we receive,  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

*O Master grant that I may never seek,  
so much to be consoled as to console.  
To be understood as to understand.  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.*

*(Repeat V.1)*

## **Prayers of the People & Intercessory Prayers**

### **Contemporary Lord's Prayer:**

*(Let us pray together)*

**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 people of the world!**

**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!**

**Your commonwealth 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 for ever.  
Amen.**

**Offertory Prayer:**

**Greeting of Peace:**

Lord Jesus Christ, in your tenderness, binds us with bonds of love that cannot be broken. My brothers and sisters, the peace of Christ be with you.

**And with you also.**

Let us greet with a smile, that is a sign of peace.

**Hymn : [God is Here! As We His People](#)**

*Tune: Love Divine*

1. God is here! As we your people  
Meet to offer praise and prayer,  
May we find in fuller measure  
What it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us,  
All our varied skills and arts  
Wait the coming of the Spirit  
Into open minds and hearts.

2. Here are symbols to remind us  
Of our lifelong need of grace;  
Here are table, font and pulpit;  
Here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching,  
Here in silence, as in speech,  
here, in newness and renewal,  
God the Spirit comes to each.

3. Here our children find a welcome  
In the Shepherd's flock and fold;  
Here as bread and wine are taken,  
Christ sustains us as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant  
Seek in worship to explore  
What it means in daily living  
To believe and to adore.

4. Lord of all, of church and kingdom,  
In an age of change and doubt,  
Keep us faithful to the Gospel;  
help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication,  
All we have to give, receive;  
We, who cannot live without you,  
We adore you! We believe!



## Great Thanksgiving

*(The people stand as they are able)*

The Lord is here.

**God's Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

With all your people in heaven and on earth we give you thanks, Holy Father, for Jesus Christ, through whom all things are made; who in the fullness of time became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth; who in obedience suffered death on the cross, and was raised in triumph that we might have life. Therefore, we worship and praise you saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of love and grace, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest; Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.**

*(People may sit)*

### **Breaking of the Bread:**

Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread.

Having blessed it, He broke the bread and gave to His disciples, saying,

“This is my body which is given for you”.

In the same way Jesus took the wine, and having given thanks for it, He poured it out and gave the cup to His disciples, saying, “This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood”.

**In sharing this bread and wine, we remember the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, the one who shared His life with the poor, the oppressed, the one who lived, was crucified, and raised to new life in God.**

In sharing this bread and wine

**we commit ourselves again to follow Jesus in the Way of the cross,**

to share His pain and His joy

**and to claim the promise of new life for the entire creation.**

In sharing this bread and wine

**we celebrate the faith that gives us life and hope,**

we celebrate the journey we begin with one another this day,

**a journey of mutual understanding and companionship,**

and we commit ourselves to reflect in the life of the Church today

**the presence we know in the breaking of bread. Amen.**

Come Holy Spirit, touch this bread and this cup that we might find food and drink for our faith journey. **Amen.**

By the sharing of this bread and wine, may we bring each other into fullness of life. **Amen.**

### **Sharing the Bread and Wine:**

**Prayer after Communion:** (Pray together)

**Gracious God, we give you thanks for satisfying our hungry hearts with this holy meal shared in the Spirit with Jesus, your Son, our Lord. Strengthened and refreshed, we go from here to continue his work in the world, through our faithful witness and loving service. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Hymn: To God Be the Glory**

*HFTC 584*

1. To God be the glory, great things He has done;  
so loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
who yielded His life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

#### Chorus:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord!  
Let the earth hear His Voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the people rejoice;  
O come to the Father thro' Jesus the Son;  
and give Him the glory, great things He has done.

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
To every believer the promise of God!  
the vilest offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

#### Chorus:

3. Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer, and higher, and greater will be  
our wonder, our gladness, when Jesus we see!

#### Chorus

*(Frances Jane van Alstyne 1820-1915)*

**Benediction & Grace:**

God's blessing is upon us

As we look towards a new day!

Go now to love and serve

**We go in the name of Christ.**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.**

**Amen, Amen, Amen.**