



KAURIHOHORE / KAMO CO-OPERATING PARISH

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Sunday 25 January 2026 – Epiphany 3

Our Service has been prepared by
Rev Johanna Warren, our Interim Moderator.

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.

Greetings

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Hymn HFTC 501: The Church's One Foundation

Tune: Aurelia

Community Time

Readings: 1 Corinthians 1: 10 - 18 (page 1770)
Matthew 4: 12 – 23 (page 1504)

Reflection

Repent, for the kingdom of God has come near.
Where is it?
How do we see it?

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

Is it in Jesus?

Do we recognise heaven in Jesus and do Simon and Andrew see heaven and so respond so thoroughly and immediately to "come!?"

So where is the kingdom of heaven now in our time?

If Jesus is not going to be born again as a carpenter among us where is the voice that opens heaven's door saying come, calling us?

This is what Paul is talking about when he says the cross is foolishness to the lost but wisdom to us who are found.

Jesus comes to find, to save into life.

Paul's journeys, his letters, his utter commitment is to carry the message and gift of Jesus for all he can find, and then to nurture a community whose way of being together reflects the presence of Jesus within them whose way of living is Christ like, is a sign of heaven come near.

This letter we are dealing with today begins with thanks -

I give thanks for you,

I give thanks for how God has enriched you with every spiritual blessing.

Paul writes.

And then launches into, but you are quarrelling you have somehow divided into factions.

Can Christ be divided?

The answer is no. Paul quite often asks that sort of question where the answer is known and obvious.

We of course are only seeing and hearing one part of a conversation -

There's the people who talked to Paul, (Chloe's people)

the letter the church sent, and possibly other communications, but we do not know exactly what was said, we have to guess.

So probably the Roman expectations of status and patronage have caused this division. Mind you the letter will go on to deal with a few others, but here we have factions based on leadership or baptism.

Paul demands that the church stop, look at themselves and realise we were called into faith in Jesus.

Jesus gives life, Jesus makes us holy, sanctifies us,

So these other things are secondary to living inside heaven.

They may matter in some ways, and may still be precious to us, but in heaven we all belong for exactly the same reason.

Jesus said come,

Whether through Paul or Apollos or Chloe,
Jesus said come, made a space for us
and we belong.

Paul is going later to talk about ears and noses, toes and elbows
So even if we really think elbows are totally ugly and potentially useless,
Jesus is knitting elbows into the body we belong in.

What might be the challenge for us?

For me it is resisting the urge to have less to do with those who do not think like me
and often seem not to hear me in the church setting. I'm thinking of the theological
issues the General Assembly faces, and which were obvious last year.

It is also wrapped up in thinking through this question asked of me a few weeks ago-

Do you think if we had lively music like that last song, young people would come to
church?

Do any of you have a challenge you would name?
Or a thought on that last question?

To me this question is important.

Paul and Jesus are essentially saying, God is calling you, come.

And Paul and Jesus both build a network of relationships, of behaviours that lead to
a better understanding of living in heaven now.

Sometimes we in the church hope and think that what we have, if attractive enough,
will bring people, so we work to be relevant or attractive.

I think Paul is saying be careful what you are focusing your attention on,
what is driving your behaviour from outside.

Let who you are and how you are be set by God, shaped by Jesus through the Holy
Spirit

And that takes building the sort of relationships among us where we can honestly
challenge one another.

When we recognise the truth that others belong and live cheerfully with those others
even if we cannot imagine why God wants them.....

and where we can help one another grow in recognising our place in heaven,
Heaven now

Hymn HFTC 486: O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Tune: St Margaret

Offering

Prayers of the People

Communion Hymn HFTC 414: [Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ](#)

Communion

Invitation

This is our Lord's table.

All who seek to serve and follow Jesus are welcomed to this sacrament.

**We welcome strangers and neighbours to our fellowship,
Come let us bring our love and our praise to God.**

Let us pray:

Eucharistic Prayer

God we come to you in thanks and with praise

In the book of Isaiah we read:

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;

your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,

and now we gather,
among the many gathered from all nations of the world
around your table, the table that Jesus gives us in his submission to death and
through your resurrecting power.

Jesus is here
the light illuminating this table,
giving us through this bread and this juice
his life his power his grace.

At his call, and in his name
we come to meet around the table
to partake together of your gift
so that you may strengthen us
so that you may teach us
so that we may continue to grow and develop into your people
signs of your life and grace for the community we are a part of.

Come Holy Spirit, enter into this sacrament and fill us we pray.

We remember how some disciples who met a stranger on the road to Emmaus invited the man in to eat with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?'

In the same way as we take bread, bless and break it
open our eyes
increase our understanding and our faith for your glory we pray. Amen.

We Remember How This Sacrament Was Given To Us.

We Share Communion

Prayer Before We Rise

God we look around your table as we rise
You are One God, One Spirit
and bring us into your one Holy Family
but we are many
diverse in history and personality
varied in age and health and skill
knit us together
and at the same time help us keep this table of yours open
in invitation to all you would draw to yourself.

Thank you that we are included.
Bless us as we rise, and help us find other hungry people to bring to your table, through the grace of Jesus, Amen.

Hymn HFTC 101: [Lord of All Hopefulness, Lord of All Joy](#)

Tune: Slane

Benediction and Threefold Amen

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