




# KAURIOHORE / KAMO CO-OPERATING PARISH

kaurichurch.methodist.org.nz 

kaurichurch@gmail.com 

946 0813 

## Sunday 6 July 2025 – Pentecost 4

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**

### **Introduction**

As we continue our journey exploring the life and teachings of Jesus, we turn our attention today to the deep longing we all carry – the desire to know that we matter, that our lives have significance.

Today, we listen to the witness of the young girl and the returning disciples, who invite us to step beyond a life of striving and into the deep peace of knowing that we are already chosen, called, and sent by God's grace.

### **Call to Worship**

Family of God, rejoice!

Have you heard?

God knows your name!

You live deep within the divine heart – held and bound within the greatest love.

Come, let us worship this God of grace!

---

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

## Prayer

Challenging God, you send us out like lambs among the wolves, then ask us to be peaceful and gentle.

Help us to hear and obey your call to follow Jesus, even if we must surrender our reputations and rules we hold dear.

May we learn and live the path of the cross, restoring one another and bearing one another's burdens, as we discover your gift of becoming new creations in Christ.

Amen

## Hymn FFS 68: We Are The Singers

*Music: Jillian Bray*

*Lyrics: Shirley Murray*

1. We are the singers who celebrate Jesus,  
we are the cast of a play to unfold,  
we have a part at the heart of the Gospel,  
action that speaks as the Story is told,

*Chorus:*

*We are God's people,  
hopeful and joyful,  
One open circle  
round Jesus Christ!*

2. This is the wonder, that we should be chosen!  
We, like the earthenware vessels we are,  
clay in the mould to enfold the great treasure:  
light of more power than planet or star,

*Chorus:*

3. We are the travellers set out on a voyage,  
ship that will sail with whoever will board,  
we who can dream a regime of acceptance,  
seeking a country of loving accord,

*Chorus:*

4. We have a life that is greening and growing,  
centred on Jesus, the root and the vine,  
we are a place for each race and each rainbow,  
household of faith with a pledge of new wine,

*Chorus:*

**Prayer**      *(Methodist Worship Book. (Peterborough, England: 1999))*

Peaceful and merciful God, you promise that your Kingdom is within our reach, yet we are often distracted by demands and requirements, yet boundless is your saving power; your harvest reaches to the ends of the earth. Set our hearts on fire for your kingdom and put on our lips the good news of peace. Grant us perseverance as heralds of your gospel and joy as disciples of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you now and forever. Amen

## **Psalm 30**

*This psalm is David's prayer of thanks to the Lord for answering his request for salvation.*

I give you all the credit, God –

You got me out of that mess, you didn't let my foes gloat.

**God, my God, I yelled for help and you put me together. God, you pulled me out of the grave, gave me another chance at life when I was down and out.**

All you saints! Sing your hearts out to God! Thank him to his face!

He gets angry once in a while, but across a lifetime there is only one love. The nights of crying your eyes out give ways to days of laughter.

**When things were going great I crowed, 'I've got it made. I'm God's favourite. He made me king of the mountain.'**

**Then you looked the other way and I fell to pieces.**

I called out to you, God; I laid my case before you; 'Can you sell me for a profit when I am dead? Auction me off at a cemetery yard sale?

When I'm dust to dust my songs and stories of you won't sell. So listen! and be kind! Help me out of this!

**You did it; you changed wild lament into whirling dance; you ripped off my black mourning band and decked me with wild flowers. I'm about to burst with song; I can't keep quiet about you.**

**God, my God, I can't thank you enough.**

*(The Message. Copyright 1993, 1994, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002)*

## Hymn WHAV 38: Worship, Faith, Belief and Action

*Tune: Praise my Soul*

*Lyrics: Norman Brookes*

1. Worship, faith, belief and action,  
let these mark our lives this day:  
worship that inspires, uplifts us,  
faith that takes risks on life's way.  
God now calls us: yes, God calls us:  
Come, we have a part to play.
  
2. Our beliefs, convictions shape us,  
mould us, make us who we are:  
Christ's compassion can embrace us,  
and equip us for this hour.  
God now calls us: yes, God calls us:  
to believe, to seek love's power.
  
3. But belief must lead to action,  
Else all talk, all theory's vain:  
Service is our true vocation,  
Living, working, for god's reign.  
God now calls us: yes, God calls us:  
Love to spread, and life to gain.

### Readings

Galatians 6: 1-16                      (page 1813)  
Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20                      (page 1613)

### Reflection

So, do you think these disciples whom Jesus had just instructed what to do were overjoyed and excited about being sent out to share the good news of Jesus? Probably not! I assume that they might have felt like how we feel when the opportunity arises to share our faith with friends and neighbours. We get nervous. We are scared they will reject us as religious loonies! We tend to over plan and over think things. We plan a nice lunch for a struggling friend or have a little prepared speech to share with a family member in crisis. We just try too hard! In today's scripture Jesus tells his disciples – and is essentially telling us – 'Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals.' We need to let go of the excess, the plan, the prepared speech and just let it flow. Is it scary and nerve wracking? Yes!

Does it make us uncomfortable? Yes! Were the disciples comfortable being sent to towns where no one knew them? Absolutely not! The message of Jesus is not meant to make us comfortable and most definitely will and should take us out of our comfort zone. Just look at the beatitudes: 'Blessed are the poor for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the world.' God's way of doing things is completely backwards from society's way of acting.

So don't be discouraged if friends reject God's message, or our invitation to church, or the offer to pray for them

Do what you can and rejoice, knowing that our reward does not come in 'seeing' results all the time, but our rejoicing comes because our names are written in heaven.

Doing what you can, can bring rejection.

Andrew Gamon tells a story about visiting a church member who was in hospital. The hospital room had 4 patients, and another family member was also visiting the person I had come to see. After a short time, I asked if I could pray for her. In guess, at this point, the visitor realised that I was a minister and that sparked something – for she immediately started shouting the foulest obscenities. She ran away from us down the hospital corridor, still shouting and swearing as she went!

We are God's disciples on earth in today's time. We are called to share how our faith has helped us. – called to share the love of God and encourage one another along life's way. We are also called to handle rejection! By doing so our faith grows and we are encouraged to keep on sharing.

So, what are some of the ways we can share the message of God's love in our community or to our friends and neighbours? It can be in an indirect way in something as simple as recycling – working to live a sustainable life by composting, and ditching plastic. Will we see the reward in our lifetime? Probably not, but by doing these things we are, in a loving way for future generations, and leaving the environment a better place to be, we are in a way spreading God's love and can rejoice knowing that we are doing what we can.

Jesus said to them *'The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few, therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into the harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves.'*

*Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals, and don't stop to greet anyone on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say 'Peace to this house!' and if anyone is there who shares this peace, your peace will rest on that person. But if not, that peace will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and it's people welcome you, eat what is set before you. Cure the sick who are there. The kingdom of God has come near to you. But whenever you enter a town and they don't welcome you, go out into the streets and say 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.' I assure you that on judgement day God will show more mercy to Sodom than to that town'.*

After going out into the towns as Jesus commanded them, the seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!' Jesus said to them 'I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightening. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.'

So, let's listen to what the Spirit would say to us today.

Some may visit shut ins, volunteer for Hospice, offer to babysit the neighbours kids so the new mother can get a few hours sleep – offer a wave or a smile as we pass someone along the path – call that person we had a disagreement with and extend an olive branch to start anew or simply lend an ear to the person sitting next to us on a Sunday morning who may have had a rough week.

The hardest part is the first step. Just like the disciples had to go to that first house and knock on the door, we need to allow ourselves to be open to share, to listen, to lend a hand, or to open our mouth and shout from the street if necessary. We do this because it is God in us who is calling us to share God's message of hope and salvation – the message of faith and trust in Jesus. We act out of love for others because God did the same for us.

So, who were Jesus disciples – the 72 he 'sent out?' They were a mixture of people – farmers, fishermen, carpenters. I wonder if there were any women among them who could have been dressmakers, cooks, cleaners. I wonder!

Who are Jesus' disciples today? I guess farmers, businessmen and women, builders, homemakers, cooks, in fact, you and me.

By being the light of love to those around us – being God's hands and feet - not only will our community change, but we will be changed also. And that is something we can all rejoice in. Amen

## Hymn CMP 857: [I, the Lord of Sea and Sky](#)

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky ,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
My hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright,  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

### *Chorus*

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone,  
I will speak my words to them.  
Whom shall I send?

### *Chorus*

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
'Til their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them,  
Whom shall I send?

### *Chorus*

## **I Am the Offering.**

*As the offering plate is brought forward I invite you as you are able to come forward too, to be part of the offering. As well as our money, we offer ourselves to be sent out in Gods service.*

## Prayer

**Lord, with our offerings today we bring ourselves. Send us out to serve you this week. Use our feet to go for you; our hands to serve you; our mouths to speak for you; that your reign may come on earth even as it is in heaven. Amen**

**Community Time:** Celebrations, Notices.

## Prayer for Others

It's Good News, this Gospel of yours, Jesus, and we easily get so excited and full of expectation, that we can be disappointed when goodness takes longer than we had hoped.

But sometimes the most powerful changes, the most complete healings come not in one startling moment, but slowly, by degrees.

And so we pray for your Good News to capture our world, in the comfort of loving shoulders

**offered for the grieving to cry on:**

in the shared laughter and hopefulness

**found in the midst of pain and suffering:**

in the vulnerable welcome of hospitality

**given to both strangers and friends:**

in the unconditional love and challenging confrontation

**received from trusted partners:**

in the simple responsibility

**accepted by those who are conscientious and faithful:**

in the generous good

**done by grateful followers of your ways.**

In these small, but significant actions, we pray that we and our world may recognise the signs of your reign among us; and that your Good News may be proclaimed by degrees, in the daily rhythms of our lives. Amen

*(John van de Lear 2010 [www.sacredise.com](http://www.sacredise.com). Used with permission)*

**Hymn HFTC 306: [Forth in Your Name, Oh Lord, I Go](#)**



## **Benediction**

May the Lord of the harvest, who sent the disciples out as ambassadors for Christ, send you out to proclaim that the kingdom of God has drawn near.

May Jesus Christ, who gave authority to heal and resist evil, bless you with the knowledge that your names are written in heaven.

May the Holy Spirit, who gives you the power to persevere, send you to care for one another, sowing seeds of the Spirit and reaping the harvest of eternal life.

## **Sung Amen**