



# KAURIHOHORE / KAMO CO-OPERATING PARISH

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## Sunday 26 April 2026 - Easter 4

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:

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

**Humility:** we recognise we do not have all the answers but are prayerfully journeying together as we try to seek them.

### **Welcome**

### **Gathering Together**

Hey, you sheep. Yes, you over there.

Can't you hear the shepherd calling –

Calling you to come and join the others?

There's life and love and direction here just waiting for you to hear and see. So come on through the gate. He's been waiting for you.

### **Call to Worship**

Can you hear the voice of God?

**We hear God calling us by name.**

Are you troubled or distressed?

**We come here to find a place to rest for awhile.**

Come, and find a guide who knows these lands.

**We come to praise our shepherding God, whose pathways and doors lead to life.**

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

## Prayer

Shepherding God, bring us into your fold. Lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Help us see the way we should go, the way we should live. Help us hear your voice calling our name. Enliven this time of worship, that we may find true life as we join with others: praising your name, celebrating your great goodness, and sharing your love for all people. Amen

## Hymn AA 15: [Christ is Alive](#)

*(Lyrics: Shirley Murray, Tune: Jillian Bray)*

1. Christ is alive, and the universe must celebrate,  
and the stars and the suns shout on the Easter Day!  
Christ is alive, and his family must celebrate  
in a great alleluia, a great alleluia  
to praise the power that made the stone roll away.

2. Here is our hope: in the mystery of suffering  
is the heartbeat of Love, Love that will not let go,  
here is our hope, that in God we are not separate,  
and we sing alleluia,  
we sing alleluia  
to praise the power that made the stone roll away.

3. Christ Spirit, dance through the dullness of humanity  
to the music of God, God who has set us free!  
You are the pulse of the new creation's energy;  
with a great alleluia  
a great alleluia  
we praise the power that made the stone roll away.

## Prayer

Good shepherd, teach us to follow you,  
to care for all that are close to us,  
to protect those who are threatened,  
to welcome those who are rejected  
to forgive those who are burdened with guilt  
to heal those who are broken and sick  
to share with those who have little or nothing  
to take time to really know one another and to love as you have loved us.

Good shepherd, teach us to follow you  
to spread compassion to those who are far away,  
to speak for those who are voiceless,  
to defend those who are depressed and abused,  
to defend those who are exploited,  
to make peace for those who suffer violence,

to take the time to recognise our connectedness, and to love you as you have loved us.

Good shepherd, teach us to follow you and be faithful to the calling you gave us to be shepherds in your name. Amen

*(John van de Laar from sacredise.com)*

## **Psalm 23**

God, my shepherd! I don't need a thing.  
You have bedded me down in lush meadows,  
you find me quiet pools to drink from

**true to your word, you let me catch my breath and send me in the right direction.**

Even when the way goes through Death Valley, I'm not afraid when you walk at my side.

**Your trusty shepherds crook makes me secure**

You serve me a six-course dinner right in front of my enemies.

**You receive my drooping head, my cup brims with blessing**

Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life.

**I'm back home in the house of God for the rest of my life.**

*(The Message (MSG) copyright 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996,  
2000, 2001, 2002 by Eugene H Peterson)*

## **Scripture Readings**

In our readings this morning we are drawn by the voice that opens us to abundance; rest with the early believers who shared life with open hands; and wonder how such generosity might unfold in us and around us.

**Acts 2: 42-47** *(page 1693)*

**John 10: 1-10** *(page 1666)*

## **Reflection**

Our New Zealand national rugby team, the All Blacks, have been in the process of getting a new coach this year. People wonder what it is like inside camp with the All Blacks. There has been much speculation. What are the values of a new coach? What are his priorities? How will all that impact the players? How will the team be set up for the challenges ahead in the Rugby World Cup? Do we have a winning team?

Our reading today from the book of Acts takes us to the establishment of the new Christian community. Similarly, people often wonder what the first Christian community looked like. What did they do? What values did they have? Jesus had told his followers to take the gospel out into the world. How did they set themselves up for this challenge? And are there clues for us who seek to be a community of Jesus' followers?

This passage paints a picture of the early Church, a community of believers deeply connected to each other and to God. They were devoted to learning from the apostles, to fellowship, to breaking bread together, and to prayer. They shared their lives and their resources generously.

They met daily in the temple courts and in their homes, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. and their number grew daily as the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

This is the kind of community we strive to be, a community that builds believer's bonds, bolsters the body of Christ, and bridges beyond Sunday services. But how do we achieve this? How do we become a community that mirrors the early church in our love for each other and our devotion to God?

In his wisdom, Charles Spurgeon once said 'A church that does not exist to fight evil, to destroy error, to put down falsehood, a church that does not exist to take the side of the poor, to denounce injustice and to hold up righteousness, is a church that has no right to be.' We are challenged with these words to be a church that is active and engaged – a church that is not just a place of worship but a force for good in the world.

We need to build believers bonds.

Firstly, we need to understand that these bonds aren't built over night. They're not built through a single event or a single act of kindness. They're built on consistent intentional effort. They're built through showing up for each other, day after day, week after week, year after year. They're built through shared experiences, shared struggles, shared victories. They're built through laughter and tears, through celebrations and mourning, through the ups and downs of life.

Secondly, these bonds aren't built on the surface. They're not built on shared interests or shared hobbies. They're built on shared faith. They're built on the shared belief in Jesus, in his teaching, in his love. They're built on the shared commitment to follow him, to live out his teachings, to love as he loved. They're built on the shared understanding that we're not just individuals, but a family, a body, a community.

Thirdly, these bonds aren't built in isolation. They're not built by keeping to ourselves, by keeping our faith private, by keeping our struggles and victories to ourselves. They're built by opening up, by sharing our lives, by inviting others into our faith journey. They're built by being vulnerable, by being honest, by being real. They're built by showing others that we are not perfect, that we are not always strong, that we are not always right. They're built by showing others that we are human, that we are broken, that we are in need of grace.

Lastly, these bonds aren't built by us alone. They're not built by our efforts, by our strength, by our wisdom. They're built by God. They're built by His grace, by His love, by His Spirit. They're built by His power, working in us and through us.

They're built by His promise, that where two or three gather in his name, he is there with them.

So, as we strive to build these bonds, let's remember that we are not alone. Let's remember that we are part of a community, a family, a body. Let's remember that we are not just building these bonds for ourselves, but for each other, for the world, for God. Let's remember that we are not just building these bonds, but living out our faith, living out outreaching of Jesus, living out the love of God.

Just as the All Blacks team sorted themselves out, considered the values the team held to be an effective rugby team; just as the little Christian community that ate together, prayed together and shared what they had, changed the world. Such a community is needed again to make its mark in the shallow, selfish and individualistic society. Can we as a team for Christ, rise to the occasion?

### Hymn AA 8: [Brother Sister, Let Me Serve You](#)

*(Lyrics: Richard Gillard, Arr.: V Fleetwood)*

1. Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you, pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travellers on the road, we are here to help each other, walk the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear, I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh, I'll laugh with you, I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.
5. When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony, born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.
6. Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you, pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

### Offering Dedication

**Generous, life-giving God, you sent Jesus that we might have life and have it abundantly. In response to this great gift, we now offer ourselves and our resources. May these gifts help us as a church to be your voice, calling all people to abundant life and to their true identities as your beloved. Amen**

**Community Time:** Celebrations, Notices

## Prayer for Others

Yesterday we recognised the men and women who have been engaged in wars throughout the world, and we honoured their legacy in the significant role they played in reshaping our national identity.

Let us, in silence, reflect on the futility of war and remember the ordinary men, women and children who suffered terribly; civilians who took up arms and those who refused to take up arms.

*Silence*

Now, as a community of faith, we pray for all those people and situations we hold in our hearts

*You are invited to speak aloud or just pray silently for those concerns you have.*

Jesus our shepherd, you have heard our prayers. Guide our community to care for one another, encourage each other as we walk our journey of faith. Amen

## Hymn AA 146: [We Are An Easter People](#)

*(Lyrics: Bill Wallace, Tune: Alison Carey)*

1. We are an Easter people, ours is an Easter faith,  
the yeast is rising in our hearts, our wine has vintage taste.

*Christ is risen, Christ is risen, risen in our lives.*

We are an Easter people, ours is an Easter faith,  
our tears are freed to flow and heal our shattered hopes and hearts.

*Christ is risen .....*

We are an Easter people, ours is an Easter faith,  
our fears have died, we rise to dream, to love, to dance, to live.

*Christ is risen .....*

## Holy Communion

People of God, we have come together to break bread in our homes and in our sanctuary, just as the first believers did. They were filled with awe, and they knew the Lord was among them. Today, we remember that this is not just our table – it is Christ's table, and it is a table for all.

**We come with joyful and sincere hearts, praising God.**

The believers in Acts held all things in common, sharing their wealth so that none among them were in need. As we prepare to share this bread and cup, we ask God to make us one – not only in spirit but in action – carefully sharing our lives and our resources, just as He shared His grace with us.

We praise you for Jesus Christ, eternal as your love, our bond to one another, and with the angels and archangels we proclaim the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy are you.  
Holy, holy, blessed are you.**

This morning, in communion we join ourselves to all your people and we pray:

### **Lord's Prayer**

It is Jesus, God incarnate, the risen Christ, who joins us together as a community of broken but hopeful believers

loving what he taught, and  
striving to be his faithful servants  
in our time and place.

In this meal we remember Jesus, his promises, and the price he paid for who he was, what he said, and what he did. Bring us together, as the Lord added to the church daily, that we may be a community of hope and love.

On the night before Jesus died, he gathered his friends: he took a loaf of bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said;

**'Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me.'**

After supper, Jesus took the cup, and poured, saying;

**'This is the new covenant, remember me.'**

This is the Lord's table, open to all.

**We come, not because we are worthy, but because we are hungry.**

### **Prayer**

Come to us, Spirit of our Lord of love, and let the bread and wine before us bear your life to our life, nourish us with his vision of hope, and unite us in one body of peace. Amen

### **Invitation**

Now all things are ready. Let us share this bread and this cup together.

### **Communion is served**

*Communion will be served in your seats.*

*Once served, please hold the bread so that we can all eat together.*

*Likewise the cup.*

### **Prayer**

**We thank you, God of compassion, that you have nourished us with the bread of life and the wine of hope.**

**As in Christ your love flowed out to those around him, so let your love flow through us to others. Amen**

## Hymn FFS 67: We Are Many, We Are One

*(Lyrics and Tune: Colin Gibson)*

1. We are many we are one, and the work of Christ is done  
when we learn to live in true community,  
as the stars that fill the night, as a flock of birds in flight,  
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;  
as the branches of a tree,  
as the waves upon the sea,  
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

2. All division is made whole when we honour every soul,  
find the life of God in every you and me,  
as the fingers of a hand,  
as the grains that form the sand,  
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;  
as the threads upon a loom,  
as a field of flowers in bloom,  
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

3. We will join creations song, make a world where all belong,  
build as one in peace and loving harmony,  
as the voices of a choir,  
as the flames within a fire,  
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;  
as the snowflakes in the snow,  
as the colours of a bow,  
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

### **Benediction**

Follow the way of Jesus through the week ahead.  
Keep learning together.  
Be like family to each other.  
Eat meals and pray together.  
Do all you can to live and share the abundant life of the Christ.  
Go, and God the Creator will continue to be at work with you,  
The risen Christ will open the way,  
And the Spirit will build you into true community.  
**In the power of God, we go, may it be so.**

### **Sung Amen**

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