



# Kaurihohore Historic Church

P O Box 4118, Te Kamo, Whangārei 0141



## Kaurihohore / Kamo Co-operating Parish Sunday 22 October 2023 – Pentecost 21

Our Service today has been prepared by Rev Freddy De Alwis

### **Welcome and Introduction:**

**Sentence:** Praise the Lord our God, and worship at His Holy Mountain!  
for the Lord our God is Holy. Psalms 99:9.

**Call to Worship:** *(please read aloud together the words in bold)*

*Silence....*

Spirit of God encourages us on our journey of faith.  
Spirit of God unites us in our expression of faith.  
Spirit of God surprises us with a new awareness of faith.  
Spirit of God awaken us to your presence  
As we bring our worship and praise  
To the one who is truly God.

**Come, Holy Spirit come!**  
**Come, Holy Spirit come!**

God of the past, the present and the future;  
come, be with us,  
Accept who we are.  
Hear our inner most thoughts.  
and open our inner eyes so that we may see you,  
and know you more in our hearts and minds.  
Through Jesus Christ we prayer. **Amen.**

**Hymn: Be Still, For the Presence of the Lord** - Mission Praise 50

1. Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One is here.  
Come bow before Him now,  
with reverence and fear.  
In Him no sin is found,  
We stand on Holy ground.  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One is here.
2. Be still, for the glory of the Lord,  
is shining all around;  
He burns with holy fire,  
with splendour He is crowned.  
How awesome is the sight,  
our radiant King of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around.
3. Be still for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place,  
He comes to cleanse and heal,  
to minister His grace.  
No work too hard for Him,  
in faith receive from Him;  
Be still for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place.

**Prayer of Healing and Reconciliation**

God of all our yesterdays,  
hear the cries of your children.  
Alone and afraid.  
we stumble in the darkness of our lives  
searching for something familiar and recognisable.

**Be our reassurance-  
our hope for a new day.**

Comfort all children who yearn for safety,  
Who long for family, and who need love.

God of each new day,  
hear the pain we feel in our hearts and bodies.  
Sunrise radiates warmth around us

**but it is gradually jaded  
by what ultimately overwhelms us.**

Show us your healing touch  
where we need it most in our lives.

**Send your Holy Spirit  
to open the closed windows of our lives  
so we may be refreshed by her love.**

God of Known and unknown,  
journey with us along the road of life.  
We do not know what waits before us.

**Be our courage, be our hope.  
Be our source of inspiration.**

Hear the cries of our weary souls.  
Show us your mercy in our time of need.  
Grant us your peace in our distress.  
Bring us into closer relationship with you.

**Strengthen us, encourage us, renew and restore us.  
Bring healing to our lives; our loved ones;  
to all people who feel pain and heartache.  
May all experience the certainty of your grace.  
Amen.**

*(Keree Louise Casey)*

### **Community Time: Notices and Celebrations**

**Hymn: I Heard the Voice of Jesus** – WOV 500 – (*Tune: Vox dilecti*)

1. I heard the voice of Jesus  
say:  
Come unto me and rest;  
Lay down, thou weary one, lay  
down  
Thy head upon my breast!  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
Weary, and worn, and sad:  
I found in him my resting  
place,  
And he has made me glad.

2. I heard the voice of Jesus  
say:  
Behold, I freely give  
The living water; thirsty one,  
Stoop down and drink and  
live!  
I came to Jesus and I drank  
Of that life-giving stream:  
My thirst was quenched, my  
soul revived.  
And now I live in him.

3. I heard the voice of Jesus say:  
I am this dark world's Light:  
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise,  
And all thy day be bright!  
I looked to Jesus and I found  
In him my star, my sun;  
And in that light of life I'll walk  
Till travelling days are done.

Horatio Bonar

**First Reading:** Micah 6:1-8

**Second Reading:** Matthew 22:15-22

**Reflection on Scriptures:**

***“Coined in the Image of God” - Matt 22:15- 22***

Pharisees, Religious leaders and the business owners were angry, fearful, and perhaps a bit embarrassed. They were looking for some kind of revenge.

Jesus has been coming down very hard on the establishment, the religious leaders. Jesus rides into town and goes to the temple where he drives out the merchants and overthrows the money changers' tables. Then he calls them a bunch of thieves. That really makes the chief priests and scribes angry. **“Who do you think you are?”** “By what authority are you doing these things,” they ask him.

He doesn't answer them. Instead, he says that they are like a disobedient kid, worse than the very people they judge and condemn as disobedient. But he doesn't stop there.

He tells them a story about tenants of a vineyard who steal from the landlord and murder his son. They realize he is not talking about tenants of a vineyard. He is talking about them.

They decide to get him but they are scared of the crowds. But enough is enough. The religious leaders plot together to trap Jesus. They brought Herodians to support them, that means they joined forces with the party that supports Rome's domination. Politics, power, anger, and fear are a dangerous combination that even can make alliances.

**They start with flattery** verse 16.. “We know that you tell the truth, you teach the truth about God, without worrying about what people think, because you pay no attention to their status...” They are buttering him up; hoping Jesus will buy into the trap. “What do you think,” they ask. **“Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?”**

**Answer yes or no.**

If you are a trial lawyer you would admire their question. **If Jesus says yes**, he will lose his followers and all those are dead against Roman taxation and the daily reminder that they are dominated by a foreign power.

**If he says no**, he will be charged as a revolutionary. Rome's supporters, the Herodians, were there as witnesses.

We've got to understand that this question is not about taxes, the government, Roman occupation of Palestine, or the separation of church and state. It was to trap Jesus. The Pharisees and Herodians didn't care what the answer was. Either way they've got him.

**1. The questions may be different, but the Pharisaic-Herodian conspiracy is still a part of our world today.**

It's played out every time to simplify complex issues like; Military occupations, War or War for Peace? And the concept of Right to Defend? In these scenarios people and communities can be Categorized and Labelled, put into pigeon holes, and manipulated.

- **Do you support the Occupation of Russians in Ukraine?**
- **Do you support the Occupation of Israel in Palestine for 56 years?**
- **Do you support America's wars** against North Korea, Afghanistan, Iraq, and now Proxy war against Russians etc.
- **Is it impossible for Jews, Muslims, Christians and other faiths to live together?**

**2. In whatever form it takes, the Pharisees - Herodian conspiracy was about power, manipulation, and pushing their own agenda.**

That always destroys relationships and undermines faiths. Sadly, that is all too evident today in our socio/political and economic systems as well as in our churches.

Jesus, however, will not allow himself to be used, manipulated, or co-opted by anyone: the **Pharisees**, the **Herodians**, or by **us or church**.

He asks them whose image is on the tax coin. "The emperor's," they answer. "Give therefore to the emperor the things that belong to the emperor and to God the things that belong to God."

If there was a trial lawyer they might stand up and say, "Objection, your honour. The answer is **unresponsive**. The question calls for a **yes** or **no** answer."

- Jesus refuses to play the game that was carefully designed. He doesn't answer their question; at least not in the way they want. **Instead, he deepens the question and turns it into a question of faith and life.**

**3. If the coin belongs to the emperor, then human beings belong to God.** Each has been marked with the image of its owner. **We have been coined in the image of God.**

As the Book of Common Prayer, says, we have been “sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ’s own for ever.”

- **Knowing this** (We have been coined in the image of God).

What does faithfulness look like in the issues which we struggle with?

It’s a hard question, the answer neither easy nor quick. For most of us it is the work of a lifetime. Jesus does not offer simple yes or no type answers. So why should we? Faithfulness demands more than that. It means we are continually learning to pay attention to the Holy Spirit, to surrender, and render to God, ourselves and one another. How will you do that for yourselves and those you love and your neighbour.

- **The key is to know to whom we belong.**

It’s one of those answers, however, that cannot be told or taught, only experienced and learned. Faithfulness is more about struggle and experience than it is about the answer. Get the image right with God and most everything else will follow.

There will always be issues to address: taxes, economics, church-state relationships, war, LGBTQ, abortion, capital punishment, personal finances, marriage, children and family life. The list goes on and on. Some are global while others are more local and personal.

- **The danger is that in dealing with these issues we sometimes get confused, forget or deny in whose image we and “our neighbours” have been coined.**

“Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” Jesus is not separating the secular and the sacred, spirit and matter, divine and human. He is inviting us to hold them in tension; to unite the two and in so doing become the currency of God’s life in the world.

**What God wants or what can we give to God?** Micah 6:8, God has given us knowledge to understand what is good and bad, do good, show constant love to one another and be humble and walk with God.

Hymn: We Give Thanks – With Heart and Voice 33 (Tune: Converse)

1. We give thanks, O God, creator  
for our lovely native land:  
mountains, rivers, lakes and forest,  
roaring seas and golden sands.  
Ours is called the lucky country;  
some would say it is God's own.  
We've done nothing to deserve it  
all this bounty is on loan.

2. Help us not to be complacent  
that we work and play in peace:  
while our friends in other countries  
live with wars that never cease.  
May we never take for granted  
doctors, schools and winter heat;  
when our neighbours struggle daily  
just get enough to eat.

3. As we tread our daily pathway  
show us how to love and give  
teach us how to care for others  
live as you would have us live.  
If we are the lucky country  
blessed with wealth and beauty rare  
may we know our obligations  
all our riches here to share.

*Jan Chamberlin*

**Prayers of the People & Intercessory Prayers:**  
**Lord's Prayer**

**Offertory Prayer:**

Hymn: God is Here! – HFTC 560

F. Pratt Green 1903

**The Thanksgiving** (Please stand if you are able)

The Lord is here.

**God's Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

With all your people in heaven and on earth we give you thanks, Holy Father, for Jesus Christ, through whom all things are made; who in the fullness of time became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth; who in obedience suffered death on the cross, and was raised in triumph that we might have life. Therefore we worship and praise you saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of love and grace, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest; Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.**

**Breaking of the bread:** (People may sit)

Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread.

Having blessed it, He broke the bread and gave to His disciples, saying, "This is my body which is given for you". In the same way Jesus took the wine, and having given thanks for it, He poured it out and gave the cup to His disciples, saying, "This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood".

**In sharing this bread and wine, we remember the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, the one who shared His life with the poor, the oppressed, the one who lived, was crucified, and raised to new life in God.**

In sharing this bread and wine

**we commit ourselves again to follow Jesus in the Way of the cross,**  
to share His pain and His joy  
**and to claim the promise of new life for the entire creation.**

In sharing this bread and wine

**we celebrate the faith that gives us life and hope,**  
we celebrate the journey we begin with one another this day,  
**a journey of mutual understanding and companionship,**  
and we commit ourselves to reflect in the life of the Church today  
**the presence we know in the breaking of bread. Amen.**

Come Holy Spirit, touch this bread and this cup that we might find food and drink for our faith journey. **Amen.**

By the sharing of this bread and wine, may we bring each other into fullness of life. **Amen.**

**Sharing the Bread and Wine:**

**Prayer after Communion:** (Pray together)

**Gracious God, we give you thanks, for satisfying our hungry hearts, with this holy meal shared, in the Spirit with Jesus, your Son, our Lord. Strengthened and refreshed, we go from here, to continue his work in the world, through our faithful witness, and loving service. This we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



Hymn: For the Healing of the Nations - Fred Kaan  
(Tune: CWM Rhondda)

1. For the healing of the nations,  
Lord, we pray with one accord,  
for a just and equal sharing  
of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action  
help us rise and pledge our  
word. x2
2. Lead us forward into freedom,  
from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and  
hatred,  
all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and  
goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.  
x2
3. All that kills abundant living,  
let it from the earth be banned:  
pride of status, race or  
schooling,  
dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow brief life's span.  
X2
4. You, Creator God, have written  
your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness  
bring the life of Christ to mind;  
that by our response and service  
earth its destiny may find.

**Benediction & Grace:**

Go in the peace of God, the love of Christ  
and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit.

Go now to love and serve!

**We go in the name of the Christ.**

**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.**