



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

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## **Sunday 5 October 2025 – Pentecost 17**

### **World Communion**

The service today has been prepared by  
Richard Smith, 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.***

***Curiosity:*** we are committed to a life of learning, questioning, and exploring the mystery of God, Jesus, and the Bible.

#### **Welcome**

Kia ora e te whanau, greetings faith-family. Welcome to worship at Kaurihohore Church this morning the seventeenth Sunday of the Season of Pentecost. This month includes 'Industrial Sunday' just before Labour Day, when we are reminded of the 'Social Principles' of the Methodist Church. These Principles are printed in this month's newsletter so you can read them and become familiar with how our predecessors in faith have seen the Christian faith worked out in the world of work. Today we reflect on how our faith is expressed in the whole world of humanity through churches right around this globe.

During this service we focus on our core value of **Curiosity**: we are committed to a life of learning, questioning, and exploring the mystery of God, Jesus, and the Bible. As we reflect this morning on what it means to have faith, I hope you will find some stimulation to practice your curiosity as you consider what you believe. Welcome to this celebration of World Communion Sunday.

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

## **Call to Worship**

Do not fret over those who seem to thrive through injustice.

**We gather to trust in the One who makes all things right.**

Let go of envy and lean into mercy.

**We come to rest in the promise of divine peace.**

Delight in the Holy One who plants joy in our souls.

**We seek not applause, but delight in God's love.**

Commit your path to God and let your trust be enough.

**We bring our questions, our hopes, our honest selves.**

Be still, and wait with holy patience.

**We pause to listen for the whisper of grace.**

Do not let anger rule or bitterness take root.

**We gather to be grounded in faith, not fear.**

Worship not outcomes, but presence.

**We come to be shaped by God's timing and truth.**

Put your trust in the God of quiet justice.

**We come, with mustard seeds of faith, to worship. Amen.**

## **Opening Prayer**

O God of quiet strength and fierce compassion,

**You teach us to trust, even when the world is loud.**

We bring our envy, our weariness, our striving

**And you invite us into stillness and joy**

You call us to do good, not for reward

**But because love is who we are**

You root us in the long vision of justice

**We turn again to your way, your grace, your peace. Amen.**

## **Hymn: HIOS 16 Christians Are All Kinds Of People**

*(Lyrics: Stan Stewart, arr. Barry Brinson, Tune: Oom-Pah-Pah)*

1. Christians are all kinds of people,  
they're average, they're short and they're tall,  
from all kinds of backgrounds, with all kinds of outlooks,  
our gracious God uses them all.  
Christians are all kinds of people,  
not even especially good,  
but God's love is mighty and that is what counts.  
with mercy as wide as the sea, it reaches to you and to me.

2. Christians are all kinds of people,  
they're smilers, they're grouchers, they're clowns,  
in all kinds of weather, whenever they gather,  
you'll find every kind of them round.  
Christians are all kinds of people,  
and sometimes all kinds are in me,  
but God's love is mighty and that is what counts.  
with mercy as wide as the sea, it reaches to you and to me.

3. God uses all kinds of people,  
the black and the pale and the tan,  
new born and the ag-ed, the fit and disabled,  
they all play a part in the plan.  
God uses all kinds of people,  
with problems, with hang-ups, with scars,  
but God's love is mighty and that is what counts.  
with mercy as wide as the sea, it reaches to you and to me.

## **Prayer for Centring and Renewal**

We come with trembling faith and tangled thoughts

**We come just as we are, and that is enough**

We bring doubts that sit beside our hope

**We bring hearts both bruised and brave**

We come not seeking applause

**But to walk quietly in your way**

Teach us to serve without entitlement

**To trust without needing all the answers**

You call us to begin before we feel ready

**So here we are, mustard seeds and all**

We confess how often we measure worth by outcome

**But you delight in presence, not performance**

We name our longing to be seen and affirmed

**But you invite us to find joy in simple faithfulness**

We admit how fear keeps us from loving boldly

**Yet your Spirit stirs in us a deeper courage**

We return to the truth that grace does not compete

**And in your presence, we are already enough,**

**Help us to trust you and believe in your forgiveness.**

### **The Lord's Prayer - Sung AA112: [Our Father in Heaven](#)**

*(Lyrics: Richard Gillard and John Smith, Arr. Guy Jansen)*

*(Please remain seated)*

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come,

Your will be done

On earth as 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 king-dom

the power and glo...ry

Are yours now and for ever.

Amen, amen, amen, amen,

amen, amen, amen, amen

*(Music © West Wind Music)*

### **Scripture Readings**

Our first scripture reading this morning comes from Psalm 37. I have chosen a version written by Leslie F. Brandt in more modern and colloquial English which conveys for us some of what the original writer was trying to express.

## Psalm 37

“It’s high time we stopped complaining about the dissipation of our world or the corruption of society, while at the same time we eye with envy those ungodly characters who appear to have more fun or to be more successful than we are.

If we truly trusted in God and were truly committed to his purposes, the world might be a great deal better off today. God is in our world. He is destined to be the source of our joy and wellbeing. He is the fulfilment of our hearts’ desires. If we dedicate our lives to him and his will, he will be able to work through us to permeate this world’s darkness with divine light.

Let’s keep our cool and try to be patient. Stop worrying about the apparent hopelessness of it all. We only contribute to this despair by always being negative and defeatist. God has not taken a vacation; He is here, He has his own way of dealing with the instigators of corruption.

It will take time, but the victory is ultimately God’s. Those who live within God’s will, shall surely discover that his purposes prevail, that true joy and peace and security come from him.

Let us wait on God and seek daily to obey him. He is our salvation and our security, and nothing in this world can take that away from us. Let us calm our hostilities, overcome our anxieties, and walk in peace and love.”

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Our second scripture reading this morning is from the gospel of Luke. In today’s reading the disciples have been challenged by Jesus’ teaching about forgiveness and respond, “Increase our Faith!”.

**Luke 17:5-10** *(New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised)*

<sup>5</sup> The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith!’ <sup>6</sup> The Lord replied, ‘If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, “Be uprooted and planted in the sea”, and it would obey you.

<sup>7</sup> ‘Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from ploughing or tending sheep in the field, “Come here at once and take your place at the table”? <sup>8</sup> Would you not rather say to him, “Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink”? <sup>9</sup> Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? <sup>10</sup> So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, “We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!”’

## **Hymn: FFS 11 [Come Teach Us Spirit Of Our God](#)**

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

1. Come, teach us, Spirit of our God,  
the language of your way,  
the lessons that we need to live,  
the faith for every day.
2. Excite our minds to follow you,  
to trace new truths in store,  
new flight paths for our spirit space,  
new marvels to explore:
3. Engage our wits to dance with you,  
to leap from logic's base,  
to capture insight on the wing,  
to sense your cosmic grace:
4. Inspire our spark to light from you,  
to catch creation's flair,  
new artistry to celebrate,  
new harmonies to dare:
5. Delight our hearts to worship you,  
to learn compassion's code,  
to live in context of your love,  
great teacher who is God!

## **Food for Thought: World Communion Sunday**

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of all our hearts lead us into a deeper faith in you, O God of Love. Amen.

“The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”

I wonder what you think they meant? “Increase our Faith”. If you begged someone to increase your faith, what would you be asking them to do? If someone described you as a ‘person of faith’, what do you think they would be meaning about you?

Someone described Christians as, “Those who can believe a hundred impossible things before breakfast”. I haven’t been able to find the source of that quotation, but I did find what possibly gave rise to it. In *Alice in Wonderland*, by Lewis Carroll, there is this snippet, “Alice laughed. ‘There’s no use trying,’ she said. ‘One can’t believe impossible things.’ “I daresay you haven’t had much practice,’ said the Queen. ‘When I was your age, I always did it for half-an-hour a day. Why, sometimes I’ve believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast.”

Well, for some people that is how they see Christians and how they understand the Christian Faith, believing impossible things. I think this is a misunderstanding of what our faith really is about. God is not asking people to sacrifice their intellectual integrity, but to be honest in their thinking.

Let us go back and look at the context of today's reading. What prompted the apostles, Jesus' disciples, to ask him to increase their faith. Reading from verse three, two verses before today's reading begins: "Be on your guard! If another disciple sins, you must rebuke the offender, and if there is repentance, you must forgive. And if the same person sins against you seven times a day, and turns back to you seven times and says, 'I repent,' you must forgive." Really? Seven times in one day? Are you really going to believe they mean it? So, Jesus is saying, forgive, and keep on forgiving regardless of any doubts you may have in your brother's sincerity.

The word translated as "Faith" "pistin," means, to believe in, or, to trust in, so, we could retranslate this plea by the disciples as, "Increase our trustingness." Or "Increase our Trust." Do please notice also you are to rebuke the offender, so this is no directive to acquiesce in wrongdoing and just let it go to keep the peace. No, you are to stand up and protest the wrongdoing, then if there is repentance you are to forgive. The implication is that each time you are sinned against, you rebuke the sinner, you keep on repeatedly, standing up for what is right. Then, if there is repentance, you are to forgive, again and again, relentlessly, on and on. Just like the slave keeps on working as expected, through the day and on into the evening, until the job is done. I tried to convey this feeling in the first words of our call to worship this morning,

"Do not fret over those who seem to thrive through injustice.

**We gather to trust in the One who makes all things right."**

To have faith, to trust God is not to acquiesce in evil but to protest with all we can, to rebuke, to ensure the offender knows that what they have done is wrong. We are to make sure that those who have thrived through injustice are quite clear that how they have acted is against the will of God and wrong. Then once they have accepted that they have indeed done wrong and repented, to forgive, to trust the sincerity of their change of heart, knowing that God will heal once the injustice is corrected.

That applies when we personally have been sinned against. We owe it to the person or system which has wronged us to let them know that what they have done is wrong. If they refuse to listen, we need to keep on letting them know until they see and acknowledge their wrongdoing. Then once the wrong is corrected to forgive and move on. The relationship is restored to one of peace and harmony. The community of faith is complete again.

Similarly, this teaching applies to groups or nations. When we see the wealthy accumulating greater wealth at the cost of the poor becoming poorer, it is our calling to protest the injustice and to keep on protesting until the injustice is corrected, then to forgive and move on. The reciprocal respectful relationships of the world community have been re-established, all are fed, all clothed and housed and at peace and harmony with the natural world.

So, the first part of today's lesson is to seek greater trust in the Way of Jesus, and to note that, as little trust as a mustard seed, is enough. We don't need a whole bucketful! Just enough to challenge injustice, and once the injustice is corrected, to forgive and, having let go, to move on once right relationships have been re-established. The second lesson is about persistence. Being trustworthy enough to keep on going until the job is done, the day's work is completed.

Today we are called on to affirm that the whole world is the context of our living out of this faith or trust in the Way of Jesus, and the whole of humanity is our faith family.

The intended result of challenging injustice, forgiving wrongdoing, persisting in loving service, is the establishment and continuing of right relationships, between us and God, and between all people on Earth.

As we shared in our prayer earlier, "You call us to do good, not for reward  
**But because love is who we are."**

This is the 'Kingdom of God' that Jesus proclaimed was among us and that was the point of his ministry. It is here as we love God and let him rule in our lives and love others as we love ourselves. That is what we celebrate on this day of World Communion, both here now in prospect and in the future as we make it true in the lives of everyone on Earth.

## **Community Time: Notices, Celebrations, Thanksgiving & Concerns**

### **The Prayers of God's People**

For the peoples of the world,  
where violence grows and injustice seems to win,  
where envy corrodes and the powerful go unchecked,  
may your quiet justice take root.

**God, renew our trust in your unfolding way**

For our nation and leaders,  
amidst growing pressure, fragile hope, and public weariness,  
may policies reflect mercy, patience, and courage.

**God, renew our trust in your unfolding way**



For the Church, global and local,  
that we may serve without seeking status,  
offering humble witness to your transforming love.

**God, renew our trust in your unfolding way**

For our communities and neighbours,  
where anxiety grows and people are stretched thin,  
may small acts of kindness shift the story.

**God, renew our trust in your unfolding way**

For all who suffer, in body, mind, or spirit,  
those living with doubt, illness, grief, or despair –  
may faith, even the size of a mustard seed, bring comfort.

**God, renew our trust in your unfolding way**

For those who have gone before us,  
whose faithful lives lit quiet fires of grace,  
may we walk gently in their footsteps,  
trusting the God who is still writing the story.

**God, renew our trust in your unfolding way. Amen.**

### **Offering and Prayer of Dedication**

**Bless these gifts and we who give them  
Guide us to use them to nourish quiet acts of justice  
May our faith be lived through generosity  
And our service reflect your love. Amen**

### **The Peace**

Let us greet one another with a handshake or a hug and bless each other in the words, **“The peace of God be with you.”**

**Hymn:** HFTH 53 World Communion Sunday – [Great God, Whose Love Enfolds Us All](#)

*(Lyrics: Jan Chamberlin, Tune: Sheltered Dale)*

1. Great God, whose love enfolds us all,  
in any time and place:  
we pray this day for all the world,  
whatever creed and race,  
that they may feel your strong embrace,  
and so, great God, may we.

2. We pray that on the battlefields  
The fear and hate will cease:  
that love will move the hardest hearts,  
and give the anguished peace.  
From sorrow may they find release,  
and so, great God, may we.
3. And as we gather here today  
Your life and love to share;  
a great communion round the world  
of Christians everywhere:  
we pray that they may know your care;  
and so, great God, may we.

### **Communion**

Come people of God let us join with our sisters and brothers around the world as we remember our Lord Jesus, the Christ, in whose life the love of God was shown in all its completeness.

**Holy and loving God for the power of love in human life and history we give you thanks and praise. Amen.**

Long ago our ancestors knew love's power, and they became the tellers of love's tale. Love bound them in covenant, teaching them to live in community with compassion and concern for the poorest among them.

Yet centuries of domination and violence shaped a different kind of community based on selfishness and inequality.

In the struggle against oppression, Jesus became the face of love, showing us the way to abundant life. In word and deed, he announced love's new reign of justice, reconciliation and peace. Filled with the courage and passion of love's spirit he gave his life to challenge the unjust systems of this world.

On the night of his betrayal and arrest, as he shared a meal with his friends, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his followers, saying:

"Share this bread among you; this is my body which will be broken for justice. Do this to remember me."

After supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

"Share this wine among you; this is my blood which will be shed for liberation. Do this to remember me."

We set aside these elements to this holy purpose.

*Let us pray.*

**God of love, spirit of compassion, bless us and this bread and wine. May this meal be food and drink for our journey, renewing, sustaining, and making us whole. Amen.**

When we eat this bread and drink from this cup, we open ourselves again to the loving presence of Jesus in our midst.

The table is ready. All are welcome. Come, for the feast is spread.

*Let us pray:*

Lord, we come before you now, yearning to know your healing presence and the accepting love which Christ offers.

*(Silence)*

**Send your Holy Spirit that through this holy sacrament we may know your transforming love and become shaped into the body and life of him whose food we share. Amen.**

Among friends gathered around a table, Jesus took bread, broke it and said, "This is my body broken for you."

After supper he took the cup and said, "This is the new relationship with God, made possible through my death. Drink it, all of you, to remember me."

We remember Jesus, who taught us to love the poor and outcast;

**Christ, have mercy on us.**

We remember Jesus, who called all to God's kingdom;

**Christ, have mercy on us.**

We remember Jesus who rose to live among us and in us;

**Christ, grant us your peace.**

The bread of life for all who hunger

The body of Christ, broken for us.

The cup of compassion for a broken world

The blood of Christ shed for all.

Go from this table bearing the love of God into a troubled world.

Go from this table knowing the peace which passes all understanding.

Go from this table renewed, to renew the world God loves.

## Prayer after Communion

Loving God, you have called us out of isolation, selfishness and greed, into the freedom of trusting you with our lives, and into belonging in this faith community. We join with you, and with our faith sisters and brothers around the world, in this covenant of membership in your kingdom.

Lead us, as your people, to live your love into the life of this world, that we may truly be the Body of Christ, inspired by your Holy Spirit within us, to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you.

**Amen**

*(Servers replace the cover over the remaining elements on the table and return to their seats during the singing of the post-communion hymn)*

## **Hymn:** HIOS [As Sisters, Brothers Called By Christ](#)

*(Lyrics: Jocelyn Marshall Tune: St. Peter)*

1. As sisters, brothers, called by Christ  
to serve his church on earth,  
give us your gifts of wisdom, grace,  
respect for human worth.
2. Give us the gift of charity  
that seeks the other's good,  
the out-stretched hand of fellowship,  
accepted, understood.
3. Give us the courage to stand firm  
for principles held dear,  
but open minds to seek new truths  
and question without fear.
4. From different cultures we are drawn,  
in differing tongues we speak;  
but unified by Christ we stand,  
the strong to help the weak.
5. As members of one family  
are bonded yet unique,  
accept our individual skills,  
direct the path we seek.

6. May we show forth by word and deed  
Christ's attributes and care,  
that others may be drawn to him  
and in his church may share.

### **Commissioning and Blessing**

Go now people of God, remembering Jesus, our elder brother in faith.  
Go as sisters and brothers, called as members of one faith family,  
Seek the good of others, with courage to stand firm, but open minds,  
Go to show Christ's attributes, by word and deed, to all in your path.

**We go trusting in God's Spirit to guide and support us, come what may.**

**Sung Amen** (*Threefold*)

### ***Acknowledgements:***

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*Phillip Garside's Worship at Hand*

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