



KAURIHOHORE / KAMO CO-OPERATING PARISH

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Sunday 9 November 2025 – Pentecost 22

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.

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

Welcome

Kia ora e te whanau, good morning faith family, welcome to worship at Kauri this morning. Today is the twenty second Sunday of the Season of Pentecost and we are approaching the end of the church year. Today's readings remind us that the love of God brings a new perspective to our lives. Jesus invites us to see things differently. As a result, we express our faith in new and fresh ways. Today, we will explore together what new song our community might sing as we live into the love of God.

We hear, in Jesus' response to a tricky question about the resurrection and in the psalmist's call to praise, an invitation to see life anew. In this time of discernment, we are challenged to discover fresh songs of faith and innovative ways of being the people of God in our communities.

Our focus value today is togetherness, and it is together as a faith family that we can join in creating the new song God is calling us to sing in this community. The more voices we include, the richer the sound we can make.

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

Call to Worship

Let us sing to God a new song this day, for God has done marvellous things.

Let us make a joyful noise to God, in our singing and in our praise.

Let the oceans roar and the mountains sing for joy.

For the Lord of Love is present here and throughout his whole creation.

He judges rightly bringing equity to everyone.

Let us come and worship our God.

Opening Prayer

O God, you come to us afresh in the newness of this day.

Help us to see you in the new and in the familiar, the fresh flower, the surprising sight, the haunting sound, the reassuring presence.

As we gather to worship you this day, open our eyes to see you anew.

Open our ears to hear your word as if for the first time.

Open our hearts to know your love in our lives. **Amen.**

Hymn HFTC 197: [Joy to the World](#)

(Lyrics: I Watts, Tune: Antioch)

Centring Prayer

Loving and compassionate God, we are a hopeful and a broken people, with mixed dreams and fears, and we bring our lives before you.

When we are stubborn and stuck in our ways

melt our coldness and rigidity.

When we are caught in the dirge of our own making,

put a new song on our lips and a dance in our bodies.

When we are rigid in our ways and quick to judge others

ignite our imaginations and inspire us with new possibilities.

When we fail to hear and see your loving grace about us

open our ears and eyes to your awesome grace.

God, who makes all things new,

soak us in your grace and plant a new song in our hearts.

Fill us with your renewing, transforming love that we may echo the joy of your creativity throughout the world. **Amen.**

Readings: *(New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised)*

Psalm 98

The psalmist calls for a new song to be sung to God in celebration of God's steadfast love and faithfulness. Not only will this song be made with instruments and human voices, but also the sea, the rivers, and the mountains will sing with joy to God.

Psalm 98

Praise the Judge of the World

¹ O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.

His right hand and his holy arm
have gained him victory.

² The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.

⁴ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

⁵ Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.

⁸ Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy

⁹ at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming
to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

Luke 20:27–38

When some Sadducees present Jesus with a tricky question about relationships after we die, Jesus explains that resurrected life is different from earthly life and argues that we cannot think or talk of it in the same terms as the life we experience here.

The Question about the Resurrection

²⁷ Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him ²⁸ and asked him a question, ‘Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man^[a] shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. ²⁹ Now there were seven brothers; the first married and died childless; ³⁰ then the second ³¹ and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. ³² Finally the woman also died. ³³ In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.’

³⁴ Jesus said to them, ‘Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; ³⁵ but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. ³⁶ Indeed they cannot die any more, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. ³⁷ And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. ³⁸ Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.’

Reflection

Both of our scripture passages this morning use picturesque symbolic language, or if you prefer use language in symbolic ways to evoke mental pictures. They stimulate our imaginations.

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song” ... “Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy”.

Imagine, waves racing up the harbour clapping their hands in time with Parihaka and Parekiore as they bellow forth their song of love to their creator. All this because he is coming to sort out the mess of the world and make everything fair and right again. Everyone will have enough to eat, and nobody will go hungry. Everyone will have a warm dry safe home to live in and know they are loved and cared for. All those in prisons of concrete and steel or addiction and poverty or loneliness and isolation will be set free to live full lives. Now that’s a song worth singing.

Have you ever seen a musician create a song or piece of music using a loop pedal? You can find lots of videos on the Internet demonstrating how this is done. The musician records a short phrase of music and then adds a new melody or harmony over the top. This can be done many times. It produces a song or piece of music that sounds like a whole orchestra, band or choir.

When we come together in community, we can be like music created by a loop pedal. Each of us brings our own tune and our own rhythm. When we add our own flavour to the song, we create something new and exciting.

What kind of tune or beat would you add to the community song?

In what areas of your life do you become stuck and unable to see new ways of being or living?

Where do you see 'new songs being sung' in our faith community? What do they tell you about how God is working?

What new song do you think our community might like, or need, to hear from our faith community?

That is the challenge we are facing as we work through this year of discernment.

Our second scripture passage this morning also uses language in symbolic ways to evoke mental pictures. For many, however, the pictures this story evokes are far from joyous. The Sadducees poked fun at what they saw as false teaching. But Jesus challenges their belittling of the belief in resurrection. Belief in resurrection was one way the Jewish people coped mentally and spiritually with what they saw as the injustice of the world.

Andrew Doubleday comments that many people in our day are terrified of dying. I suspect one of the reasons for this terror is speculation based on various teaching and beliefs people have developed about death, judgement and resurrection. Think for a moment of the pictures you have seen of Judgement Day. There is one prominently displayed on the Seventh Day Adventist Church building in Kensington. It is no wonder some would find such a prospect terrifying. If you think of God as a vengeful judge and you know all the times you have acted in unloving or sinful ways, no wonder you would find the prospect of being confronted with your past life and all its deficiencies terrifying. Our imaginations can lead us into very frightening territory here.

On the other hand, some would see these images as pure speculation and think death is the end. There is nothing ahead. For them the prospect of death is perhaps frightening because it symbolises annihilation. But when you actually read what the scripture says Jesus refutes such speculation.

Jesus says the Sadducees have built their imagination around their experience of this life. That is not how Jesus sees resurrection. There is no more death so no need to fear it. No more marriage so no need to fear having no children. He emphasises that it is all about connection. We are accepted as children of God. God is God of the living who connect with him, and that connection is what counts for ever. Nothing to fear. "Some of the teachers of the law responded, "Well said, teacher!" And no one dared to ask him any more questions."

Maybe that is where we should leave it too. Imagination is a powerful force for good or evil and much of the speculation around death and resurrection has done little to comfort or strengthen people to face the real difficulties of this life or to motivate them to build this world into the Kingdom of God as Jesus called us to do. That is the journey of Faith.

Death is real, but focussing on death and speculating on the hereafter is neither constructive nor biblical. Jesus redirects us to focus on our real relationship with the living God in this life, for this is where we can live out our faith and make a difference. This is where we can join with the rest of creation to sing songs with the waves and the hills here and now. Songs of liberation from want and fear, from slavery and not being counted, songs of freedom to live as God intended in Love and Joy.

Hymn FFS 14: Faith Has Set Us On A Journey

Lyrics: Shirley Murray Tune: Hyfrydol)

1. Faith has set us on a journey
past the landmarks that we know,
taking risks with no insurance
but the Word that tells us "Go!"
 Friend or job or home or lover
 we may need to leave behind,
 outworn truths and ways of thinking,
 baggage to the past consigned.
2. Some are swags of easy conscience
 who with others hitch a ride,
some are tourist-package Christians,
dollar-safe, with Book and guide.
 There are others on this journey --
 those who long and pray and search,
 heave the stones to free the structures,
 love the Christ and leave the Church.
3. We are this unlikely people
 in the Body knit as one,
company of clowns and cripples --
some are wise and some can run.
 Prophets are our travel agents,
 gospel-makers lay this road:
 to the place of peace and promise
 faith will take us into God.

Community Time: Notices; Celebrations; Concerns for Prayer

Prayer for Others:

(Let us pause for a while as we pray for those we have just heard of)

Compassionate God, at times, our world seems bleak and full of despair.

We feel helpless in the face of the overwhelming need.

As we pray together, may we bring a little colour and light—one person, one situation, one corner of the world.

Colourful God, remind us daily that your love and life can make all things new.

May our prayers and our compassion be part of the healing of the world.

Amen.

Hymn HFTC 236: [May We, O Holy Spirit, Bear Your Fruit](#)

(Lyrics: P Wigmore, Tune: Ellers)

1. May we, O Holy Spirit, bear your fruit
your joy and peace pervade each word we say;
may love become of life the very root,
and grow more deep and strong with every day.
2. May patience stem the harmful word and deed,
and kindness seek the good among the wrong;
may goodness far beyond our lips proceed,
as manifest in action as in song.
3. May faithfulness endure, yet as we grow
may gentleness lend courage to the weak;
and in our self-restraint help us to know
the grace that made the King of Heaven meek.

Offertory Prayer:

Giver of all good gifts, receive and bless our offerings, our time and talents, our hopes and despairs, the whole fabric of our lives, that we may be your peace, your joy, and your love in our community and in the world.

Amen.

Hymn: AA 8: Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You

(Lyrics: Richard Gallard, Tune: Richard Gallard arr. V. Fleetwood)

1. Brother, sister, let me serve you
Let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I might have the grace to
Let you be my ser-vant 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 be-ar 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 lo--ng 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 jour-ney 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 ag—ony.

6. Will you let me be your servant
Let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I might have the grace to
Let you be my ser---vant too.

Commissioning and Blessing

As we go from this place to sing a new song to our God, in our life, our actions, our loving, let us go knowing that the blessing of God, Creator, Sustainer, and Spirit is with us in each note, each pause, and each beat. Go now to join with the hills as they sing together in Joy.

Amen (Sung threefold)

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