



# KAURIHOHORE / KAMO CO-OPERATING PARISH

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## Sunday 24 August 2025 – Pentecost 11

The service today has been prepared by Rosalie Gwilliam,  
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.***

**Love:** we are committed to selfless love to all, including those marginalised by society and the wider church.

### **Welcome**

### **Song CMP 37: [As the Deer Pants](#)**

As the deep pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.  
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

*Chorus:*

*You alone are my strength and shield,  
to you alone may my spirit yield.*

*You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.*

### **Call to Worship**

As God's people, we have gathered.

We may be discouraged, dismayed, discordant with life.

Let us sit together, sharing the solace of silence.

Let us possess the peace of God's presence and be wrapped in the warmth of God's love.

Let us be comforted and quieted, prepared for communion with God and fellowship with one another.

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

## Prayer

O keeper of Faith, help us to keep the faith entrusted to us:  
faith in a world worth saving,  
faith in a dream worth sharing,  
faith in a heritage worth keeping, even as we reinvigorate it to have  
meaning for us now.  
Help us keep faith in you, and help us not lose faith in ourselves,  
for faith in the substance of our hope, and hope is the assurance of love.  
Praise to you, O Faithful One, now and forever. Amen

Hymn HFTC 260: [Great is Your Faithfulness](#)

## Thanks for our Heritage

Loving God,  
we thank you for those who have given us our immediate heritage:  
**those from whom we learnt to speak and walk, to read and write, to think  
and understand.**

To know beauty and to see goodness, to learn of the world, and to recognise  
you.

**There are those who have put up with us and carried us, covered up for  
us and forgiven us, believed in us and even enjoyed us.**

There are those who have imposed some order and justice into a muddled life,  
been with us when we were despairing, and encouraged us to tackle what we  
thought we could never do.

**There are those who have laughed with us and not at us protected us with  
their understanding when we were under fire from others.**

There are those whom we have taken for granted.

**There are those who have allowed us to take advantage of them.**

And there are those who love us, and accept us as we are.

**God, who embraces us in human love, accept our thanks for every person  
who has helped to shape what we have become and are becoming. Amen**

## Lord's Prayer

Hymn HFTC 28: [Amazing Grace](#)

## Reading

Ruth Chapter 4

(page 412)

## Reflection

Over the past three weeks we have been hearing the story of Ruth and Naomi. This is a story of perseverance, of love, of faithfulness, of blessing.

Last week we looked at how Ruth stepped forward and in a bold move, visited Boaz at the threshing floor in the middle of the night to propose marriage.

And now we come to the last chapter where Boaz is on a mission to be able to marry the one he loves – Ruth, and he takes care of the business.

### *Read Chapter 4: 1 - 12*

The laws that were at play in this chapter are the 'Law of the Kinsman Redeemer' given in Leviticus 25: 23-25 *Your land must not be sold on a permanent basis, because you do not own it; it belongs to God, and you are like foreigners who are allowed to make use of it. When land is sold the right of the original owner to buy it back must be recognised.*

The purpose of these laws was to preserve the name and protect the property of families in Israel. When obeyed, these laws made sure that a dead mans family name did not die with him and that his property was not sold outside the tribe or clan.

However, not everybody could perform the duties of a kinsman-redeemer. The requirements require a person to:

be a near kinsman

be capable of paying the redemption price

be willing to redeem.

The story of Boaz and Ruth has now reached a tipping point. Whether they will marry depends now on the decision of the third person, the nearer relative. Boaz is not in control of the outcome.

So, we read that Boaz is on a mission – no time to mess around. Wanting to settle the matter with the nearer kinsman-redeemer, he goes straight to town to find the man standing between him and Ruth.

He reaches the town square where the official business was taken care of, and 'as it turned out,' along comes the nearer relative the kinsman – redeemer.

In the presence of several elders, Boaz makes the offer to the closer relative to redeem the land that has to be forfeited by Naomi.

Here, notice his name is never mentioned. There is probably a good reason for this, so I'll just call him John Bloggs.

So John Bloggs agrees to redeem the land!

Redeeming the land at a bargain price is a fantastic opportunity. Naomi has no sons or grandsons to inherit the land so the property will soon be his. Feeding an old woman will not take too much money, and it will not be long before she passes on. Even if he has to marry her Naomi is long past child-bearing years. This land would definitely be a profitable venture, and the good deed would enhance his public image in the community.

But wait, we don't want him to do that! We want Boaz to be the redeemer  
Now, by the way, Boaz tells John Bloggs that on the day he redeems the land, he must also marry Ruth, the widowed daughter-in-law and raise up children who will one day inherit the land.

Well, John had a fast change of mind. He didn't want it after all – it would jeopardize his own inheritance.

Because he has to 'acquire Ruth the Moabite, every thing changes. While the land is an asset, Ruth is a liability.

She is young and would live a long time.

He would have to provide for her and any children from this marriage

The first- born son would inherit the land.

The first- born son would also be entitled to a share of this kinsman's own inheritance

He would be marrying a Moabite. (Ruth is a foreigner)

So all things put together, it was too risky for John so he tells Boaz 'you redeem it yourself. I cannot do it,

So he gave his redemption right to Boaz.

To finalize the deal in the presence of all the elders and other witnesses, they traded sandals. This custom probably signifies that the man is given the authority to walk on the other man's property as the new owner.

I'm sure that Boaz was doing cartwheels in his heart!!

The elders blessed Boaz' endeavour by wishing upon him great wealth and fame in Bethlehem with many children, as Rachel and Leah gave.

Now we read in the next scene that Boaz and Ruth are married. So little is said of it, but you know that it must have been a beautiful and meaning full ceremony for all of them. It was a great day of rejoicing and happiness.

#### *Read Chapter 4:13 – 22*

Now we hear that Ruth bore a baby boy. He was named Obed. Think about it – for ten years she was barren in her marriage to her husband back in Moab. Suddenly God allows there to be a child born from her. Let's remember that children indeed are a gift of the Lord, and not one of them is born accidentally, as far as God is concerned. And all the women praised God for the baby because he would be a restorer of life and sustainer of old age. Furthermore, for the faithfulness of Ruth, who turned out to be better than seven sons (a common expression for supreme family blessing).

Then Naomi became the baby's nurse. What a joy that must have been for her.

So out of the brokenness and sorrow of chapter one, God faithfully brought hope and a future to the family name. The text tells us that Obed would be the grandfather of King David.

The book of Ruth opens with three funerals – but it closes with a wedding and a naming ceremony. How amazing. And how hope-inspiring.

Out of the brokenness and sorrow of chapter 1, God faithfully brought hope and a future to the family name. The text tells us that Obed would be the grandfather of King David.

The implication of this happy ending is that you and I don't have to be afraid of the future. No matter the curveballs and lemons life may have thrown our way – no matter the mistakes we might have made in our past – we serve a God who delights in bringing it all together in a consummate Christo-centric happy ending. God does have a way of working things out!

## **Creed**

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God, who created and is creating, who has come in Jesus to reconcile and to make all things new.**

**We trust in God, who calls us to be the church;**

**to celebrate God's presence,**

**to live with respect in creation,**

**to love and serve others,**

**to seek justice and resist evil,**

**to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

## **Offering Prayer**

**Giver of all gifts, you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.**

**You are just in all your ways and kind in all your doings.**

**Bless the givers with joy, and the receivers with gratitude, so that your name may be blessed. Amen**

**Community Time:** Celebrations, Notices, Prayer Concerns.

## **Prayer**

God our redeemer, the story of your love makes us realise that there are many others as well as ourselves who need your help and your grace: so we bring our prayers to you:

**For those who suffer pain, and for those whose loneliness is soul destroying;**

Those whose minds are disturbed, and for those who live lives of quiet despair;

**For those who have not had the opportunities to realise their potentialities;**

For those who are satisfied with something less than the life for which they were made;

**For those who know their guilt, their shallowness, their need, but who do not know of Jesus;**

For those who know that they must shortly die, and for those who cannot wait to die.

**Gracious God, your Son has taken all our sufferings upon himself and has transformed them.**

Help us, who offer these prayers, by your grace, become the agents of your transforming love. Amen

**Hymn TIS 495: [Father, We Give You Thanks](#)**

*(Tune: St Clement)*

1. Father, we give you thanks, who planted  
your holy name within our hearts.  
Knowledge and faith and life immortal  
Jesus your Son to us imparts.

2. Lord, you have made all for your pleasure,  
and giv'n us food for all our days,  
giving in Christ the bread eternal;  
yours is the power, be yours the praise.

3. Over your church, Lord, watch in mercy,  
save it from evil, guard it still,  
perfect it in your love, unite it,  
cleansed and conforming to your will.

4. As grain, once scattered on the hillsides,  
was in the broken bread made one,  
so may your world-wide church be gathered  
into your kingdom by your Son.

### **Holy Communion**

#### **The Great Thanksgiving**

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 power and might, 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.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

Among friends. Gathered round the table, Jesus took bread. Having blessed it, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying;  
*'This is my body, given for you.'*

In the same way he took the cup of wine, gave thanks for it and said;  
*This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood.'*

**In sharing this bread and cup, we remember the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, the One who shared his life with all, including the poor and the oppressed; the One who lived, was crucified, and raised to new life in God.**

In sharing this bread and cup

**we commit ourselves again to follow the way of Jesus,**

to share his pain and joy

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

In sharing this bread and cup

**we celebrate a faith that gives us life and hope.**

### **Prayer**

Come Holy Spirit, touch this bread and this cup that we might find food and drink for our faith journey. May our faithfulness lead others into the fullness of life in Christ.  
Amen

### **Invitation**

Come, all things are ready, let us share this bread and this cup together.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Creator of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.

May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

**Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us so we and your children shall be faithful, and the whole earth live to praise your name. Amen**

**Hymn HFTC 33: [Now Thank We All Our God](#)**

**Benediction**

May the gleanings we picked from the book of Ruth abide with us all and may the Lord order our steps into divine appointments with the Boazes and Ruths He has ordained for our help and for his glory.

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

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