



# KAURIHOHORE / KAMO CO-OPERATING PARISH

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## Sunday 7 September 2025 – Creation 1 - Oceans

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.***

**Justice:** we hope for a better world for all and work together to be part of making that happen.

### **Welcome**

#### **Introduction**

Today is Ocean Sunday, a time to honour the vast, living waters that breathe life into our planet. The ocean is more than water, it is depth, movement, song, and silence. In scripture and in creation, Ocean speaks with wisdom older than words. As we gather for worship, we listen to the voice of God in the waves, to the mystery beneath the surface, and to the call to live in deeper harmony with all that God has made.

#### **Call to Worship**

Hey, you! Give praise to God!

**God dreamed you and called you and here you are!**

Seas and oceans, tranquil waves and turbulent currents, praise God.

**God dreamed you and called you and here you are!**

You fish and whales, sing praise in the deep.

**God dreamed you and called you and here you are!**

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

So listen out for the Name that is above every Name,

**sing out with all the love and joy you can find.**

all you are is made by God; all you have is a gift from God.

**Calling all creation – come and be found in love and praise.**

## **Prayer**

God of the oceans and inland lakes, source of our life and keeper of earth's waterways, open our hearts within the vastness of creation.

With awe and respect, we ponder the precious gift of life shared across the waters. Channel our empathy not from above, but from beside – as kin among creatures, as siblings to the sea, as people who learn from the ocean how to praise. Amen

*Adapted from Psalm 148 by Sylvia Purdie. Adapted and used with permission.*

## **Hymn HFTC 104: [Jesus Calls Us](#)**

## **Prayer**

Great God of creation, thank you for the wonders of the natural world.

We praise you for the oceans that surround our natural world.

We praise you for the oceans that surround our natural lands, for the diverse life they contain – plankton and whales, coral and seaweed, sharks and dolphins.

**The sea sings of your glory, O God. May we learn her song.**

Thank you for the many ways we value the sea:

Enjoying days fishing, water sports, walking by the beach, sharing the harvest of the sea at meals with family and friends.

**The ocean gives and gives. We confess how little we have listened to her need.**

We are humbled as we learn how much we depend on the health of the oceans for our own wellbeing.

**We are not above the ocean; we are her kin. When she suffers, so do we.**

We are shocked when we discover how small particles of waste discarded on land find their way to vast areas of ocean rubbish.

**The sea is choking, O God. Have mercy on what we have done.**

We are scared by news of warming oceans and rising sea levels. It makes us feel vulnerable and afraid.

**Holy One, may our fear be turned to reverence. May our sorrow deepen into love. The sea laments. May we lament with her.**

Restore our kinship, O God. Teach us to walk gently along the shore, to speak blessings, not burdens, to let the oceans teach us again how to live in peace.

**The sea still sings. We listen, we will learn, we will love. Amen**

## **Welcome to New Members**

### **Richard**

Our church welcomes into membership all who sincerely express their faith in Jesus Christ, who give evidence of that in their daily living, who seek to have fellowship with Christ and his people, and who are prepared to take up the duties and privileges of this Church and it's national partner churches. We are an inclusive church in which every member is accepted as a minister to the whole faith community.

Today we take the opportunity to welcome those who have been worshipping with us for some time now but who have not been formally welcomed as members. They have already shown a commitment to serve in this Church in a variety of ways and as members they will be entitled to share in the decision-making of the Parish.

Would Bev, Tanya and Cobus please come forward?

Bev, Tanya and Cobus, do you affirm your Christian faith and your wish to belong to this faith community?

### **Bev, Tanya and Cobus respond:**

Yes, I do.

### **Richard**

We welcome you to membership of the Kaurihohore / Kamo Co-operating Parish.

### **Rosalie**

Bev, Tanya and Cobus, you have traversed the oceans to be with us, and as you begin this journey, I invite you to light a candle each, as a sign of the light of Christ that travels with us, wherever we may be.

O God, we place these people in your hands.

### **Bev, Tanya and Cobus respond**

Take all that we bring; our gifts and talents, our longings and our faith and add your power for life, for we ask it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

### **Rosalie**

Now let us all make a commitment to walk together on this journey.

## Congregation

**We will walk this way together, with Jesus Christ in our midst.**

**Our hands are open to receive, our hearts are open to give, our minds long to learn and our souls reach out to each other.**

**This time special to us, and God will be our blessing. Amen**

*Dorothy McRae-McMahon. Adapted from Liturgies for the Journey of Life*

## Hymn FFS 67: [We Are Many, We Are One](#)

*Lyrics: Colin Gibson*

*Tune: Hamilton*

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 a loom,  
as a field of flowers in bloom,  
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

3. We will join creations 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.

## Reading

Luke 5: 1-11

## Reflection

Our text this morning is the story of how Christ called Peter to be his disciple. In the beginning of the story, he is fishing for fish; by the end of the story, he is fishing for people.

It is interesting to consider the people Jesus chose as his first disciples. It's clear that he didn't go to an executive search firm or visit the recruitment office at the local college.

He started by calling men with dirt under their fingernails, blue-collar types, men with little education, men who knew about hard work and the value of perseverance. Fishermen. Jesus chose fishermen as his first followers. Not so likely? Not how we would do it! I wonder why Jesus started with fishermen. Perhaps fishermen understood this story very well. To be a fisherman you need patience above everything else.

Sometimes wives ask their husbands 'how can you stand there by the rocks or in the boat or in the water for hours on end, waiting for a fish to bite?' The answer is 'It's easy.' That's what fishing is all about. And if you can't handle getting no fish occasionally, then you probably would better off not fishing at all.

The progress of this story is very simple. First Peter caught fish, then Jesus caught Peter, then Peter caught people. It all begins with a frustrated fisherman cleaning his nets after a long hard night.

Nothing in this story happens by chance. All is meant to teach us an important truth: God still prepares us for his call by allowing us to endure personal failure. Until we sense our need of him, we will not be ready to follow him. After all, if you think you are self-sufficient, why would you need Christ? Peter must be broken before he is ready to respond to Christ's call.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'put out into deep water, and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon Peter answered 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.'

The words of Jesus contain both a command and a promise. It's not as if Jesus is saying 'Let's go out into the deep water, put down your nets, and we'll see what happens.' Jesus is promising that if Peter will obey, he will catch fish. I'm sure that after a long night of fruitless fishing, this must have been hard to believe.

We can learn some useful lessons from this: 1) God never gives foolish commands – though they may look foolish at the time: 2) God intends to bless those who obey him without hesitation: 3) God's greatest miracles usually require our co-operation.

There were certainly reasons for Peter to be sceptical. After all, the experience of the previous night seemed conclusive. As a professional fisherman, Peter knew the lake. And he knew that sometimes even the best fishermen sometimes caught nothing. He could have said 'Sorry, Lord, but it's not worth the trouble.' Or 'I'm the expert here.' Now comes the time to 'fish or cut bait.' What will Peter do?

He decided to go fishing in the middle of the day. Why? All fishermen know the answer. He went because he was a fisherman and every fisherman lives by the creed: 'You never know what may happen next time.' True fishermen are always ready to give it another go.

Why not? When you have caught nothing, you can't wait to get back on the water again.

And there is always a reason you failed last time. 'Too much light, too little light, the water was too clear or too muddy, the fish were too deep or too shallow, there was too much wind or not enough wind. It doesn't matter, does it? Fishermen love to fish. And that's why Peter was ready to give it another go even after a night of frustration and no fish.

'When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So, they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.'

This is what fisherman dream about. They spend a lifetime fishing in hopes that maybe one day something like this will happen – to them. What a sight! So many fish came into the nets that they began to break, and they filled up two boats with fish. Think about that. Two overloaded boats flopping everywhere slowly coming ashore. This is the biggest catch ever – and it happened in the middle of the day.

There is a nice little moral to this story – 'Empty nets without him, full nets with him.' Let's go fishing with Jesus every day!

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' feet and said 'go away from me, Lord: I am a sinful man!' for he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

This is the kind of confession we don't often hear today. One might expect Peter to be bragging to his friends, 'Hey, look at all these fish! We're the greatest fishermen in the world.' But instead, Peter is overwhelmed by the enormous catch of fish. I think Jesus has completely blown his categories. To Peter, a good catch might be 30 fish or perhaps 50 to 100 fish, but he never dreamed of catching 5000 fish at one time. Instead of elating him, the sight of such a large catch zapped his confidence and left him dazed and frightened. Here is a man who has been deeply changed on the inside. His pride has been burned away by a transforming vision of Christ.

Then Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men.' So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. I find it interesting that Jesus seems in a sense to ignore Peter's desperate confession of unworthiness. Jesus knows the truth about Peter and he knew it all along. What matters is that Peter now knows the truth about himself. With his pride stripped away, he is now ready to serve the Lord.

There is a lesson for us to ponder in all of this. When we encounter Jesus, we will never be the same again. No one can meet Jesus and walk away unchanged. We may end up closer to God or we may harden our hearts, but no one ever meets Jesus and stays the way they were before. In Peter's case, his confession became part of his testimony. He knew he was a sinner and wasn't ashamed to admit it. God can use someone who knows their weaknesses and doesn't try to hide them.

The same thing happens to all of us sooner or later. When we respond to Christ's call, he changes us and then he changes our personal agenda. If we decide to take Christ seriously, we may end up doing something we never thought possible. 'What if Jesus asks me to do something I can't do?' He will! He always does! If he only asked you to do stuff you could already do, you wouldn't need him. But when he asks us to do something we can't do, he gives us the power to do it even so. Jesus invites us to be his followers, to be his eyes, his hands, his feet in helping him lead others to a full life.

I wonder if you are aware that Jesus has offered that same invitation to you? How do you become a fisher of people? – by following Jesus; just that – that's enough. So, we've seen that true disciples love to hear God's word taught, they obey Jesus even when it doesn't make sense, they are aware of their own sinfulness, and they become fishers of people who will take seemingly audacious risks for God.

The call is the same to us as it was in Luke's time. Would those first followers of Jesus respond to his call? How would they respond? And – what about you? What about us as a community?

Jesus says to us today 'Put out into deep waters, and prepare for the catch.'

## **Hymn AA156: Where the Road Runs Out**

*Lyrics: Colin Gibson*

*Tune: Columbus*

1. Where the road runs out and the signposts end,  
where we come to the edge of today,  
be the God of Abraham for us  
send us out upon our way.

*Lord, you were our beginning  
the faith that gave us birth.  
We look to you, our ending  
our hope for heaven and earth.*

2. When the coast is left and we journey on  
to the rim of the sky and the sea,  
be the sailor's friend, be the dolphin Christ,  
lead us on to eternity.

*Lord, you were our beginning ...*

3. When the clouds are low and the wind is strong,  
when tomorrow's storm draws near,  
be the spirit bird hovering overhead  
who will take away our fear.

### **Offering**

We give thanks for the harvests of land and oceans – not only for what they provide, but for the wisdom they offer:

We bring these offerings of money and all we have given of ourselves in the past week.

May these gifts move with the current of your love,  
to bring your life and love to those most in need.

**In the name of Christ, who calms the storm and walks the shore. Amen**

**Community Time:** Celebrations, Notices, Concerns for Prayer

### **Prayer for Others**

*To the bidding, 'God of the oceans'  
the response is '**hear our prayer**'*

Loving God of Creation, we give thanks to those who dwell close to the ocean and work in service of her flourishing: conservationists, marine biologists, coast guards. May their work be honoured, their voices heard, and their love for the sea become wisdom for us all.

*Silence*

God of the oceans, **hear our prayer**



We hold in prayer those whose lives are tied to the sea: island communities, fishing companies, shipping lines, seafarers, those whose ancestors lived in rhythm with the tides and currents. May their knowledge and labour be received with justice, and may industries that rely on the sea learn to honour the life she holds

*Silence*

God of the oceans .....

For those whose inner lives feel like turbulent waters – tossed and turned by grief, anxiety, or conflict – we pray for calm, for grounding, for companionship. May we be like the deep currents: steady, unseen, faithful in love.

*Silence*

God of the oceans .....

Whether we live close to the coast or far inland, teach us to live with the sea in mind. Shape our choices around what brings health and harmony to all life: our diets, our waste, our travel, our pace. Let the ocean not bear our burdens alone.

*Silence*

God of the oceans .....

God of the universe,  
we thank you for your refreshing Spirit;  
we thank you for our friends here this morning;  
we thank you for fathers and families near and wide;  
we thank you for the new members welcomed here this morning;  
may your renewing Spirit refresh us all as you send forth your Spirit, Lord, to renew the face of the earth. Amen.

## **Hymn TIS 187: [Let All Creation Dance](#)**

*Brian Arthur Wren. 1936 - Hope Publishing*

*Tune: Darwall*

1. Let all creation dance in energies sublime,  
as order turns with chance, unfolding space and time,  
for nature's art in glory grows,  
and newly shows God's mind and heart.

2. God's breath each force unfurls, igniting from a spark  
expanding starry swirls, with whirlpools dense and dark.  
Though moon and sun seem mindless things,  
each orbit sings; 'Your will be done.'

3. Our own amazing earth, with sunlight, clouds and storms  
and life's abundant growth in lovely shapes and forms,  
is made for praise, a fragile whole,  
and from its soul heaven's music plays.

4. Lift heart and soul and voice: in Christ all praises meet  
and nature shall rejoice as all is made complete.  
In hope be strong, all life befriend  
and kindle tend creation's song.

### **Benediction**

The God of thunderous waves and rippling seas, of ocean depths and sandy beaches, of fragile plants and mighty sea creatures, lift your vessel into the week ahead.

Go with the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer;

**We go in faith, hope and caring for each other.**

**And may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.**

**Sung Amen**

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