



# KAURIHOHORE / KAMO CO-OPERATING PARISH

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## Sunday 22 February 2026 – Lent 1

Our 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:

***Together, Humility, Curiosity, Love, Inclusiveness, Justice, Sustainability.***

**Together:** we cultivate genuine opportunities to gather together in worship and fellowship.

### **Welcome**

### **Introduction**

This season of Lent invites us to bring our whole selves into God's presence, where grief and hope are held together. Last week we heard of mountain top experiences, this week, our readings draw us into the wilderness, a place of struggle and honest encounter with our limitations. We consider how wilderness strips away illusions, and God's grace becomes our true bread, our guiding word, and our path to freedom and restoration.

### **Candle**

We have come together this morning for renewal – in worship and as a community of faith. We've greeted one another, laughed and hugged. But now the time of reflection and stillness is upon us ....

It is the first Sunday in Lent – the season for journeys of the heart. Close your eyes. Be still. Listen. We are entering a holy time.

The Lenten candles have been lit, but over the next six weeks the light will slowly fade into darkness. For we are retelling the story of Jesus' betrayal and suffering and death.

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

We do this not to be morbid, but because in the story of Jesus' death and resurrection God is revealed – in the amazing transformation of death into life, the endings transformed into beginnings, and in dead-ends that become a source of new beginnings.

This is the sacred centre of our faith – the truth made manifest in Jesus Christ – that God is in each and every one of us, quietly transforming us and the world. In his pain and suffering, Jesus speaks to every pain and loss you have endured, and offers you the promise of transformation. It's an old story, but it still has the power to reveal, to heal and to redeem. Jesus is at the heart of our faith, in the depth of our souls. He is waiting for us, inviting us to leave ordinary time and follow along with him on the journey that brought him to the cross. Listen in silence, for Jesus is calling you.

*Silence*

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of injustice in the world.

*A candle is extinguished*

*Let us pray*

**Loving God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, give us the strength and courage to make the changes that are needed in our lives. Open our hearts and minds to your steadfast presence and help us to put our trust in you. Amen.**

## **Call to Worship**

Come, people of God, hungry for grace.

**We come, trusting God will feed us.**

Come, weary and wandering.

**We come, seeking rest in God's presence.**

Come, beloved of God, into the wilderness of love.

**We come, ready to worship and follow Christ.**

## **Hymn TIS 684: [Love Will Be Our Lenten Calling](#)**

*(Lyrics: Elizabeth Smith)*

1. Love will be our Lenten calling,  
love to shake and shatter sin,  
waking every closed, cold spirit,  
stirring new life deep within,  
till the quickened heart remembers  
what our Easter birth can mean.

2. Peace will be our Lenten living,  
as we turn for home again,  
longing for the words of pardon,  
stripping off old grief and pain,  
till we stand, restored and joyful,  
with the Church on Easter day.

3. Truth will be our Lenten learning,  
hear the Crucified One call!  
shadowed by the Saviour's passion,  
images and idols fall,  
and in Easter's holy splendour,  
God alone is all in all

## Prayer

God of wilderness and water, you are the breath that gives life, and the Spirit that leads us into truth. When we wander, you call us home. When we hunger, you feed us with living bread. When we thirst, you open streams in the desert. When we stumble, you lift us with mercy.

As we enter this season of Lent, strip away our illusions and false securities. Teach us to let go of what cannot give life, and to cling to your word that endures. In the face of temptation, give us courage. In the loneliness of wilderness, give us companionship. In the silence, give us wisdom to listen. In the struggle, give us strength to follow Christ's way.

Gather us as your people: from the first steps of faith to the long journey walked, those who are joyful and weary, searching and certain.

Bind us together in love, that our worship may be more than words, a living sacrifice of love and praise.

Through Jesus, who walked the desert with faith, and in the Spirit, who sustains us still. Amen.

Psalm 32 reminds us that the heaviest burdens are often the ones we hide. Silence eats away at us, but honesty brings release. Forgiveness isn't about shame; its about the joy of walking lightly again.

## Psalm 32 – Confession and Forgiveness

Happy are those whose sins are forgiven, whose wrongs are pardoned.

**Happy is the one whom the Lord does not accuse of doing wrong and who is free from deceit.**

When I did not confess my sins, I was worn out from crying all day long.

Day and night you punished me, Lord; my strength was completely drained, as moisture is dried up by the summer heat.

**Then I confessed my sins to you; I did not conceal my wrongdoings. I decided to confess them to you, and you forgave all my sins.**

So, all your loyal people should pray to you in times of need; when a great flood of trouble comes rushing in, it will not reach them.

**You are my hiding place; you will save me from trouble. I sing aloud of your salvation, because you protect me.**

The Lord says, 'I will teach you the way you should go; I will instruct you and advise you. Don't be stupid like a horse or a mule, which must be controlled with a bit and a bridle to make it submit.

**The wicked will have to suffer, but those who trust in the Lord are protected by his constant love.**

You are righteous, be glad and rejoice because of what the Lord has done. You that obey him, shout for joy.

*(Good News Translation. Copyright 1992 by American Bible Society)*

## **Stones**

Encourage people to hold their stone in both hands, noticing its weight and texture. As you reflect, consider a burden you are carrying, a temptation you are struggling with, or a place where you long for God's strength.

I invite you, when you are ready, to come and place your stone by the cross on the table and pray silently *God, hold this with me.*

## **Prayer**

O God, we bring to you our struggles, our burdens and our temptations. We know that you have promised your sustaining presence with us at all times. Thankyou. Amen

## **Scripture**

In our reading this morning from Genesis the garden story reflects both gift and freedom. God entrusts humanity with the care of creation, yet temptation leads us to reach beyond what sustains life. Even in our failure, God remains present, calling us back to relationship.

Then we hear about Jesus in the wilderness, where he refuses shortcuts to power, pride, or self-preservation. His trust in God shows that real strength lies in vulnerability, faithfulness, and love.

## **Reading**

Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7

*(page 4)*

Matthew 4: 1-11

*(page 1503)*

Hymn HFTC 103: [Forty Days and Forty Nights](#)

**Offering Dedication**

**Gracious God, you meet us in the wilderness and feed us with your grace. Bless these gifts, and bless us as we offer our lives to you. May what we give bring hope, nourishment, and love to those who hunger today. Amen**

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

**Prayers for Others**

God of deep time and unfolding creation; you are present in every desert and every dawn.

We pray for those who hunger, for food, for safety, for belonging. Feed them with your love and stir us to share what we have.

We pray for the earth in its wilderness places, for fragile ecosystems, shifting climates, and all creatures who struggle to survive. Teach us to live in harmony with creations rhythms.

We pray for leaders in ever land, that they may resist the temptations of pride and power, choosing justice, mercy and peace.

We pray for those in sorrow or despair, for the sick, the lonely, the forgotten. Surround them with your Spirit's comfort.

We pray for all those names and places mentioned this morning, and for those we hold in our hearts unnamed.

And we pray for ourselves, that this Lenten path may open our hearts to discover your grace in surprising places.

Through Christ, who walked the desert in love. Amen

**Hymn TIS 511: [Let Us Break Bread](#)**

Let us break bread together with the Lord!

Let us break bread together with the Lord!

*As we travel through this land,  
all God's children hand in hand,  
Lord, fill our lives with your life.*

Let us drink wine together with the Lord .....

Let us sing songs together with the Lord .....

Let us all work together for the Lord .....

## Holy Communion

Friends, we are going to Jerusalem with Jesus

**He is our pardon, our healing, and our peace!**

We will suffer the trial with him, resisting evil.

**With him, we will walk the path of life.**

But come first to the table where there is food for the journey, giving thanks to God, our maker,

**and offering our praise!**

We are right to praise you, faithful God!

You answer sin with grace; you guide our wayward steps toward home. You are mending for the broken, safety for the poor, belonging for the outcast, strength for the weak, and pardon for the sinner.

You reveal your kindness in every sorrow, your mercy even in death.

All your creatures see your works; they sing your steadfast love.

We too declare your wonder and grace as with the angels and saints we sing;

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Now, O God, we remember Jesus.

He fasted and prayed; he was tempted and tried.

**He relied on you for everything.**

He was obedient to you and scorned by the powers of this world.

**He confounded the haughty and gave hope to the humble.**

He was betrayed and deserted. He died between thieves and was buried in a borrowed grave.

**You gave him new life. He lives even now, our healer and friend.**

He loved us well, loved us to the end, and loves us still.

**Even on the night of betrayal, he ate supper with his friends.**

## Words of Institution

Gathered round the table, Jesus took bread. Having blessed it, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying:

‘This is my body, given for you.’

In the same way he took the cup of wine, gave thanks for it and said:

‘This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed in my blood.’

## Prayer

Holy Spirit, come! Make all things new. Bless this bread which you have given and human hands have made. Let it become for us the bread of life.

Bless also this cup, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. Let it become for us the cup of salvation.

Bless us also who eat and drink, that in this sharing we may know the living Christ who is with us now, and to the end of the age.

We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to say:

### **Our Father ....**

## Breaking of the Bread

Jesus said 'This is my body, given for you.'

Jesus said 'This is the cup of the new covenant, given for you.'

See, the broken life. See, the life poured out. Come, feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

## Sharing the Bread and Cup

*When you have been served, please hold the bread so that we can all eat together. Likewise, the cup.*

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Thank you, merciful God, for gladness in this bread and cup, for the love that cannot die, for the peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friend, for the splendours of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own.**

**Give us the gifts of this Holy Communion – oneness of heart, love for neighbours, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends.**

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

## Hymn: [Throughout these Lenten Days and Nights](#)

1. Throughout these Lenten days and nights  
we turn to walk the inward way,  
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,  
we live in hope 'till Easter day.

2. The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God,  
who found in weakness greater power,  
embraces us, though lost and flawed,  
and leads us to his Rising hour.

3. So let us choose the path of One  
who wore, for us the crown of thorn,  
and slept in death that we might wake  
to life on Resurrection morn!

### **Benediction**

Go now into the wilderness of your week; hungry for justice, open to grace, walking  
in the company of the Spirit.

And may the Christ who fed the hungry with love, the Spirit who leads through  
desert places, and the creator who brings water from the rock bless and keep you,  
now and always.

### **Sung Amen**

#### **Sources:**

*L 3 Liturgy, Life and Learning*

*Taking Flight. Kereru Publishing*

*Sicut Locutus Est. sicutlocutusest.com.*

*Methodist Church – 10 minutes on a Tuesday*

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### **Summary of Building Better Communities: Children & Youth**

The Building Better Communities series launched on 17 February at St John's Golden Church in Whangārei, focusing its first session on the wellbeing of Children & Youth. Grounded in the Salvation Army's "State of the Nation" reports, the evening aimed to move beyond political noise to focus on equitable solutions for local whānau. A special thank you is extended to Kelly Muriwai, Team Leader for Presbyterian Support Northern, for her insightful presentation (we'll put a link up to her slideshow once it's available). Her 20 years of experience in social work and fostering provided a thoughtful foundation for the conversations that followed.

During the small-group discussions, participants identified a range of urgent issues, from immediate physical needs like hunger and food anxiety to deep-seated systemic barriers. Groups identified the shame (whakamā) often associated with receiving support, as well as the impact of transience on school attendance. Crucially, the groups identified intergenerational trauma and the impacts of colonisation as root causes of current hardships, further exacerbated by a broken tax system and a lack of funding for frontline services. These factors combined can lead to a sense of isolation and despair within children and youth of our community.

In response to these challenges, the groups shared a vision of "hope for everyone" where every child has their needs met and every whānau feels valued. The collective dream is to see self-sustaining, healthy communities where youth are empowered through education and the roadblocks to success are removed. This vision moves away from cycles of violence and despair and toward a future where there is enough for everyone, ensuring that our tamariki and rangatahi can grow up with a strong sense of identity and purpose.

To turn these dreams into reality, the groups brainstormed several actionable steps, including the use of schools as community support hubs to provide food, mentoring, and care for the entire whānau. Participants called for the government to prioritise the total elimination of child poverty and suggested systemic changes such as a universal basic income and better-coordinated care through navigators. There was a strong emphasis on a "hand up" approach – building trust through long-term connections rather than just providing handouts.

These meaningful conversations, which began in the small groups, continued to flourish over a shared supper, reinforcing the community's commitment to building a fairer society together.