



# Kaurihohore Historic Church

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## Kaurihohore / Kamo Co-operating Parish

### Sunday 30 June 2024 – Pentecost 6

The service this morning is led by Jane,  
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.

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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**

Welcome to our service today. Our nation has been celebrating Matariki this week. The principles that are at the heart of Matariki are consistent with our Christian faith and values: giving thanks for the harvest, looking back, looking ahead, sharing stories about those who have passed on, and enjoying food and togetherness with family and others. I hope you have been able to enjoy some family time.

#### **Let us pray:**

We thank You Heavenly Father for our gathering here today. It is good to be in the House of the Lord. We thank You for this wonderful land we live in and the many blessings You give us through it. Thank you for our families, our neighbours, the communities we live in, and the freedom we have to worship You. Together we share in Your goodness, celebrating the work of the cross in our lives. **Amen.**

## **Call to Worship**

This is the time when all find a welcome here.

### **We are glad to be in the House of God.**

This is the time of prayer and praise, when God's Word is read, and the way of Christ proclaimed.

### **We are here to listen and learn.**

This is the time when we can consider our life's pattern and direction.

### **We wait for words that inspire and guide.**

This is the time we are aware of our call to work in faith community.

### **We open ourselves to grow in faith this day.**

So come, now is the time to worship God.

### **We come before You, our God.**

Come, now is the time to give Him your heart.

### **We come just as we are, to worship You.**

Come, now is the time to say He is Lord.

### **We come bowing our hearts and choosing You.**

*(adapted from David Sparks' Responsive Prayers and Now is the Time to Worship by Brian Doerkson)*

**Hymn:** [Just As I Am](#) *Tune: Woodworth*

*(HFTC 440ii)*

## **Prayer of Yearning and Assurance – Psalm 130 from the Song of Ascents**

The Psalms of Ascent are a collection of psalms in the Psalter, consisting of Psalms 120-134. The psalms are called "a song of ascents" at the beginning of each psalm, and the Hebrew term is ma'alot which means "going up". The psalms were sung by Jewish pilgrims as they traveled up to Jerusalem for the great feasts. These psalms move from distress to blessing, with a multitude of ups and downs on the way. We can identify with the psalmist as we too journey through life, "going up" through life to our Heavenly Home.

Out of the depths we cry to You, O Lord

### **Lord, hear our voice**

Let Your ears be attentive

### **To the voice of our supplications.**

If You, Lord, should mark iniquities,

### **O Lord, who could stand?**

But there is forgiveness with You,

### **That You may be feared.**

We wait for the Lord, our souls wait.

**In His word we do hope.**

Our souls wait for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning-

**Yes, more than those who watch for the morning.**

Hope in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption.

**Prayer:**

Merciful God in whose image we are created, we confess that we are cracked and broken mirrors, struggling to reflect that profound dignity and beauty inherent in all human beings. So often we reduce people to single stories that define them poorly and fall short of building community that reflects your great compassion and love.

**Forgive us, O God.**

The very thing we struggle to embody is held in perfection in God's own being: The shining embrace of understanding, connection, and grace that reaches out to us, includes us and forgives us for all the ways we fall short. You are loved. You are forgiven. **Thanks be to God, Amen**

**Song:** [Spirit of the Living God](#) (*Stay seated - sing verse twice*)

S23 Hymns for Today's Church

### **George Mueller Story**

George Mueller was born in 1805 and died in 1898. He was an ordinary man but he believed in an extraordinary God. He built five large orphan houses in Bristol, England and cared for over 10,000 orphans in his lifetime. When he started in 1834, there were accommodations for 3,600 orphans in all of England, and twice that many children under 8 were in prison. Mueller was a man of implicit trust and faith in God. During his 93 years he never asked anyone directly for money. He never took a salary in the last 68 years of his ministry, but trusted God to put in people's hearts to send him what he needed. He never took out a loan or went into debt. When he died thousands lined the streets to pay tribute to this faithful man of God.

Here is just one example of his faith and trust in God:

"The children are dressed and ready for school. But there is no food for them to eat," the housemother of the orphanage informed George Mueller. George asked her to take the 300 children into the dining room and have them sit at the tables. He thanked God for the food and waited. George knew God would provide food for the children as he always did. Within minutes, a baker knocked on the door. "Mr. Mueller," he said, "last night I could not sleep. Somehow, I knew that you would need bread this morning. I got up and baked three batches for you. I will bring it in." Soon, there was another knock at the door.

It was the milkman. His cart had broken down in front of the orphanage. The milk would spoil by the time the wheel was fixed. He asked George if he could use some free milk. George smiled as the milkman brought in ten large cans of milk. It was just enough for the 300 thirsty children."

Overall, he prayed in millions of dollars (in today's currency) for the orphans. And neither he nor the orphans were ever hungry.

**Readings:** Mark 5:21-43

## **Reflection**

Can you remember a time in your life when you were desperate? It may have been a health crisis or a time of financial crisis, when your bank account was empty, and a stack of bills were sitting on the table in front of you. It may have been a time of personal crisis - a relationship breakdown or a time of burnout, when you didn't know if you could face another day.

I remember the 26th of May 1992. My husband Dave was on his way to work on his pushbike when a turning van drove straight into him. With a smashed face, compound fracture of his leg and possible internal injuries, he was helicoptered to Intensive Care at Waikato Hospital in a serious condition. Later that morning, sitting on a chair in the cold, dark corridor outside Intensive Care, holding my 6-week-old daughter fiercely to my chest, I was desperate for him to live. I knew that God was the only One I could turn to and my only Hope for his full recovery.

In today's reading in Mark, we hear the story of the woman with the issue of blood. She too was desperate, and she too knew that God was her only hope. It is wonderful to realise that the Bible is not just a book of stories about other people in other times, but it is as relevant today as it has ever been over the centuries. Let's delve into her story and see what we can learn that will encourage us in our walk of faith; in our journey of life....

The woman was suffering and had been for 12 years. In the culture of the day she would have been an outcast, just like a leper. Others would have known that there was something wrong with her. In fact, connection with her would make them unclean. Therefore, she would be at the bottom of society and kept at arms-length. In other words, her illness had defined her and kept her enslaved. For 12 years! That is 4,380 days. Imagine it! 4,380 days of living with her debilitating illness. Scripture tells us that she had suffered many things from many physicians and had spent all that she had. The old King James version says she was "nothing bettered" but rather, grew worse. Yes, she was desperate.

Some of you know what that is like. You know what suffering is, whether it is physical, spiritual or emotional. What goes through your mind no doubt also went through the woman's mind...

Where are you God? Why are You afar off? Why am I suffering? Why have I had to suffer for so long?

Why do we sometimes not know if He has even heard us? Why is it so easy to get discouraged?

It seems that there are always more questions than answers.

The woman put her fear, her despair and all embarrassment aside. She was able to focus on Jesus: "If I but touch the hem of his garment I shall be made well," she told herself. She did not allow her condition, the pressing crowds, the fact that she was a woman, or anything else at all to stand in her way of reaching Jesus.

She had the faith to believe that even the smallest connection with Him would make her well.

It was a very public moment and the leader of the synagogue, Jairus, an important man, had just asked Jesus for help. Jesus was on His way to lay His hands on his sick daughter. We see the woman persevering in her faith, not put off by Jairus' request and Jesus' attention on Jairus. She would have had to push and shove her way through the pressing crowd to reach Jesus. Someone else would have given up, but she was determined. She still had the faith to believe that Jesus could heal her, if only she could touch the hem of His garment.

There is nothing that we can hide from God. He knows all about us and sees all. Come to Him, just as you are, in spite of the obstacles surrounding you, whatever they are; knowing your weaknesses, your failures and insecurities and yet somehow activating your faith and putting your All into His hands.

The Bible tells us that "straight away" the fountain of her blood was dried up when she touched the hem of Jesus' robe and that she felt in her body that she was healed of the illness. The healing was instantaneous. Jesus knew immediately too, turning around and asking, "Who touched Me?" Of course He would have known it was the woman, but I think he was giving her the opportunity to seal her healing by testifying to it. We note that she came and fell down before Him and told Him "all the truth." What "all the truth" was, we do not know, but I tend to think it was not just the physical issue of her bleeding, along with all that it entailed, but perhaps too a confession of her sin as she came face to face with the Living, Loving God.

It is wonderful to hear Jesus' response. He does not call her "woman" but rather, He calls her "daughter". This is a sign of a real connection between them. Surely, this is more important than even her healing. Our relationship with Jesus brings us into all the right places, where we can receive from Him.

The difference here and indeed in all life, is faith. For you, it may be the deep inner knowledge that your life is in God's hands. You are His. Or it may be like the man in Mark 9:24 who cries out "Lord, I believe. Help Thou mine unbelief." When the trials and sufferings come, and yes, they come, walk in faith. Speak to yourself as the woman did, and as the Psalmist does: "Hope thou in God. He alone is your help." Lift up your eyes to the One who loves you like no other. Touch the metaphorical hem of His garment and receive your answers.

We are all on our own journeys of ascent. I'd encourage you to read Psalms 120 - 134 and meditate on the Psalmists' journey. Ups and downs happen to us all as we are growing from unbelief into belief and rock-solid faith. Some of us feel like we have to go around the mountain a few times, but we know that God's grace and His goodness are leading us. We take heart that we are ascending, albeit slowly.

Waiting for our healing or waiting for our answers from God are opportunities to grow in faith. We can choose to be discouraged, or choose to encourage ourselves in the Lord, just as David did. Do not be discouraged: a thousand years is like a day to God. One day we will look back and realise our suffering was but for a moment. This is not to trivialise your present suffering, but to encourage you that there is a more glorious day ahead.

The low points in our lives are opportunities to find Him, connect with Him and receive His love, grace and healing.

Are you standing in the need of a touch from Jesus? Let me pray for you now.

*Lord, thank You that You know everything there is to know about each one of us. Thank You that Your will for us is only, ever good. I pray now for those who are suffering – You know, Lord. May they draw near to You and activate that mustard seed of faith that is in their hearts, so that they can reach out and touch the hem of Your garment this day. Minister to them; in Your great love and tenderness, bring comfort and healing. Amen.*

**Hymn: [He Came Singing Love](#)**

AA 59

## **Offering**

Loving God, we present now what we have brought to you.

Things that are both visible and invisible. The coins and paper represent our work and express in a clear and visible way our love and thanks. But we also bring as an offering our time and service and the dreams and hopes that we have. These invisible gifts are what sustain our lives. Receive all that we have brought in love, O God. **Amen**

## **Community Time - Rosalie**

### **Prayers for Others**

O wondrous God who brings healing and life, Come into our lives. Come especially into those desperate situations where we have no answers and so few places to turn.

#### **You are our Hope.**

[Silence]

We pray for those experiencing significant health struggles.

#### **You are our Healer.**

[Silence]

We pray also for those with deep trauma stories, for all who know the shame of being labelled with stories that define human lives poorly, and for all those who know the pain of exclusion.

#### **You are their Hope.**

[Silence].

We pray for relationships that have reached the point of death – for intimate relationships that have become strained and broken, for communities that have become divided and decimated, for nations at war and others rushing headlong towards conflict.

#### **You alone, can bring good out of hurt.**

[Silence]

Bring health, healing and restoration, Lord Jesus, so that all may be made well and live. Touch those parts of our life that we had written off as dead. Bring hope and rejoicing to our shared lives, loving God. **Amen.**

**Hymn: [Be Thou my Vision](#)**

*HFTC 545*

## **Blessing**

We know what it's like when the God of resurrection comes into our lives:

**People are made whole.**

**Life comes from death.**

**Fear turns to wonder.**

**Wailing gives way to rejoicing.**

So, keep welcoming life, even when it all looks like it's all over and done with.

And may the grace of God hold you and keep you close, May the loving eyes of God look upon you with a sparkling brilliance, And may you draw new life and well-being from God's smile.

Go in peace, **Amen**

**Sung Amen**