



Kaurihohore Historic Church

P O Box 4118, Kamo, Whangarei 0141



Kaurihohore / Kamo Co-operating Parish Sunday 13 March 2022 – Lent 2

Our service today is led by Freddy De Alwis

We are saddened that we are unable to welcome those into our midst who do not have Vaccine Passes. We will continue to provide emailed, posted or hand-delivered service outlines for those unable to participate in person, and also to find creative ways of doing Church so all are included in some way.

To prepare for sharing in this service I invite you to arrange 7 candles which can be used over the next few weeks leading up to Easter. Light them all before you begin your Worship time.

Welcome and Introduction:

Sentence: Christ takes away the veil that keeps people from seeing the truth.

As we look to the Lord, we become more and more like him. (2 Cor. 3: 12-4.2)

Call to Worship:

We call you our mother.

We call you our father.

We call you our friend.

**From many directions,
we greet you, O God of many names.**

We call you listener.

We call you prophet.

We call you healer.

**From many directions,
we greet you, O God of many names.**

We call you steady.

We call you disturbing.

We call you compassionate.

**From many directions,
we greet you, O God of many names**

No matter what we call you

and no matter where we meet you along

life's journey, we know:

Our many-named God calls to us and whispers our names.

We come to worship in community

accompanied by love too deep for words.

Let us Pray

Comforter God, with vivid dreams and bold visions, inspire us:

with tender love towards one another, renew us:

for it was your Spirit, alive with colour and breath,

Who led us to this holy place.

**May we speak and act authentically with one another,
so that together we will bear witness to the reconciling,
generous Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

(Keree Casey –of ash & rainbows)

Hymn FFS 11; Come, Teach Us, Spirit of God (Tune Richmond)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ofuC-QSxBGA>

Come, teach us, Spirit of our God,
the language of your way,
the lessons that we need to live,
the faith for every day.

Excite our minds to follow you,
to trace new paths in store,
new flight paths for our spirit space,
new marvels to explore:

Engage our wits to dance with you,
to leap from logic's base,
to capture insight on the wing,
to sense your cosmic grace:

Inspire our spark to light from you,
to catch creation's flair,
new artistry to celebrate,
new harmonies to dare:

Delight our hearts to worship you,
to learn compassion's code,
to live in context of your love,
great teacher who is God!

Shirley Murray

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 Peace, no war.
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)

Meditation:

On Sunday morning, for a brief space of time, we leave behind the world of home and work and school—the world where we have our lists of things to do, activities to participate in, tasks to complete. We come here this morning seeking something else.

We come here seeking a shift—from the ordinary to the sacred, from doing to being. I invite you to close your eyes. Let go of your list. Recall that it is the season of Lent. Remember the parable of the sower. The sower throws the seed . . . and where it lands determines if it will grow or not grow. Think of it this way: think of the season of Lent as the sower, the time when seeds of faith are thrown with special intensity, as a time a time when God calls to us in a low, urgent voice. Listen. Jesus is being drawn to Jerusalem. Where is God calling you to? What is God calling you to do?

(Silent time.)

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of injury done to the Earth and its ecosystems.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Let us pray:

All: Loving God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, may we be open to your presence. Give us the strength to make the changes that are needed in our lives and the courage to take on the work of transforming the world. Amen.

Hymn: FFS 79; *Who will carry the Cross with me Vs 1 & 2 only*

Who will carry the cross with me?

Asks the Christ, the Son of God,

Who will carry the cross with me,

Walk the way of love?

Who will turn then and follow me?

Asks the Christ, the Son of God,

Who will turn then and follow me,

Hear the call and come?

First Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

Second Reading: Luke 9:28-36

Message:

Luke 9: 28-36, Transfiguration Mountain Top Experiences.

Introduction; MK 9:2-9, Say that this happened 6 days after the incident at Caesarea Philippi. But according to LK after 8 days.

Mount Hermon 9200 feet high is much closer to **Caesarea Philippi**.

Before we dig into the content of the story or to this whole scenario, we must be able to understand the incident or what really happens at Caesarea Philippi.

Two things happen at Caesarea Philippi according to Mtt.

- ❓ **Personal Assessment of his Ministry**; Mtt 16:13, Tell me, who do people say that I am? Some say that you are John the Baptist, others say that you are Elijah or one of the prophets..... ok what about you? Who do you say that I am? Peter said You are the Messiah Son of the Living God. Even though Peter said it, I think he had a different understanding of Messiah. May be a political liberator? The one who can liberate them from the Roman Empire?
- ❓ **Main Objective of his Life**; Matt 16:21ff, The Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected by the elders, the chief priest, and the teachers of the law. He will be put to death, but three days later he will rise to life. He made it very clear to them. What did Peter do...Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. Vs 22.

Keep this in mind, as a background and let's go back to the main incident. Why did Jesus go up the mountain? Lk gives us a clue; he says that Jesus was praying 9:29. Jesus had to make sure beyond all doubt, that he was doing what God wished Him to do and it was God's will that He should go to Jerusalem. He needs to listen to the voice of God...consulting God...Is it God's will for me? What do you think, does it sound familiar, when we need to make a hard decision, when we are confused then we consult God...seek his will...?

Moses and Elijah; There is something about these two great servants of God; Moses and Elijah. Both had their most intimate experience of God on a mountain top, Moses at Mt Sinai, Elijah at Mt Horeb. Departures of both Moses and Elijah was remarkable, God called Moses to the Mt Nebo no one know what happened to him and Elijah was taken by God according to Elisha. So According to LK 9:31 Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus about **His Departure** in Jerusalem – Greek word exodos is the same as English word Exodus.

This word Exodus used in Israel's departure from Egypt. It was a journey in utter most trust in God's guidance, they went out from known to unknown, this is exactly what Jesus was going to do. The greatest of the law giver and the greatest of the prophets assure Jesus that he was on the right path and also the very voice of God was telling him that he was on right path.

For Jesus, transfiguration has two meaning: a, It was very important to him. This helps him to double check his decision and his intention to go to Jerusalem that means to face and accept the cross. **b, It was very important to his disciples.** They had been shaken and puzzled with fear when Jesus said that he is going to Jerusalem to die. That seemed to them the complete negation and denial of all that they wanted from a Messiah. So, transfiguration would have given them something to hold on to. Even they could not understand. But they heard God and acknowledge that Jesus is Son of God.

And his decision and his intention to go to Jerusalem that means to face and accept the cross.

They were so frightened they did not know what to say.....Peter said Master, It is well that we are here....he continues....Let us make three tents one for you**Jesus said let's go down.....**

When they came down from the mountain what did they see?. The real-life situation! This is the very kind of thing that Peter wanted to avoid. Peter must have thought that O My God! so many people with all kinds of problems, we should have stayed at the top of the Mt. and I told Jesus we can make three tents, he never listened...

- **Jesus said let's go down, to the people**

Last week we talked about the temptation of Christ and how this it applies to us in our own context. Mt. top experience also another kind of temptation to avoid the real situations in our world, community, family and in our own life.

- **The first temptation** (*lust of **flesh***)
- **The second temptation** (*lust of the **eye***)
- **The third temptation** (*pride of **life***)

Many of us have been challenged from time to time by these temptations **to be relevant, powerful, or great**. We can categorize them into two: One is strong egoism and weak egoism.

People with strong egoism, who think they can have what the devil is selling, (whole kingdoms under their power e.g. Putin, NATO and European Union power) even to do business with the devil, (weapons of mass destruction) so that they can be “**effective**”, be relevant and be powerful. But they end up doing damage to the communities and the whole world. E.g Iraq, Libya, Syria, Afghanistan etc..

People with weak ego ,... weak ego - the temptation to think of ourselves as irrelevant, powerless, useless. Both are self and community destructive, both are rooted in destructive illusion.

We see clearly Jesus’ ability to see through these illusions, and resistance against the devil. Responded faithfully and truthfully. It was not easy to resist all three temptations, it involved commitment, respect, sweat and blood. Right action is taken with integrity.

Without divining inspiration and guidance nobody can fight with the Principalities and Powers? These two realities are very important in the life of the Church as well as our personal journey with Christ. We all need the mountain top experience to experience the intimate relationship with God through prayer, reading the Bible, hearing God's message and encountering God in worship.

That encounter gives us the power to go into our communities, our context with the power of God. The challenge for us today is, are we prepared to go up to the mountain? And are we prepared to go down to the people? To heal the wounds, heal the broken hearts, and are we ready to confront the powers who dominate and crush God’s creation.

The choice is ours. We need the mountaintop experience to encounter God. The encounter is to go down to the people. That is the meaning of the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ for us. Amen.

“Show me... your ways
teach me... the word of life
guide me... Lord
instruct me and keep me in your protection”

Hymn HFTC 115; *Christ Upon the Mountain Peak*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pR90sgbEio>

Lord's Prayer

Hymn; FFS 32 - *God Who Sets Us on a Journey* (Tune Hyfrydol)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n70yB-qoZw>

God who sets us on a journey
To discover, dream and grow,
Lead us as you led your people
In the desert long ago;
Journey inward, journey outward
Stir the spirit, stretch the mind;
Love for God and self and neighbour,
Marks the way that Christ defined.

Exploration brings new insights,
Changes, choices we must face;
Give us wisdom in deciding,
Mindful always of your grace;
Should we stumble lose our bearings,
Find it hard to know what's right,
We regain our true direction
Focused on the Jesus light.

End our longing for the old days,
Grant the vision that we lack –
Once we've started on this journey
There can be no turning back;
Let us travel light, discarding
Excess baggage from our past,
Cherish only what's essential,
Choosing treasure that will last.

When we set up camp and settle
To avoid love's risk and pain,
You disturb complacent comfort,
Pull the tent-pegs up again;
Keep us travelling in the knowledge
You are always at our side,
Give us courage for the journey,
Christ our goal and Christ our guide.

Joy Dine

Benediction & Grace:

God of ash and rainbows,
Awaken within us life-bringing seed of hope,
Starlet us with the beauty of your renewing love.
Water us with the gentle rain of your Spirit.
Show us the creative possibilities within us.
Go into this week 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. Amen, Amen, Amen.

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

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