



Kaurihohore Historic Church

Email: kaurichurch@gmail.com

Phone: 946 0813



Kaurihohore / Kamo Co-operating Parish

Sunday 24 November 2024 – Reign Of Christ

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.

Humility: we recognise we do not have all the answers but are prayerfully journeying together as we try to seek them.

After the service you are invited to share in morning tea either 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.

Welcome and Introduction:

Sentence:

You are all around me on every side; you protect me with your arm.

Your knowledge of me is too deep; it is beyond my understanding.

Psalm 139: 5-6

Call to Worship:

Gentle nurturing God,
with open arms you welcome your children into your presence.

Young and old, male and female all openly encouraged to participate in the fullness of life through your Son Jesus Christ.

We are your people together on a pilgrim journey.

Strong loving God,
you call each of us to enter into a relationship with you and each other
so that your love may be shared with the whole of your creation.

As partners in faith, call us towards the light of hope and the promise of new life.

We are your people together on a pilgrim journey.

Revealing God,
eyes are closed and ears are deaf to the sound of your Word.

Encourage us as people called to serve you to be faithful witnesses to the gospel of Jesus Christ in whatever situation life places us in this world.

We are your people together on a pilgrim journey.

God of truth. Wise all-knowing God.

Unite us in our quest for wholeness so that gender, race or sexual preference are never barriers to your salvation.

Bind us together with the continuous thread of your all-accepting love.

Amen, we are your people together on a pilgrim journey.

(Keree Louise Casey)

Hymn HFTC 40: [Praise to the Lord, the Almighty](#)

Joachim Neander, 1650-80 tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1829-78

Community Time:

Prayer of Confession and Healing: Psalm 32 (selection)

Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven,
whose sin is put out of sight!

Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty!

I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, “I will confess my rebellion to the Lord.”

And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.

Therefore, let all the godly pray to you while there is still time, that they may not drown in the floodwaters of judgment.

For you are my hiding place; you protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of victory.

The Lord says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.

So rejoice in the Lord and be glad, all you who obey him! Shout for joy, all you whose hearts are pure!

Amen, thanks be to God.

Hymn AA 59: [He Came Singing Love](#)

1. He came singing LOVE
and he lived singing love;
He died, singing love.
He arose in silence.
For the love to go on
We must make it our song:
You and I be the singers.
2. He came singing FAITH
and he lived singing faith;
He died, singing faith.
He arose in silence.
For the faith to go on
We must make it our song:
You and I be the singers.
3. He came singing HOPE
and he lived singing hope;
He died, singing hope.
He arose in silence.
For the hope to go on
We must make it our song:
You and I be the singers.

Reading: John 18: 33 - 38

Reader: Rosalie

Sermon: “And What is Truth?”

John: 18: 33-38

I find it interesting that in today’s society and the church, we have many ways of talking about the ‘truth’. We encourage young people to **“tell” the truth**; we want our legal system to **“defend” the truth**. Our churches encourage us to **“seek” the truth**, and our faith asks us to **“imitate and live” the truth**.

MCNZ on Treaty Principles Bill stated: *“We recognise Te Tiriti as a covenant between tangata whenua and tauwiwi, grounded in a theological understanding of covenantal partnership. For Te Hāhi Weteriana, this sacred covenant calls us to be a prophetic voice for justice and **truth**. Our bicultural journey is a spiritual commitment to power-sharing and mutual respect, one that reflects our belief in the transforming love of God for all people.”*

What is truth?

Recently I received a set of email correspondence which told a story of an exchange between former Franciscan priest, Leonardo Boff, and the current Dalai Lama.

The story begins with Boff’s question to the Dalai: “What is the best religion”? The Dalai answers in some detail, following further questions, and eventually concludes with this sentence: **“There is no higher religion than truth.”**

This answer reminds me in John 18:38 Pontius Pilate’s asked Jesus: **“What is truth?”**. Jesus had been explaining to Pilate that he was “witness to the truth”, among other things, and this comment of Jesus obviously provoked Pilate’s search for the meaning of “the Truth”.

Pilate knew that the charges of the Jews were a series of lies, and he knew that Jesus was completely innocent.

1st Tried to refuse to deal with the case.

2nd Release Jesus on the grounds that at Passover a criminal was always releases.

3rd Punish Jesus and release.

But nothing works for Pilate. The Jews blackmailed him into crucifying Jesus - if you let him go, you are not Caesar’s friend.

He wanted to do the right thing, but he didn’t have the courage. Pilate crucified Jesus in order to keep his job.

What is truth???

Deganawinda: Native Americans, influenced Benjamin Franklin to establish democracy on the basis of **TRUTH**. Deganawinda, who formulated The Twelve Cycles of Truth: 1, learning the truth; 2, honouring the truth; 3, accepting the truth; 4, observing the truth; 5, hearing the truth; 6, presenting the truth; 7, loving the truth; 8, serving the truth;

9, living the truth; 10, working the truth; 11, walking the truth; 12, being grateful for the truth.

The Buddha's first sermon after his Enlightenment centred on the Four Noble Truths, which are the foundation of Buddhism. The truths are:

1. The truth of suffering (*dukkha*)
2. The truth of the cause of suffering (*samudaya*)
3. The truth of the end of suffering (*nirhodha*)
4. The truth of the path that frees us from suffering (*magga*)

The Cycles doesn't answer the question "What is truth?" The four noble truths - indicate that the **truth is often a moving target, and that we must continuously "cycle"** through various **approaches to truth**, rather than settle too much into one expression of it. The truth manifests itself for a time until a larger and richer version appears as a result of our collective "cycling".

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth.

Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." Jesus said; I am the way, the truth and the life....John 14:6.

*It seems to me Lord
that we search
much too desperately
for answers
when a good question
holds as much grace
as an answer.*

*Jesus
you are the Great Questioner.
Keep our questions alive
that we may always be seekers
rather than settlers.*

*Guard us well
from the sin of settling in
with our answers
hugged to our breasts.*

*Make of us
a wondering
far-sighted
questioning
restless people.
And give us the feet of pilgrims on this journey unfinished. Amen.*

(Wiederkehr, 1991, p.188).

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer:

Offertory Prayer:

Greeting of Peace:

The peace of God be with you all.

And with you also.

Let us greet one another with a sign of peace.

Hymn AA100: [Now to Your Table Spread](#)

1. Now to your table spread we come, each one, in faith
that you alone provide the words of life and death:
in wine and bread, in promised food
we find your loving heart, O God.

2. Hands of the world stretch out, your mystery to touch
in longing to believe a truth beyond our reach,
to sing in joy, to cry in grief,
to know your meaning for our life.

3. Here is our common wealth in sharing what is good,
as though all humankind around one table stood,
this bread to break, this wine to taste –
one people in the name of Christ.

The Great Thanksgiving

(The People Stand As They 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 power and might, 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.

Preparation: *(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.**

Breaking of the Bread:

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, and 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 – Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah 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. X2

Benediction & Grace:

Go now to love and serve

We go in the name of Christ.

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

Sung Amen *(Three-fold)*