



KAURIHOHORE / KAMO CO-OPERATING PARISH

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Sunday 31 August 2025 – Pentecost 12

The service today has been prepared by Richard Smith,
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.***

Inclusiveness: we recognise the full equality of the entire human family to share in ministry, leadership, and worship, regardless of race, age, physical ability, neurodiversity, marital or economic status, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

Welcome

Kia ora faith-family, welcome to worship at Kauri this morning, the twelfth Sunday in the Season of Pentecost, the last Sunday of Winter. The community value we are focusing on today is Inclusiveness. I suspect we will hear more of that value as we share our learnings from the book of Ruth through this service. This year the Worship and Education teams invited us to take the time for our normal Winter Studies Series in July to read through Ruth for ourselves and to think about what it had to say to us in the twenty-first century. Then the service leaders have shared their reflections on the book of Ruth chapter by chapter through the month of August. Today is our sharing service when I will invite you to share your thoughts and reflections with each other, resources you have found helpful, or inspiring insights from your study, harvested for our faith-family. Today we will be facing some very wintry themes as we prepare to end our two-month expedition into the biblical book of Ruth. Now it's your turn!

But first let us prepare ourselves for the journey ahead through the dark and the light.

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

Call to Worship

Come people of God, come to remember our saviour who cried out, "My God, my God why have you abandoned me?"

We come bearing our life-long burdens of hopelessness and despair.

Come followers of Jesus, come to walk in the path him who knew what it was like to be, "A worm, despised and scorned by everyone!"

We come acknowledging all our experience of isolation and rejection.

Come people of God, come to discover anew the Spirit who promises, "Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, Lord for you are with me."

We come seeking the love that will never let us go.

Lighting the Christ Candle

"I am come that they may have life in all its abundance."

God meets us in Jesus.

He was put to death on the cross.

Not even death could extinguish the light.

You are called from death to life.

We come to be his body in this place, forgiveness for the wrongdoer, justice for the deprived, compassion for the abandoned, hope for the despairing. Let there be light.

Opening Prayer

Christ, our Companion and Guide

Renew us in your way of love

You call us to remember those who are forgotten

Renew us in your way of compassion

You show us how to honour one another

Renew us in your way of respect

You invite us to be content and faithful

Renew us in your way of humility. Amen.

Hymn – When I Can't Face Another Day

(Lyrics: David Bjorlin; Hope will not Fail;

Tune: Old 100th ([All People That on Earth Do Dwell](#))

1. When I can't face another day
Or find the words or faith to pray,
Though everything feels off and wrong,
I lift my murmured morning song.

2. My night was filled with fear, not rest,
Each fear replayed, each weakness stressed,
So here I stand bereft of hope
And plead for grace and strength to cope.

3. Release me from the grip of grief,
Revive my cold and dead belief,
Relieve me of this grim despair,
Recall your love and prove you care.

4. For in this pit of loss and dread
The waters rise above my head,
As help and trust drift from the grasp
And every breath becomes a gasp.

5. Yet, here I am defying death
With ev'ry heartbeat, ev'ry breath
Be with me when the path is rough,
And may your presence be enough.

Prayer for Centring and Renewal

Holy and loving God, throughout scripture you exhort us to care for the vulnerable, the hungry, the poor, the widow, the orphan and the refugee. Remind us of when we have been vulnerable; isolated and alone, hopeless and despairing, unloved and unlovable.

Then open our eyes to your presence in ourselves and in others, open our ears to hear your call to follow you into the dark places of this world, open our hearts to become channels of your love in this world. **Amen.**

Hymn FFS 20: [Forgive, Forgive Us Holy God](#)

Lyrics: Shirley Murray

Tune: Colin Gibson

1. Forgive, forgive us, holy God!
Your children call on you to hear!
Our blood is on each other's hands,
we die from hunger, lies and fear.
2. Forgive us that our souls are numb
to scenes of terror, screams of pain;
that while we pray 'Your kingdom come'
our world is still a battle plain.
3. Forgive the minds no longer shocked
by homeless poor, by lives abused,
forgive us that the earth is stacked
with weapons waiting to be used.
4. Forgive us that our household gods
are self and safety, private need,
forgive us all our fitful prayers,
the token gift, the token deed.
5. Give us this day the bread of peace,
the hands to share a common good,
the hearts to ache for justice' sake,
the will to stand where Jesus stood.

Readings

As an introduction to our time of sharing, I thought it would perhaps be helpful to share with you the meanings of the names of the characters in the book of Ruth as the original readers would have known them and understood the story and its meanings based on knowing what the author chose to call their characters.

The man is Elimelech; "My God is King".

His wife is Naomi; "Pleasantness", she later changes her name to Mara; "Bitterness".

Their sons are; Mahlon; "Sickness", and Chilion; "Frailty".

The son's wives are; Orpah; "Back of the Neck" and Ruth; "Friend" or "Companion".

The redeemer's name is Boaz; "In him is Strength".

The other relative who declines to marry Ruth is Peloni Almoni' "So and So".

The son born to Ruth and Boaz, is Obed; "One who Serves".

Excerpts from the book of Ruth using name meanings instead of names:

1 1-2 Once upon a time—it was back in the days when judges led Israel—there was a famine in the land. A man from Bethlehem in Judah left home to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. The man's name was Elimelech; "My God is King" his wife's name was Naomi; "Pleasantness" his sons were named Mahlon; "Sickness" and Kilion; "Frailty"—all Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They all went to the country of Moab and settled there.

3-5 "My God is King" died and "Pleasantness" was left, she and her two sons. The sons took Moabite wives; the name of the first was Orpah; "Back of the Neck", the second Ruth; "Friend". They lived there in Moab for the next ten years. But then the two brothers, "Sickness" and "Frailty", died. Now "Pleasantness" was left without either her young men or her husband."

"Pleasantness" is now left with no male to protect or support her in a patriarchal foreign country where Hebrews are unwelcome foreigners, plus she now has two other women who depend on her for protection and support.

13 She says to her two daughters-in-law, "this is a bitter pill for me to swallow—More bitter for me than for you. God has dealt me a hard blow." Self-pity consumes her.

19-20 She arrives back in Bethlehem to be greeted with disbelief that it could really be her and responds, "Don't call me "Pleasantness"; call me "Bitter". The Strong One has dealt me a bitter blow. I left here full of life, and God has brought me back with nothing but the clothes on my back. Why would you call me "Pleasant"? God certainly doesn't. The Strong One ruined me."

Video – The Bible Project: Book of Ruth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0h1eoBeR4Jk>

Reflection - *You are invited to share your reflections and learnings from the book of Ruth and what the services have meant for you.*

Hymn AA158: [Who Is My Mother?](#)

Lyrics: Shirley Murray

Tune: Ian Render

1. Who is my mother,
who is my brother?
all those who gather round Jesus Christ:
Spirit-blown people
born from the Gospel
sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.
2. Differently abled,
differently labelled,
widen the circle round Jesus Christ,
crutches and stigmas,
culture's enigmas,
all come together round Jesus Christ.
3. Love will relate us—
colour or status
can't segregate us, round Jesus Christ:
family failings,
human derailings—
all are accepted, round Jesus Christ.
4. Bound by one vision,
met for one mission
we claim each other, round Jesus Christ:
here is my mother,
here is my brother,
kindred in Spirit, through Jesus Christ

Community Time: Notices, Celebrations & Concerns.

Prayer of Intercession

(Joy Cowley)

Ancient Love, You know our intentions
Long before they are in our minds.
Everything we will pray for,
Is already held in Your embrace.
But we need to make these prayers
To move our awareness beyond self
To our sisters and brothers in need.

Sacred One, as we make these petitions,
May they become action within us.
May they increase in us, Your gifts
Of Compassion, Justice, Generosity,
So that your love can flow through us.

Show us, O God, how to put wheels
To the engine of prayer.

Offering and Prayer of Thanksgiving

(Based on a prayer by Joy Cowley)

Loving Lord, we give you thanks for life and love
For everything we have and are.
Bless us and our gifts as we come before you
To offer our lives as channels of your life and peace
into this strife -torn world you love.

When we are young, our lives mostly unlived,
We are like the shallow edges of the sea.
When a storm whips up foaming waves,
The seabed is disturbed, sand tossed
And weed torn up by the current.
It seems that all is in chaos
And there is no place of calm.

The peace that is promised by Jesus,
Is the calm of the deep ocean.
A storm may disturb the surface,
Wind heaping water into waves,
But the bottom of the sea is tranquil,
Untouched by changes in weather.

We pray for the peace that he gives,
The deep assurance that is untouched
By the shifting winds and tides of life.
And may the gentleness of that peace
Bring his presence to those in need.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Hymn HFTC S 19: [Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace](#) (*Tune: St. Francis*)

Commissioning and Blessing

Look now, people of God, at the light of the Christ Candle
Draw it deep within your being, nurture it within you.
Know that you are loved throughout all the turmoil of life.
Then take that deep love and peace of His presence
Into the rest of your life in this world,
transforming it into His Heavenly kingdom. Amen

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