



Kaurihohore Historic Church

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Kaurihohore / Kamo Co-operating Parish Sunday 29 September 2024 – Season of Creation

The service this morning has been prepared by Eleanor Ashby,
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.

Sustainability: we care for and strive to restore the integrity of the Earth and all of creation.

Welcome

Today, the 5th Sunday in the Season of Creation is Animal Sunday. Jesus had a very strong relationship with animals, dwelling amongst them as a sign of humility and connectedness with God's creation. Today we also celebrate the day of St Francis, the patron saint of animals and biodiversity.

Call to Worship

Come Lord, come down
Come in, come among us
Come as the wind to move us
Come as the light to prove us
Come as the night to rest us
Come as the storm to test us
come as the sun to warm us
come as the stillness to calm us

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

Prayer for our Earth

Jesus, who raised the dead to life, help us to find ways to renew what we have broken, damaged and destroyed in our common home. Give hope to those working for a greener future.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Amen.
(Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*)

Hymn: [All Creatures of our God and King](#)

HFTC 13

Centering Prayer

Father

Help us to not look forward in fear to the changes in life;
Rather, may we look to the future with full hope,
because as changes arise, you will lead us safely through all things,
because we are your very own, and when we cannot stand it,
You will carry us in Your arms.

With you, we shall not fear what may happen tomorrow;
because you are the understanding Father who cares for us today,
and who will care for us tomorrow and every day.

We have faith, O Lord, That you will either shield us from suffering,
or give us unfailing strength to bear it.

Put us at peace, and give us the grace to put aside all anxious thoughts and images.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, and Our Lord. Amen

Psalm 26

Vindicate me, Lord,
for I have led a blameless life;
I have trusted in the Lord
and have not faltered.

**² Test me, Lord, and try me,
examine my heart and my mind;**

**³ for I have always been mindful of your unfailing love
and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness.**

⁴ I do not sit with the deceitful,
nor do I associate with hypocrites.

⁵ I abhor the assembly of evildoers
and refuse to sit with the wicked.

⁶ I wash my hands in innocence,
and go about your altar, Lord,
⁷ proclaiming aloud your praise
and telling of all your wonderful deeds.

⁸ Lord, I love the house where you live,
the place where your glory dwells.

Hymn [For the Beauty of the Earth](#)

HFTC 298

Readings:

In the first chapter of the book of Job we are introduced to a remarkably prosperous farmer “the greatest among the people of the East”. As we hear his story we are reminded that we must reject the prosperity gospel that equates financial success and material consumption, with God’s blessing.

Job 1:1, 2: 1-10 (page 784)

Once again, this week the Gospel speaks of the place of children in God’s kingdom. Almost everything that we do now has an impact on the future of our children. Many children are suffering from deep anxiety and despair. Yet, God’s kingdom belongs to ‘such as these’. Young people are the prophets of our time. Let us listen to them, amplify their voices ... and act!!

Mark 10: 2-16 (page 1537)

Jesus’ lifestyle challenges us to recognise our interconnectedness with all of creation. St Francis went a step further, he said that we are kin of the animals – he called them his sisters and brothers. In the following video, Glyn Cardy reminds us that the beliefs and concerns of St Francis are still very relevant for us today.

Reflection: [St Francis and Animals](#)

(*youtube video*)

Rev. Glynn Cardy

Community of St Luke, Remuera

Hymn: [Make Me a Channel of your Peace](#)

HFTC S19

Offering

God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks for all the animals and other creatures that have enriched our lives. Amen.

Community Time

Prayers of the People

With Saint Francis of Assisi, patron of ecologists, let us bring before the Lord our requests for all of us gathered here, for the Church and for the whole world:

We pray for the Church: that she may be a beacon of hope throughout the world, reminding us all, of our responsibility to care for and protect God's precious gift of creation.

Lord, in your mercy...**Hear our Prayer**

We pray for the world, our common home: that through God's grace we may hear its cry for the damage done and be moved to protect it for future generations to enjoy.

Lord, in your mercy...**Hear our Prayer**

We pray for all people who are facing droughts, floods and storms: that God may grant them strength and hope for the future as they work to adapt to the changing climate.

Lord, in your mercy...**Hear our Prayer**

We pray for our parish and our local community: that through the grace of God we may hear the urgent cry of the earth and of the poor and be inspired to respond at this crucial time.

Lord, in your mercy... **Hear our Prayer**

Let us bring before the Lord the prayers that lie in each of our hearts as we listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. [Pause]

God, source of all goodness, we call you Creator;

you have made our wonderful world out of nothing and constantly keep it alive. Help us to be full of care and grateful for our home received from you. **Amen.**

Hymn: [How Great Thou Art](#)

O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder
consider all the world Thy Hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

*Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art*

When through the bush and Kauri groves I wander
and hear the Tui singing in the trees;
When I look down from Mount Manaia grandeur
And see the streams and feel the gentle breeze;

*Whakaaria mai, Tōu rīpeka ki au
Tiaho mai rā roto i te pō
Hei konā au titiro atu ai.
Ora, mate,
Hei au koe noho ai*

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden
gladly bearing He bled and died to take away my sin

*Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

Blessing

Friends, go out into the world – God’s world, our world and share the love of God. Dare to proclaim the good news of God’s extravagant love to every living creature, that all of God’s creation might celebrate the presence of our Creator in our midst. And know that the God who made you will be with you, always.

Threefold Amen (sung)