



Kaurihohore Historic Church

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Kaurihohore / Kamo Co-operating Parish

Sunday 13 October 2024 – Pentecost 21

The service this morning has been prepared by
Rev Freddy De Alwis

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.

After the service you are invited to share in a morning tea in the kitchen or on the deck.

Community time during the service is a good opportunity to ask for prayers for yourself or others. If you, or someone you know, would appreciate a visit from one of our **Pastoral Network Team**, please speak to the service leader.

*You are invited to stand if you are able,
for the hymns and the offering prayer*

Welcome and Introduction:

Sentence: It was you who brought me safely through birth, and when I was a baby, you kept me safe. I have relied on you since the day I was born, and you have always been my God. *Psalm 22:9-10.*

Call to Worship:

A thought for a silent meditation.....*walking into the arms of protection, the embrace of safety. You wait there for me; there is never any doubt you are there. Chaos can enter my mind; many alien forms can cloud my heart. Yet since I was very young, I have known that in this place, at your holy presence I can be re-found, renewed and re-formed...*

Happy are we who hope in Creator God, who keeps faith forever.
This is the Compassionate One who brings justice to the oppressed,
who holds the vulnerable close in love,
who feeds the hungry with good food,
and liberates the hearts of all.

**Happy are we who trust in Divine Gift-giver
to provide us with all we need:
daily bread to strengthen the body,
flavorful oil to delight the senses,
relationships strong and fulfilling,
tasks that give purpose to life.
May our happy hearts worship God.**

Hymn HFTC 283: [All Things Bright and Beautiful](#)

(Cecil Frances Alexander)

Community Time:

Prayer of Confession and Healing:

Jesus, hope of the world,
we confess that you are not always our first priority.
The busyness of life, the need to succeed,
often replaces our need to be in relationship with you.
The ease with which we are distracted from you is more interesting than
meditation.

**God have mercy.
In your mercy forgive our ignorance.**

Jesus, God Incarnate,
we confess that you are not always reflected in our lives.
Peer pressure, the need to fit in,
more important than noticing the pain of another.
The excitement of congratulations and praise
more energising than compassion.

**God have mercy.
In your mercy forgive our ignorance.**

Jesus the Christ, the visible presence of God,
we are confessing that you are not always our model of success
Our limited vision of what it means to love unconditionally – blurred.
Forgive us for placing restrictions on our love for you Lord.

**God have mercy.
In your mercy forgive our ignorance.**

God is a God of mercy.
God is a God of grace.
Because of this when we ask for forgiveness with open, honest
and repentant hearts,
God says to us: your sins are forgiven.

Amen thanks be to God.

Hymn FFS 11: [Come, Teach Us, Spirit of Our God](#)

(Lyrics: Shirley Murray Tune: Richmond)

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 paths 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!

First Reading: Psalm 22: 1-10 (Page 857)

Second Reading: Mark 10: 17-23 (Page 1574)

Message: The Rich Young Man is Asked to Become Poor Before Becoming His Disciple.

Text: Mark 10:17 a man came running

Matthew 19: 22, rich young man

Only Matthew says that he was young.....

Only Luke says he was a ruler.....Lk 18: 18.....

Gospel According to the Hebrews: (which was one of the very early gospels which failed to be included in the NT).

The second of the rich men said to him, 'Master, what good thing can I do and live?' He said unto him, 'O man, fulfill the law and the prophets.' He answered him, 'I have kept them.' He said unto him, 'Go and sell all that thou ownest, and distribute it unto the poor, and, come, follow me.' But the rich man began to scratch his head, and it pleased him not. And the Lord said unto him, 'How sayest thou, I have kept the law and the prophets? For it is written in the law: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself; and lo. Many of thy brethren, sons of Abraham, are in filth, dying of hunger, and thine house is full of many good things, and nought at all goeth out of it unto them.' "

To understand this, is to know Him; to practice this, is to follow Him.

Poverty, is not merely a material rejection of wealth, because mammon is much more than money...Mammon is what I do with money and what it does to me.

This story, again, intends to be experienced rather than explained - experienced in a way that keeps us focused on the real-life demands of discipleship, on the seriousness of the new community, the kingdom of God, and the journeys that promise that God's salvation is possible.

Here is a deeply religious person so well-mannered in his practices. But he can sense that there is **more** out there than what he has experienced so far. He asks Jesus about the "**more**," but his question focuses on what needs to be added or the next step, but he discovers instead that eternal life entails interaction with their neighbour and their whole self. The major thing that was asked was to become poor before becoming his follower or disciple.

How hard it will be for rich people to enter the kingdom of God, vs. 23, Lk 6: 20-24, It is too difficult for them unless God's miraculous intervention helps them. (Story of Zacchaeus, Luke 19: 1-10).

This event very clearly describes Christ's own attitudes and the pattern of behaviour.

To understand this, is to know him; to practice this, is to follow him.

Here is the key to the whole passage. The young man claimed to have kept the law, but for Jesus if he kept the commandments? the law? or teaching of the prophets? His neighbour would not die in hunger.

Poverty is the most lucrative business talk in our days. Poverty has become an enjoyable Mammon for the ...Church, INGO's NGO's ... Governments. But the poor are still in hunger & dying without basic needs being met. Poverty is an absolute fact in the world today.

Quote: Leonardo Boff: Speaks about different kinds of Poverty ...Voluntary Poverty & Forced Poverty.

Voluntary Poverty is '**Liberating**': In our biblical passage Jesus was asking this young man to give up his wealth and follow him, that is the first step for his liberation or salvation.

Forced Poverty, is the fruit of structural social SIN, it has no right to exist, if we keep the commandments of God.

We recall the story of Lazarus.

Gandhi put it well when he said, 'There is enough for everyone's need but there is not enough for everyone's greed.'

Wealth therefore, is an evil only when it is accumulated. Bread too is a SIN against the body of Christ, if consumed by a few, while others starve (see 1 Cor 11: 21 ff). But when it broken and shared, it becomes a holy sacrament.

If wealth, too, is distributed "according to need" so there will be no needy person, see Act 4: 34 – 35. It ceases to be Mammon it becomes a holy sacrament.

Hymn: Great God, Whose Love Enfolds Us All

(Lyrics: Jan Chamberlin

Tune: Love Divine)

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 around the world
of Christians everywhere:
we pray that they may know your care;
and so, great God, may we.

Prayers of the People & Intercessory Prayers:

Contemporary Lord's Prayer:

Let us pray together:

**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 echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the people 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 for ever.
Amen.**

Offertory Prayer:

Hymn HFTC 545: [Be Thou My Vision](#)

(Mary Elizabeth Byrne)

Benediction & Grace:

As you look into the heart of another, try and recognise the touch of God
As you look into the face of another, try and recognise the Christ within.
As you hear the words of another, look for the prompting of the Holy Spirit.
(With this understanding let us bless one another)

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.
Amen, Amen, Amen.**