



Kaurihohore / Kamo Co-operating Parish Sunday 9 June 2024 – Pentecost

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: Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

² Serve the LORD with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

³ Know that the LORD, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

⁵ For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

*Bind us together Lord, Bind us together
With cords that cannot be broken
Bind us together, Lord
Bind us together, Lord
Bind us together with love*

1. There is only one God
There is only one King
There is only one body
That is why I sing.
Bind us...

2. You are the family of God
You are the promise divine
You are God's chosen design
You are the glorious new wine.
Bind us...

Call to Worship:

We are all part of the body of Christ.
Different people, with different gifts.
Together we are the whole people of God;
Our praise and worship united around the world.

Silence.....

We come, not because we are powerful-

we know we are weak.

We come, not because we are without need-

our need overwhelms us.

We come, not because we are well-

we long for your healing touch.

We come, not because we are complete-

by your grace and love we are made whole.

Our worship and praise resound throughout creation.

Amen. Come let us worship the living God.

Hymn: [Be Still, For the Presence of the Lord](#) (Mission Praise 50)

1. Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One is here.
Come bow before Him now,
with reverence and fear.
In Him no sin is found,
We stand on Holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One is here.
2. Be still, for the glory of the Lord,
is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
with splendour He is crowned.
How awesome is the sight,
our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.
3. Be still for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place,
He comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister His grace.
No work too hard for Him,
in faith receive from Him;
Be still for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.

Celebrations and Notices

Prayer of Reconciliation and Healing

Hymn: [He Came Singing Love](#) (AA 59) Colin Gibson

1. He came singing *love* and he lived singing *love*
He died singing *love*.
He arose in silence.
For the *love* to go on we must make it our song.
You and I be the singers.

2. He came singing *faith* and he lived singing *faith*
He died singing *faith*.
He arose in silence.
For the *faith* to go on we must make it our song.
You and I be the singers.

3. He came singing *hope* and he lived singing *hope*
He died singing *hope*.
He arose in silence.
For the *hope* to go on we must make it our song.
You and I be the singers.

4. He came singing *peace* and he lived singing *peace*
He died singing *peace*.
He arose in silence.
For the *peace* to go on we must make it our song.
You and I be the singers.

Reading:

Psalms 138 (Page 973)
Mark 3: 20-30 (Page 1560)

Message:

If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. Mark 3:24-25.

- The "house" in the parable really means a "household" or a family living together beneath one roof.
- Just like a kingdom in civil war will eventually destroy itself, a household that is "divided against itself" will eventually fall. If there is no harmony and agreement between members of a household, it is impossible for that house to "stand" and to have Peace and be successful.

In today's reading Jesus was being accused of being a mad man and demon.

Jesus was not worried about that, but he was highlighting a very important point out of that conversation or context and said: **“Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined and a house divided against itself will fall.**

From the beginning Jesus preached neither himself nor the Church but the **kingdom of God**. The kingdom of God is the realization of a fundamental **hope (utopia) of the human heart**.

Kingdom of God occurs 122 time in the gospels, 90-times used by Jesus. What does it mean? How did his listeners understand it? What was the meaning for them? In Lk 17:21 “Kingdom of God is within you”. And again, He taught us to pray “Your Kingdom come” It is two moments of time “the present and the future.

The Kingdom of God means the manifestation of sovereignty and the Lordship of God over the dominant evil structures of the world. What we have today is a divided world and divided families, but the term Kingdom of God, signifies that God is the ultimate meaning for this world.

God will intervene and restore the foundation of earth all creation, establishing a new earth. Rev 21:4-5.

Families Divided

Of course, we know all about family tensions. Many modern families find it hard to remain committed to their marriage vows. So much tension, divisions, arguments, and the most dangerous thing, that we have failed our children, then children face the pain of split relationships, right now we are experiencing the consequences, ...

Behaviour of our Children and Youth in NZ.

- There are many unresolved problems with our kids. **Over 40 percent of our 13 to 16 year-olds consume alcohol.** If that's not worry enough,
- **31 percent of our boys appear in court before their twenty-fifth birthday.** So, is there any good news in any of this?

Divided World and Nations

June 16, 1858 in Springfield, Abraham Lincoln, opposed the civil war and slavery. "A house divided against itself cannot stand." He's talking about the country being divided on the issues of **war** and **slavery**.

There are presently as many as hundreds of civil wars going on They are fuelled as much by **racial, ethnic, or religious** animosities. Countries like Palestine, Ukraine, Syria, Somalia, Yemen, Sudan, Uganda, Afghanistan and Congo are being torn apart by **factions from within**. From civil conflicts we have heard horrific reports of ethnic cleansing, genocide. Most of the victims of these civil conflicts are civilians, women and children. Some freedom fighters keep civilians as human-shields. Today, 75/80 percent or more of those killed or wounded in wars are women and children - innocent civilians. My biggest worry is some good people are trying to justify those killing and on-going wars. **Bishop Desmond Tutu said:** "*If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.*"

*Have you heard the slogan "**war for peace?**"*

The most surprising fact is the weapons that they use are mainly obtained from the most respectable human rights defending nations like USA, UK, Italy, France, Germany, Sweden. Most of them sit at the UN Security Council as protectors of world. What a hypocrisy!

A Church Divided (Divisions of the Church)

We are divided in many ways? The way we **pray**, the way we **worship**, the way we **preach**, the way we **baptize**, etc....

In I Corinthians 1:10 Paul says, "I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be **perfectly united in mind and thought.**"

Fellowship with Jesus Christ is the distinctive mark of the church, or the body of Christ. One holy catholic church.

This unity of the church was created by God through Christ. Fellowship leads church members to help one another. Fellowship does not only represent an organization. It represents the **relationship between God, believer** and the **neighbours.**

This relationship is not possible through **human efforts and achievements.** God through the Holy Spirit inspires and transforms Christians and **makes fellowship possible.** Fellowship should produce perfect unity among church members.

(Romans 15:5-7); Christians should **accept each other as Christ did.** In Christ all people are one. **All are brothers and sisters in Christ.**

Jealousy, enviousness, greed, divisions and gossip, are not the values of the Kingdom of God.

So, what is the cure for division? Gal 5:22 The cure is the fruits of the Spirit; love, joy, faith, kindness, truth, and forgiveness; gentleness and self-control etc.. these are **the very nature of God** and it is the cure for division.

1 Corinthians 13; says the greatest of these is **LOVE**. In verses 4-8, Paul says, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not boast, it is not proud, it is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs."

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

Prayers of the People & Intercessory Prayers & the Lord's Prayer

Offertory Prayer:

Hymn: [Christ, Be Our Light](#) (*Mission Praise 1201*)

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| <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p><i>Chorus:</i>
<i>Christ, be our light!</i>
<i>Shine in our hearts.</i>
<i>Shine through the darkness.</i>
<i>Christ, be our light!</i>
<i>Shine in your church gathered today.</i></p> <p>4. Longing for shelter,
people are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building,
sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.</p> <p>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.</p> |
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Benediction & Grace:

God's blessing is upon us
As we look towards a new day!
Go now 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.