




**KAURIHOHORE / KAMO**  
**CO-OPERATING PARISH**

kaurichurch.methodist.org.nz 

kaurichurch@gmail.com 

946 0813 

## **Sunday 8 June 2025 – Pentecost**

Today's service has been prepared by Jane Garrick,  
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.

---

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

**Community time** during the service is a good opportunity to ask for prayers for yourself or others.

**After the service you are invited to share in morning tea,  
either in the kitchen or on the deck.**

If you, or someone you know, would appreciate a visit from one of our **Pastoral Network Team**, please speak to the service leader.

*You are invited to stand if you are able,  
for the hymns and the offering prayer*

## Welcome

### Call to Worship *(Based on Psalm 104)*

O Lord, how many and diverse are your works!

**In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.**

Yonder is the sea, great and wide,  
creeping things innumerable are there,

**living things both small and great.**

There go the ships, and Leviathan  
that you formed to sport in it.

These all look to you

**to give them their food in due season;**

When you hide your face,

**they are dismayed;**

when you take away their breath,

**they die and return to their dust.**

When you send forth your spirit,

**they are created;**

**and you renew the face of the ground.**

May the glory of the Lord endure forever;

may the Lord rejoice in His works—

**We will sing to the Lord as long as we live;**

**We will sing praise to our God while we have our being.**

May our meditation be pleasing to Him,  
for we rejoice in the Lord.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul.**

**Praise the Lord!**

## **Prayer**

Thank You Loving God for all You have done and are doing in this world and in our lives. We look to You: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to be with us this morning as we bring our worship to You. We come just as we are with our issues and concerns, our hopes and our fears.

**Help us Lord, to put these aside and focus on You. You are worthy of all praise and honour and glory.**

**Amen**

## **[Hymn HFTC 38: Praise my Soul the King of Heaven by Henry Lyte](#)**

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;

to His feet Your tribute bring.

Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
evermore His praises sing.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise the everlasting King!

Praise Him for His grace and favour  
to His people in distress.

Praise Him, still the same as ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glorious in His faithfulness!

Fatherlike He tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame He knows.  
In His hand He gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Widely yet His mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore Him;  
you behold Him face to face.  
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,  
dwellers all in time and space.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise with us the God of grace!

## **Family Chat**

The Tower of Babel

## **Centring Prayer**

**Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.**

**O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.**

**Amen.**

*(St Francis of Assisi)*

**The Lord's Prayer sung** *(Stay seated)*

Our Father in heaven hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come, Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

Forgive us our sins

As we forgive those who sin against us,

Save us from the time of trial

And deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory

Are Yours now and forever

Amen, amen...amen

**Readings:**

John 14:8-17; 25-27

Acts 2:1-21

## Reflection

As we have just heard from our gospel reading, Jesus tells us that if we love Him and keep His commandments, He will send another Helper, the Holy Spirit, to abide with us forever.

So, who or what is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not a ghost or a wind or a fire or a dove. He is often symbolised by those things, but we need to ensure that we don't minimise who He is. He is the third person of the Trinity. Not third because He is the least important, but because He's the last to be revealed to us in the pages of the Bible. All of the power, all of the glory, all of the authority and grandeur of God the Father is in the person of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is hard to explain. Billy Graham tells the story of a young child at school. When the teacher asked the question "Can any of you explain electricity?" the girl put up her hand. The teacher said, "Alright what is electricity?" The girl thought for a moment and then said, "I forgot". "Well," the teacher said, "That's too bad, because you are the only one that ever knew."

The Holy Spirit is omniscient and omnipresent, which means He knows all things and is present everywhere. The Psalmist says in Psalm 139 "Where can I go from Your Spirit, Lord?" knowing that there was nowhere he could go that was hidden from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the:

- Breath of God
- Spirit of Truth
- Our Helper
- Our Comforter
- Teacher
- Giver of Peace
- Reminder of Jesus' words
- Enabler

He has the power to change hearts.... and more! We could spend hours exploring each one of these aspects of who He is but let's take a brief look at some of them now.

Jesus tells us in our gospel passage this morning that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. We can be assured and totally rely on Him. He cuts through the lies, deceit, confusion and our swirling emotions, with truth.

Sarah Edwards was the wife of the great preacher Jonathan Edwards. One day, filled with self-doubt and troubled thoughts she sat down and opened her Bible. She began to meditate on Romans 8:34 —

Who is there to condemn us? For Christ Jesus, who died, and more than that was raised to life, is at the right hand of God—and He is interceding for us.

Here's what she said happened —

“When I was alone, the words came to my mind with great power and sweetness. They appeared to me with undoubted certainty as the words of God, and as words which God was actually speaking personally to me. I had no more doubts of it, than I had of my own being.

I cannot find language to express how certain this appeared ... My safety, and happiness, and eternal enjoyment of God's love seemed as durable and unchangeable as God himself.

Melted and overcome by the sweetness of this assurance I fell into a great flow of tears ... the presence of God was so near, and so real, that I seemed scarcely conscious of anything else.”

Yes, the Holy Spirit is very real. He helps us in our weaknesses, enabling us to discern, learn and grow. We cannot understand the Bible without the Holy Spirit. We all know what it is like to read a passage of Scripture and not understand it. It seems dry and dull. I know what that is like. But there have been times when I have read a passage – sometimes only one verse – and it is alive, burning in my heart. Next time you pick up the Bible pray a simple prayer such as “Lord, open the eyes of my heart as well as my mind” and expect a difference as you wait for Him to show you the fullness of its meaning.

He has the power to change our hearts and give us that Peace – capital P – that passes our understanding. That is the Peace that you cannot explain or have words for. You just know that He is with you and in you and for you in a way that comes nowhere near a human touch. That's the kind of peace that He gave Corrie ten Boom in the Concentration Camp in WW2. She experienced His Presence in the deepest darkest hell that men could create. That's also why He is called our Comforter. In times of grief and distress, He is the One who is closer than a brother.

Humans let us down, but the Holy Spirit never does.

The Holy Spirit is also our heavenly conscience. He convicts us of things that are not pleasing to Him, or that separate us from Him. I remember being caught up with envy of others once. One day when I was thinking my usual envious thoughts I was convicted by the Holy Spirit. It was almost like the audible voice of God, rebuking me. I felt like I was going to melt into the carpet and immediately apologised to God and changed my thinking. That is repentance – when we turn completely around and choose to walk God's ways and think His thoughts.

When the Holy Spirit convicts or rebukes us it is not because He is mean or wants to hurt us. It is because He loves us and is changing us to become more like Him, able to love all peoples unconditionally and be His light in our dark world.

We are a work in progress. Steve Fuller, in his Living by Faith blog, says that God will always welcome us, love us, and help us. Because of Jesus' death, we can come to God just as we are – weak, fearful, struggling and needy. He notes that the Holy Spirit has the power to change our hearts, however unspiritual or weak we are feeling.

How does He do this? It is through the Word of God and prayer. All great preachers through the ages have stressed the importance of prayer and Bible reading. These are not optional extras but are the essential spiritual food we need in order to live and grow in our faith. Charles Spurgeon said “True prayer is measured by weight, not by length. A single groan before God may have more fullness of prayer in it than a fine oration of great length.” Mother Teresa said “Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depths of our hearts.”

It's like the boy who found God. He compared it to fishing. “When you catch a fish, you can't see it or hear it; you just feel him tugging on your line. I just felt God tugging on my heart.”

When you feel the tug of God or the nudge of the Holy Spirit, do not ignore it. Stop and ponder awhile. Open your heart and mind and let Him in.

The day of Pentecost was a momentous day in the history of the church. The people were gathered together in one accord just like they were at the Tower of Babel. But whereas the Babylonians were focused on what they could do to exalt themselves, the men and women in the Acts passage were gathered together in one accord, praying and focused on the Lord.

The Holy Spirit came in all His fullness. He was the breath and fire of God, the Spirit of truth, enabler, teacher, helper, comforter, friend, giver of Peace, reminder of Jesus' words, strengthener and power source... and much, much more, just as He can be to us today. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit enabled the believers to go out and be the light of Christ in a dark world. Yes, they were scattered too, just like the Babylonians, but this time, it was how the gospel was spread throughout the whole world.

Pentecost for us is an inward journey. It is a deeply personal process, and it is different for each one of us. But we too can experience that fullness of the Holy Spirit and be part of the Great Commission to go forth and tell of His wonders. You may not be called to evangelise or preach, but that happens anyway, often without you even knowing it, as you grow in love for Him. It will shine out of you. There is no need to be afraid. As we yield to Him, He gives us His peace.

We have been recently challenged to show love in our daily lives to all we come across. Let us also be challenged to examine our hearts, to ask ourselves the question “Do we love Jesus?” If we do, we can be assured that the Holy Spirit is in us making all the difference we need. We are merely earthen vessels, but it is the glorious light and love of God that can shine through us. After all is said and done, God can use any cracked pot for His glory.

The Holy Spirit is the evidence of the mystery of the gospel which is “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Col 1:27) He is near you, He is with you, He is in you. You are not alone. Indeed, when He is there, you will never walk alone.

Amen

## **Music**

[https://youtu.be/CP1\\_JQ1VPnw](https://youtu.be/CP1_JQ1VPnw)

## **Song HFTC s23 and s 24: Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh on Me**

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me;  
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me:  
Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me-  
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me!

*(Sing twice)*

## **Offering and Dedication**

Thank You Loving Spirit for Your wonderful love for us, Your provision and Your care. All that we have is from You.

**We come with our gifts and offerings knowing that You do not desire our things but rather, that You desire our hearts and lives. Here we are, Lord. Accept our offerings that they may be for Your glory. Amen**

## **Prayer for Others**

We pray for those who are sick, grieving or in pain.... Thank You that you know what they are going through. Help them to look to You and give them hope and healing.

**Hold them in Your heart, Lord, and comfort them by Your Holy Spirit**

We pray for our families and loved ones .... Work in their lives and situations to bring peace.

**Hold them in Your heart, Lord, and draw them in Your love**

We pray for those in authority and positions of leadership.... Give them Your wisdom and lead them to make right decisions.

**Hold them in Your heart, Lord, and guide them by Your Holy Spirit**

We pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for all those at war in various places around the world.... Turn swords into ploughshares and hating to loving.

**Hold them in Your heart, Lord, and bring healing and reconciliation**

We pray for our nation, thanking You for this wonderful country.... Where there is greed and selfishness bring generosity and humility.

**Hold us in Your heart, Lord, and turn our nation back to You**

### Hymn: Loving Spirit by Shirley Murray

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,  
you have chosen me to be;  
you have drawn me to your wonder,  
you have set your sign on me.

Like a mother you enfold me,  
hold my life within your own,  
feed me with your very body,  
form me of your flesh and bone.

Like a father you protect me,  
teach me the discerning eye,  
hoist me up upon your shoulder,  
let me see the world from high.

Friend and lover, in your closeness  
I am known and held and blest:  
in your promise is my comfort,  
in your presence I may rest.

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,  
you have chosen me to be;  
you have drawn me to your wonder,  
you have set your sign on me.

### **Blessing**

Now, to God the Father, who first loved us, and made us accepted in the Beloved; to God the Son, who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood; to God the Holy Ghost, who sheds the love of God abroad in our hearts, be all love and all glory in time and to all eternity.

(John Wesley)

Amen