



KAURIHOHORE / KAMO CO-OPERATING PARISH

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Sunday 7 June 2026 – Pentecost 2

Our Service today has been prepared by Richard Smith one of our Lay Preachers and Tanya Reynolds Lay Preacher in Training

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.

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

Welcome

Naumai, naumal, naumai, welcome to Worship at Kauri this morning faith family, and a special welcome to Tanya Reynolds who has offered herself for training as a lay preacher in our congregation. Tanya has shared with me in preparing our worship service this morning.

Today is the second Sunday of the season after Pentecost, a season during which we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to relate our faith as the people of God to the mission of Christ in the world.

From Abram's first step to Matthew leaving his desk, faith is a verb. We listen for the God who walks into our streets, sits at our tables, and meets hidden pain with courageous mercy.

We walk with Jesus as he moves toward outsiders and the hurting, and reflect on how faith, shaped by grace, walks into our streets, makes room at the table, and reaches toward healing

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

Today in the book of Genesis and the Gospel of Matthew we hear stories of people being called beyond what is familiar, from Abram setting out in faith to Matthew leaving everything to follow Jesus.

We also meet those who reach towards Christ in hope for healing, dignity, and a renewed place in the community.

These readings invite us to reflect on courage, trust, and the grace that meets us in uncertainty, especially when life feels unsettled or costly.

The value we focus on this morning is **Togetherness**: we cultivate genuine opportunities to gather together in worship and fellowship. God grants us a sense of togetherness as we celebrate our shared humanity with all people on earth.

As we worship, may we hear again the call of God to step forward, widen the table, and discover that we are welcomed into grace.

Call to Worship

Come, you whom God invites to build His new community,

God calls us together into His promise of a new belonging.

Come, you who have felt excluded bring here all your grief or shame.

Christ calls us to drop our burdens into his bottomless mercy.

Come, you who yearn for hope and long for healing.

The Holy Spirit of God will make us a blessing as we grow together.

Gathering Prayer

Those who the world sees as tainted and useless,

God loves; God cherishes.

Those who the world sees as depressed and incompetent,

God accepts, God loves.

Those who exploit the earth and others,

God loves, God changes.

Those who the world sees as outcasts and calls sinners,

God welcomes; God loves.

Those ignored by the world, those who have nowhere to go,

God hears, God embraces, God loves. Amen.

Hymn: [Many Gifts, One Spirit](#) (Lyrics and Tune: Alvin Carmines, Jr)

1. God of change and glory,
God of time and space,
When we fear the future,
Give to us your grace.
In the midst of changing ways
Give us still the grace to praise.

Refrain

*Many gifts, one Spirit,
One love known in many ways.
In our difference is blessing,
From diversity we praise
One Giver, one Lord,
One Spirit, one Word
Known in many ways,
Hallowing our days.
For the Giver, for the gifts,
Praise, praise, praise!*

2. God of many colours,
God of many signs,
You have made us different,
Blessing many kinds.
As the old ways disappear,
Let your love cast out our fear.

Refrain

3. Freshness of the morning,
Newness of each night,
You are still creating
Endless love and light.
This we see, as shadows part,
Many gifts from one great heart.

Refrain

Prayer for Centring and Renewal

You call us to discipleship: to face temptations,
to listen to the voice of truth, to give of our talents wholeheartedly.

We will go so far, but will we go further?

You call us to the journey of faith: to search out the lost,
to commit to the needy, to support the powerless,
to grow in the compassion of Christ.

We will go so far, but will we go further?

You call us to the faith community, to the church: to worship with joy,
to be there for each other, to work joyfully for the Way of Jesus Christ.

We will go so far, but will we go further?

You call us to renew ourselves: to learn and grow in the faith,
To reflect carefully, to risk new directions, and to squarely face past wrongs.

We will go so far, but will we go further?

Time of silent reflection...

Hearing your call, O God, requires patience and concentration.

Responding to your call, O God, leads us to confession and repentance; it leads us to go further along the way of Christ.

With these insights, pardon and peace are yours.

Thanks be to God!

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker; Pain-bearer; Life-giver;
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by all peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on
earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the
power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

Scripture Readings *New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised*

This week's readings explore what faith looks like when grace sets it in motion. God's promise to Abraham begins with a step into the unknown—not a performance of certainty but a trust in the God who brings life where none seems possible. God calls Abram from the security of the familiar to become a blessing; faith moves outward for the sake of others.

Genesis 12:1-9

The Call of Abram

12 Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan.

When they had come to the land of Canaan, ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.' So, he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. ⁹ And Abram journeyed on by stages towards the Negeb.

In Matthew's gospel, grace becomes visible. Jesus calls Matthew from his desk, shares a table with those others avoid, and honours both a desperate parent and a trembling woman who reaches for healing. Jesus calls a tax collector, eats with 'sinners,' and interrupts urgency with mercy; hidden ache and bold grief both find healing in him.

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

The Calling of Matthew

⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' ¹² But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

¹⁸ While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, 'My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.' ¹⁹ And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰ Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹ for she said to herself, 'If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.' ²² Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, 'Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.' And instantly the woman was made well. ²³ When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute-players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴ he said, 'Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. ²⁵ But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶ And the report of this spread throughout that district.

Hymn HFTC 322: [In Christ There Is No East Or West](#)

(Lyrics: Michael Perry, Tune: St Bernard)

Food for Thought

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight O Lord our strength and liberator.

Who is in and who is out? Sometime in early childhood most of us experience the pain of being rejected, of finding ourselves not included in a game or conversation or group. It is often a painful experience. Today's scripture readings challenge us to look at how we see ourselves and how we treat others.

In our reading from the book of Genesis this morning we hear a refrain that will be repeated, God calls and there is a response. In Abram's case, "the Lord said to Abram, 'Go ... and I will bless you ...and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.'"

So, Abram goes, with no idea of where this journey will take him and his family. Generations later Paul would comment that it was this trust in God, the faith of Abram, that counted, that gave evidence that he had a right relationship with God.

Later many of Abram's Jewish descendants would presume they were the special chosen race of God and therefore entitled to exclude other races as unwanted and inferior. I suspect we see this belief showing even today in the way the Israeli Government and troops treat the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.

But check out the text again. "In you all the families of the earth will be blessed." Jesus picked up on this inclusionary statement and challenged the understanding of those of his day, and of ours.

Next, we turn to our reading from the Gospel of Matthew. In chapter 5, Mathew has depicted Jesus as the new Moses on the Mount, proclaiming the new Word of the Lord, the new Law of the Kingdom. By chapter nine, words have become deeds. Here again God calls and there is a response. Jesus says to Matthew, sitting at the tax booth, "Follow Me." And he got up and followed him. Again, the action of faith which leads on to a life of discipleship.

Tax collectors were not part of the in-crowd in Jewish society at the time. They were collaborators with the Roman Government, the occupying forces, who were hated and despised. Anyone, like Matthew, who worked for the Romans was regarded as a traitor and despised as religiously impure, outcast, not acceptable in society, a sinner.

Now, we have the picture of Jesus extending table hospitality to outcasts, like this Matthew, and this outrageous behaviour being challenged by the Pharisees.

Have you got the message yet? Just in case you haven't Matthew gives us two more examples. If you got sick or died young that showed you had sinned and God was judging you. If you touched someone who was ill or dead, you rendered yourself unclean, and you had to go through an extensive rigmarole to make yourself pure so God would hear your prayers again.

So, here we go, an unclean sinner, a bleeding woman demonstrates her faith, reaching out to touch Jesus, and he says, "your faith has made you well." Now, in Jewish understanding that healing demonstrated God's forgiveness, her faith had made her well and she was back in God's good books regardless of her not having done any of the prescribed rituals.

A father asks, and Jesus allows himself to be defiled by touching the dead girl, and she is restored to life – the exclusive gift of God!

As Frank Senn said, "Part of what makes Jesus so attractive is his willingness to risk censure in challenging the exclusion of people from the circle of God's hospitality".

Matthew challenges again and again the understanding of his day, and of ours, that God's kingdom is restricted to the holy and pure, the in-crowd, the wealthy, the respectable, the socially acceptable, the religiously righteous.

We live in a society which treats many people as outcasts, just like they did in Jesus' day. Have you ever experienced what it is like to feel excluded, outcast, unwanted?

I remember one year when I was a student working at the freezing works over the summer, trying to earn enough to go back to continue my study. The season finished early, the stock ran out, and we were put off. I didn't have enough to go back to university. My parents weren't in a position to help. My dad worked in the freezing works too and he was trying to support my mother and young sister. I desperately hunted for work. Another few weeks would make all the difference. I joined queues of men morning after morning wherever we heard there were jobs. I can remember saying to my mother, "I will never be judgmental again about someone who is unemployed." It is horrible to feel you have nothing to offer, nothing you can do which your society values. Of no use to anyone! You are worthless in the eyes of your community and very easily in your own eyes too. You are definitely **OUT!**

The message of the gospel is that everyone, no matter how **OUT** you feel is definitely **IN** with God. No one is excluded from God's hospitality. That is the truth Jesus demonstrated again and again. God loves you. The challenge is, are we really willing to live this truth into our lives and the life of our faith community, because the outcasts are not always nice, pretty, polite, well socialised people.

The assurance of Pentecost is that God has, and will, send his Spirit to fire us up to be like him, like he did to the dispirited frightened disciples hiding behind locked doors. The challenge is to trust him and step out in faith, walking with Jesus to the edges of society and beyond to share God's hospitality with all those he loves.

Community Time: Notices, Celebrations, Thanksgiving & Concerns

The Prayers of God's People

Let us pray to God, who welcomes all people into faith and love.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For your Church in Aotearoa, that we may welcome everyone - whānau, friends, seekers, and strangers - and walk together in faith.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For our communities and our country, for peace and justice, and for those who lead among us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who are lonely, sick, grieving, or struggling, and for those we name silently in our hearts.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those celebrating milestones, upcoming church events and grateful hearts.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For this church family, that we may grow in faith, serve with joy, and love like Jesus.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Holy Spirit, pour yourself upon us anew,

And make us one in Christ. Amen.

Hymn HIOS 9: Beautiful Presence

(Lyrics: Joy Cowley, Tune: Barry Brinson)

1. Beautiful presence, how can we name you?
Words are too small for the one who is all.
How can we speak of your gentleness to us,
The warmth of our hearts in response to your call?

Chorus

*Beautiful presence, ocean of love,
Strong as forever, soft as a dove.
Words often fail us, but this we know true,
You live within us as we live in you.*

2. There have been times of spiritual blindness,
When error and pain have distorted our sight.
Beautiful presence, you were there with us,
To show us how darkness can turn into light.

Chorus

3. Nothing that happens to us will be wasted,
All of our living is grounded in grace.
Gently you take down the walls of division,
Leading us on to a larger place.

Chorus

Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Faithful God, on this second Sunday of Pentecost,
we come trusting not in our own goodness but in your limitless grace. Receive our
self-giving of time, talents and possessions as an offering of faith - imperfect hands
holding onto a perfect Saviour.

Use what we bring to heal the broken, feed the hungry, and welcome the stranger.
By your Spirit, unite us as one family in Christ, where no one stands outside your
love. Strengthen our small belief into bold discipleship,
and send us out to live as people of Pentecost: generous, hopeful, and rooted in
Jesus. **Amen.**

Hymn AA 156: Where the Road Runs Out

(Lyrics and Tune: Colin Gibson)

1. Where the road runs out and the
signposts end,
where we come to the edge of
today,
be the God of Abraham for us,
send us out upon our way.

Chorus

*Lord, you were our beginning,
the faith that gave us birth.
We look to you, our ending,
our hope for heaven and
earth.*

2. When the coast is left and we
journey on
to the rim of the sky and the sea,
be the sailor's friend, be the
dolphin Christ
lead us in to eternity.

Chorus

3. When the clouds are low and the
wind is strong,
when tomorrow's storm draws
near,
be the spirit bird hovering
overhead
who will take away our fear.

Chorus

Commissioning and Blessing

Go now faith family, like Abram, from what is comfortable and familiar.

We go with God's blessing, to become a blessing to all the earth.

Go now faith family, as Jesus calls, to be hospitable to those shunned.

We go to invite those who are outcasts to share table with us.

Go now faith family, as the Spirit leads us to heal divisions and alienation.

We go to welcome strangers into our midst and build community for all.

Let us follow our Lord's example and bless those around us.

He Manaakitanga

Kia tau ki a tātou katoa

Te atawhai o tō tātou Ariki,
a Ihu Karaiti

Me te aroha o te Atua

Me te whiwhingatahitanga

Ki te Wairua Tapu

Ake, ake, ake

Sung Amen (Threefold)

Benediction

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all
Forever and ever

Acknowledgements:

The following resources have been adapted or used in preparing this service:

Responsive Prayers and Prayers to Share / David Sparks.

The Prayer of Jesus (A Paraphrase) Jim Cotter, 1988.

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Scripture commentaries: Frank C. Senn, Michael C. McCarthy S. J., Richard A. Jensen, Craig M. Mueller.

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