




KAURIHORE / KAMO CO-OPERATING PARISH

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Sunday 27 April 2025 – Easter 2

Today's service is led by Jane Garrick,
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.

Welcome

Welcome to worship today.

Our reading from **John 20:19–31** invites us to reflect on the risen Jesus appearing to his fearful disciples, transforming their fear into joy and sending them to bear witness to God's love.

Call to Worship *(based on Psalms 118 and 150)*

Come, let us praise God in His sanctuary

We will praise Him for His mighty acts.

Come, let us praise Him according to His surpassing greatness!

The Lord is our strength and our song;

He has become our salvation!

Open the gates of righteousness

And we will enter them to give You thanks, Lord.

Come, let us give praise and thanks to the Lord,

For He is good and his steadfast love endures forever.

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

Lighting the Candle

We light this candle in praise of the One whose presence fills the sanctuary.

We light this candle in thanks for every breath that becomes a song.

We light this candle to honour the rhythm of worship, from trumpet to dance.

We light this candle as all creation joins the chorus of joy.

May this light shimmer with gratitude, reverence, and delight.

May our worship rise like flame — bright, bold, and alive.

Opening Prayer

Faithful God, your strength becomes our song when all else falls away.

We give thanks for your steadfast love.

You have opened the gate of righteousness before us.

We enter with joy, not by merit but by grace.

You are the stone the world rejected — and our foundation still.

You have done marvellous things in our sight.

Be with us as we rejoice and give thanks this day.

Blessed is the One who comes in your name.

Hymn FFS 57: Song of Faith that Sings Forever

Words by [Shirley Erena Murray](#) © 1999 Hope Publishing Company,

Music by Colin Gibson

1. Song of faith that sings forever
through God's people, ages long,
Word that holds the world together
when our hearts take up the song,
always, always, somewhere sounding,
though the source we do not see,
counterpoint to all despairing,
it is hope that sets the key.

2. Song of faith in exaltation,
rising through the vaults of prayer,
tune of simple celebration
offered up in open air,
song in chapel and cathedral,
descant to our daily tone,
song from sickbed or in prison,
faith must often sing alone.

3. And when life would overwhelm us,
when there seems no song to sing,
hear the constant voice of courage
out of fear and suffering:
all who've loved and trusted Jesus,
all who lift us to be strong,
endless, endless are the voices
of the faith that makes the song.

Prayer

Risen Christ, you enter locked rooms and fearful hearts.
We open our hearts and lives to your peace.

You breathe your Spirit where despair has taken root.
We receive your gift of courage and grace.

You do not shame our doubt or punish our questions.
We bring our honest longing to believe.

You call us not just to believe, but to be sent.
We come to be shaped and commissioned.

You meet us in this gathering, as you met them long ago.
We trust you are here, among us and within us.

Still our racing minds and anxious thoughts.
We are here to worship you with joy and wonder.

Words of Assurance

Christ stands among us with wounds still visible and peace in his breath.
He does not condemn our doubt, but invites our trust.
We are forgiven, renewed, and sent.
You are God's beloved, held in mercy and grace. **Amen.**

Reading

John 20:19-31 (page 1686)

Song: [In Christ Alone](#)

(Lyrics by Stuart Townend, Music by Keith Getty)

1. In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm,

2. What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

3. In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save.

4. 'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

5. There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again.

6. And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

7. No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny

8. No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Til He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Reflection – Fear into Joy

It is evening.
The doors are locked.
Fear hangs in the air like thick fog.

The disciples are huddled together, afraid — not just of the authorities who executed Jesus — would they be next? - but of what it all meant. Jesus, the One they had followed and put all their trust and hope in, their Messiah, is dead. Their movement seems shattered; their future uncertain.

And so they are hiding behind locked doors, full of fear.

We all know what it is like to be afraid. We all have had fears, and we have had all sorts of fears... fears of spiders, the dark, flying, heights, the future, or speaking in public. The list is long! There is even a fear of being afraid — it's called phobophobia. When we experience fear, we retreat like the disciples to a safe place and put up barriers to protect our hearts. Some people go to great lengths to protect themselves.

Fear can be very debilitating. At the end of WW2 an active soldier of the Home Guard in Slovenia made himself a hiding place in the hay of his own stable. Janez Rus spent most of his life there, only being discovered in 1978. That's 33 years! His mother and sister had been feeding him. Why had he been in hiding? He was afraid – afraid of what the authorities would do to him as his Home Guard unit had been active in the war, killing many partisans. Fear had held him captive for decades.

I have heard it said that the words “do not be afraid” are found 365 times in the Bible – that's one for every day of the year. Perhaps this is so in a modern translation, but the King James version repeats it 103 times. However many times it is written, however, we can be assured that these words are for us today.

Fears are real, yet we have been given all we need to walk on through them. “Fear not”, we are told in Isaiah chapter 43... “when you pass through the waters, I will be with you.” It has been said that “Sometimes the Lord calms the storm. Sometimes He lets the storm rage and calms His child.”

The latter is what happened to the disciples behind the locked doors. Jesus came and stood among the disciples. He came (that means He was right there) and stood (that is, stayed beside them). Locked doors were no hindrance for the risen Christ and indeed there are no obstacles or places we are in, that He cannot come – Jesus comes into our locked spaces, those hidden places of our hearts. And He doesn't just come, but He stands there with us, beside us, healing us.

Note that Jesus didn't scold His disciples, and neither does He scold us or demand why we succumbed to fear. The first word He speaks is “Peace” ... “Peace be with you”. In the midst of our fears and turmoil we can experience the peace that passes understanding. It is the peace that rests in the heart. Indeed, His peace is His Presence with us and in us. With His Presence with us in our fearful situations, we can then move from fear to joy.

The picture on the front of the Service Sheet today shows this. Look at the disciples' reaction to seeing the risen Jesus! He who was dead is alive again!

After Jesus repeats “Peace be with you” to His disciples, He says “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” There is now work to do. The disciples, and we too, are moving from peace to purpose. As peace stills the heart, so now comes the commissioning.

Our loves are not our own. Yes, we can choose to live solely for ourselves, but when we connect with the real purpose of our lives, we realise that to live as Christ would have us live, involves much, much less of ourselves, and more of others.

Note that Jesus breathes on the disciples and says, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” Like the disciples, we cannot fulfil our real purpose on our own, but He has provided a Helper for us, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was given as a gift from the Father, because He knows we cannot live life fully on our own. When you have the Holy Spirit, you are enabled then to reach out in deep compassion and care to those around you.

Henri Nouwen was an American Theologian. At the height of his career, he left his university teaching post to become a caregiver to a young man with multiple and complex issues. Nouwen described this young man, Adam, as a “25-year-old man who cannot speak, cannot dress or undress himself, cannot walk alone, cannot eat without much help. He does not laugh or cry. Only occasionally does he make eye contact. His back is distorted. His arm and leg movements are twisted. He suffers from severe epilepsy... it takes me an hour and a half to wake Adam up, give him his medication, carry him to his bath, wash him, shave him, dress him, walk him to the kitchen, give him his breakfast, put him in his wheelchair, and bring him to the place where he spends most of the day with therapeutic exercises.”

Through his caring for Adam, Nouwen came to gain a deep understanding about how we all are broken beings. Yes, people look fine on the outside, but inside there are locked rooms of grief, fear and hurt. Yet, in spite of our brokenness God has come with His overwhelming love in and through Jesus, to touch us. Nouwen gained an inner peace he had never experienced before. Far from academia, from Adam he learned that “what makes us human is not our mind, but our heart; not our ability to think, but our ability to love.”

We may not all be called to give in such sacrificial ways as Nouwen. Our lives are more about the small everyday acts of kindness and encouragement. But as we journey out of our fears and into our purpose may His peace and presence keep and guide us as we choose to bless others.

The disciples had been hiding behind the locked doors trying to process what was going on. The presence of Jesus in their midst, and the peace that He brought set the scene for what was to come – the whole world was to be turned upside down as they went forth with the Good News of the Gospel. The ramifications of this continue to sound out throughout the generations to us, and those still to come. Jesus is alive! The Easter story is not just a story but a revelational event that changes our hearts and changes the world.

The disciples had the incredible blessing of actually seeing the risen Christ but our Gospel reading this morning ends with these words: “Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe” – He is talking about us! We walk in faith believing in Him and are blessed by the living God. Let us walk in the fullness of this blessing whatever life throws at us! Amen.

Community Thanks, Notices & Concerns

Prayers of Intercession

Loving God, we thank You that perfect love casts out fear; that in Your presence is fullness of joy.

We open ourselves to You, and bring our concerns and prayers to You:

We pray for those who are suffering today, physically and emotionally. We think about our friends, neighbours, acquaintances and for those in far off lands in places of warfare, hardship, slavery and abuse.

Have mercy, and give them the peace of Your presence, Lord.

We pray for our church here at Kaurihohore and seek Your touch upon our lives – that You would dispel our fears and lead us with hope in this year of discernment.

Have mercy, and give us the peace of Your presence, Lord.

We pray for our families, that they would look to You in this troubled world and receive Your answers.

Have mercy, and give them the peace of Your presence, Lord. Amen.

Hymn FFS 67: We Are Many, We Are One

Words and Music © Colin Gibson 1998

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 the 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.

Offering

Like the apostles, we offer not just words but the witness of our lives.
Let our giving be an act of faith, courage, and love.

**Bless these gifts, signs of our trust in Your way.
Bless our courage to give, and our will to serve.
Use all we offer to bear witness to your love.**

The Lord's Prayer - Sung AA112 [Our Father in Heaven](#)

(Lyrics: Richard Gillard and John Smith, Arr. Guy Jansen)

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done
On earth as in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those
Who sin against us

Save us from the time of trial,
And deliver us
from evil.
For the king-dom
the power and glo....ry
Are yours now and for ever.
Amen, amen, amen, amen,
amen, amen, amen, amen

Communion

During his earthly life, Jesus was often a guest of the rich and of the poor. Here he is the host. What we do here, we do in imitation of what Jesus first did with his disciples.

On the night of his betrayal and arrest, as he shared a meal with his friends, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his followers, saying:

“This is my body that is for you. Do this to remember me.”

When supper was over, he took the cup, and gave it to his disciples saying:

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this to remember me.”

We set aside these elements to this holy purpose.

Let us pray:

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give him our thanks and praise.

God of love, spirit of compassion, bless us and this bread and wine.

May this meal be food and drink for our journey, renewing, sustaining and making us whole as we join in the song of the saints of all ages.

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.

Lord, we come before you now, yearning to know your healing presence and the accepting love which Christ offers.

(Silence)

Send your Holy Spirit that through this holy sacrament we may know your transforming love and become shaped into the body and life of him whose food we share. **Amen.**

Among friends gathered around a table, Jesus took bread, broke it and said, "This is my body broken for you."

After supper he took the cup and said, "This is the new relationship with God, made possible through my death. Drink it, all of you, to remember me."

We remember Jesus, who taught us to love our enemies;

Christ, have mercy on us.

We remember Jesus, who called all to God's kingdom;

Christ, have mercy on us.

We remember Jesus who rose to live among us and in us;

Christ, grant us your peace.

You are invited to join the kingdom of God's love. All are welcome. The feast is spread. Come to the table of love. At this table we will find freedom from fear, strength for our journeys and rest for our souls.

The bread of life for all who hunger

The body of Christ, broken for us.

The cup of compassion for a broken world

The blood of Christ shed for all.

The Peace of the Lord Jesus the Christ be with you all. **Amen**

Go from this table bearing the love of God into a troubled world.

Go from this table knowing the peace which passes all understanding.

Go from this table renewed, to renew the world God loves.

Prayer after Communion

Loving God, you have called us out of lives dominated by fear, into the freedom of trusting you with our lives, and into belonging in this faith community.

We join with you and with each other, in faith in this covenant of membership in your kingdom.

Lead us, as your people, to live your love into the life of this world, that we may truly be the Body of Christ, inspired by your Holy Spirit within us, to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you.

Amen

Hymn HAP 190: [Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing](#)

Words by [Brian Wren](#) © 1995 Hope Publishing Company

1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

2. Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

3. In every insult, rift and war,
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

4. Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.

Benediction / Sending Forth

Go now in the peace Christ breathes into locked rooms.
May your doubts become doorways to deeper trust.
May your wounds bear witness to love that endures.
The Spirit sends you beyond fear into faith.
The risen Christ walks with you, seen and unseen.
And the blessing of God goes before you always.

Sung Amen

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