



Kaurihohore Historic Church

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Kaurihohore / Kamo Co-operating Parish

Sunday 8 December 2024 – Advent 2

The service this morning has been prepared by
Rev Freddy De Alwis

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 and Introduction:

Sentence:

For this is what the Lord says: “Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip and bounced upon her knees. Isaiah 66:12.

Lighting the Second Advent candle - PEACE:

Dear God, today we light the candle for Peace in our world. We light the candle of peace committing ourselves to the tasks of peacemaking.

May it burn brightly and warmly in our hearts.



Call to Worship:

Softly and gently the Christ child is calling
the names of each of us here.
Come walk with me; play with me;
Sing with me; pray with me;
relate with me the Christ child does say.
Holy Spirit Divine surprise us with your love.
Enable us to experience Immanuel-
God with us today and every day.

**Born of the woman Mary;
born to be the Son of God;
born to bring the people hope.
Gloria's sound around the globe
the child of new life is here!**

Hymn HFTC 59: [Hark! The Herald Angels Sing](#)

Community Time

Prayer of Confession and Healing:

We have come together to hear God's word and to meet our Lord in the communion of his body and blood.
Let us therefore examine our lives, seeking God's grace that we may come in repentance hope and in faith.
It is never easy for us to confess our sins.
There are the hurts we have caused to our families and friends, which we would like to forget.
There are those we believe are impossible to love, and so we do not try.
There are people who live on the edge of our society, and we ignore their cries for help.
Forgive us, God who comes near to us through Jesus Christ our saviour.

**When we have lost our way, show us yours.
Lead us in humility down the streets of your kingdom.
Teach us your truth, so we might be able to keep your Word,
revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.**

Silence is kept

God does not remember our sins,
but does remember the promises which have been made to us.
God does not shame us but lifts us to new life.

**Lead us in your hope, O God, and teach us your love.
You are the God of our hope, we wait for you to come to us. Amen.**

Hymn: Lord, Give Us HOPE This Advent Time

Lyrics: Jan Chamberlin Tune – Forest Green

1. Lord, give us HOPE this advent time,
that we may not despair
With tragedies and grief and pain
and sadness everywhere.
As we await Christ's coming
to live upon this earth,
May we find HOPE as we begin
to celebrate his birth.

2. Lord, give us PEACE this advent time,
that we may know as friend
Those of another culture, creed;
that wars may have an end.
As we await Christ's coming
to live upon this earth,
May we find PEACE as we begin
to celebrate his birth.

3. Lord, give us JOY this advent time,
that we may share your light
Throughout our whole community
and make our small world bright.
As we await Christ's coming
to live upon this earth,
May we find JOY as we begin
to celebrate his birth.

4. Lord, give us LOVE this advent time,
that we may serve and care,
To treat our neighbours as ourselves
and all our bounty share.
As we await Christ's coming
to live upon this earth,
May we find LOVE as we begin
to celebrate his birth.

First Reading: Isaiah 40: 1 - 5 & 9 - 11

Second Reading: Luke 3:1 - 6

Message: Breaking the Silence

Luke 3: 2 - 18

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness is the voice of one breaking the silence.”

- 1) Advent means waiting. It is a time of waiting, waiting to welcome Jesus Christ the Messiah (God with us). Before we dig into the text, we must try to understand the background...**

After 400 years of silence, John the Baptist was the first man to ***break the silence***.

The **inter-Testimonial period** is a time between the writings of the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament texts. Traditionally, it is considered to be a roughly four-hundred-year period, spanning the ministry of Malachi (c. 420 BC), the last of the Old Testament prophets, and the appearance of John the Baptist in the early 1st century AD.

- 2) He broke the silence! *“The voice of one crying in the wilderness is the voice of one breaking the silence.” Breaking the silence* in any given situation or context it is a very hard thing to do, it is like swimming against the current.**
 - The People of Israel spent 430 years in slavery; Ex 3:7 The LORD said, “I have indeed **seen** the misery of my people in Egypt. I have **heard** them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am **concerned** about their suffering. ⁸ So I have **come down to rescue them**.
 - ***Women in the medieval period:*** In 1893, New Zealand became the first self-governing nation in the world where women had won the right to vote.
 - ***In 1791, William Wilberforce, Member of Parliament: a week before Wesley’s death he wrote to Wilberforce congratulating him on his anti-slavery campaign. (From 1713 England undertook to supply 5000 slaves annually to South America for 30 years).***
 - ***The Cast system in India:*** Lord Buddha said, you become slave or Brahmin, ***“not by birth but only by your action”***.

The four classes were the **Brahmins** (priestly people), the Kshatriyas (also called Rajanyas, who were rulers, administrators and warriors), the Vaishyas (artisans, merchants, tradesmen and farmers), and Shudras (labouring classes).

- **Dream of Martin Luther King:** I have a *dream!* Speech he delivered in 1963 August in Washington, D.C. in front of 250,000 people.

The theme of his speech was the quotation of John the Baptist: Lk 3:4-6

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every **hill** and **mountain** shall be made low, **the rough places** will be made plain, and the **crooked places** will be made **straight**; "And the people will see God's salvation."

He was speaking in the context of the inhuman suffering of Black people who were striving to gain dignity as human being. Black life matters. **Eric Garner**, whose dying words "I can't **breathe**" became a rallying cry for not only Eric Garner, but for the suffering of humanity in any context, our mother earth etc ...

A few years later again Martin Luther King delivered his "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break the Silence" speech at Riverside Church in New York City. (King was assassinated exactly one year later);

King was a prophet—speaking truth to the powerful, he knew the consequences. When John the Baptist criticized Herod, he knew the consequences.

- King was talking about "giant triplets" his term for **three things that corrode human society and prevent justice and peace**. Racism, extreme materialism, and militarism and then calls people to take back the world from those "who possess power without compassion, might without morality, and strength without sight." No matter who does it??

3. Today's Gospel Reading presents us with the words of John the Baptist, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth: and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

There are three words there which are closely linked – repentance, forgiveness and Baptism. 'Repentance' is understood as *metanoia*, meaning change of Heart not just sorrow, but a total and radical change of inward and outlook in our relationship with God and other people.

Forgiveness involves a total reconciliation with our own self, with God and our neighbours, and then we experience wholeness and healing.

He received his call in the desert. **The desert is a place of being alone with God – an encounter God.**

John's mission was to preach repentance, and also, he was preparing the people to receive the chosen one of God. We are preparing ourselves to receive Christ at Christmas and the prophet tells us how we should prepare ourselves - **Repentance, Forgiveness and Baptism.**

Amen.

Peace of Christ be with you all!

Hymn HFTC 42: [Tell Out, My Soul](#)

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer:

Offertory & Offertory Prayer:

HYMN MP 1201: [Longing For Light](#)

1. Longing for light,
we wait in darkness,
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own,
your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Chorus:

*Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

2. Longing for peace,
our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone
has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Chorus:

*Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

4. Longing for shelter,
people are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are
cold.
Make us your building,
sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Chorus:

3. Longing for food,
many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread,
broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Chorus:

5. Many the gifts,
many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to
belong.
Let us be servants
to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Chorus:

Benediction & Grace:

Go into this week to love and serve.

We go in the name of Christ.

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen, Amen, Amen.**