



Kaurihohore Historic Church

P O Box 4118, Kamo, Whangarei 0141



Kaurihohore / Kamo Co-operating Parish

Sunday 27 February 2022 – Covenant Service

Our service today is led by Rev 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.

Welcome and Introduction:

The Covenant service often celebrated at the beginning of the year, is at the heart of Methodists' devotion and discipleship, and their dedication in working for social justice. In the service the Church joyfully celebrates God's gracious offer to His people that "I will be their God and they shall be my people".

Sentence: "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. Jeremiah 31:33.

Call to Worship:

We come into this sacred space in need of community, assurance, comfort, healing and wholeness.

Our presence in this place testifies that weeping may linger for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

This is not a time to deny the challenges we face or to bury our burdens with easy religious talk. Rather, we recognize the healing, restoring presence of God revealed in surprising ways and we are moved to pray.

You have turned our sadness into dancing; you have taken off our sackcloth and clothed us with joy.

Let us celebrate our growing wholeness and worship the One in whom all things are possible.

God of surprises, you are all around us. Thank you for your grace – for the free gift of your never-ending love that heals us and gives us new life. Help us to see your presence in the simple things of our world.

Help us to receive your love, and to share that love with others. Amen

Celebrations and Notices

Welcome New Members: Kaurihohore Church

Wendy
Sue

Hymn HFTC 283: *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPMA5I3-0Jw>

Prayer of Reconciliation and Healing:

Loving God,
difference is at times hard to come to terms with;
we like people, situations, and relationships
to always remain the same.
Change is threatening; diversity intimidating.
Each of us contributes to the world yet not all are valued.

Forgive us Lord,
for the times we diminish the worth of another;
for the times we devalue the giftedness of another;
for the times we denigrate the options of another;
for the times we deny another the opportunity to know your love.

Loving God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Open our eyes and our hearts

to the reality of your love and forgiveness.

We pray this in and through the name of the Christ,

Jesus your only Son. Amen.

Hymn HFTC 510: *Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvYSoGP7pwM>

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

Second Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Message: ‘*The New Covenant with God*’ Micah 6:1-8, Jeremiah 31:31-34

“There is a danger with the children of God getting too familiar with wonderful Principles of Christian ethics; Love, unity, harmony forgiveness etc. We talk so much about these wonderful realities, and forget that we are called to exhibit them in our lives.

John Wesley was keen to encourage those who are called Methodist to make their own “covenant” with God and to renew it periodically.

We are no longer our own, but yours and we commit ourselves to do your will.....

Wesley constantly emphasised the **uniqueness** of being followers of Christ who put Christian faith and principles into practice.

1. Being a Christian means nothing more than “the Love of God and Love of others” Wesley calls it as their “**character**” or distinctive qualities.

Love others, what do we know about others? Sometime we talk about,...

- “Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind always” - Robin Williams.

Wesley said these **characters were not new or unique** rather they were the common fundamental principles of Christianity.

2. Everywhere we turn we hear reports of agreements made and agreements broken; trust and betrayal.

The Treaty of Waitangi, it was a covenant establish on the basis of a power sharing relationship on 05th Feb 1840 with Maori leaders and the Crown.

- After 182 years do both parties come together to celebrate the Treaty, but are still at loggerheads with each other, and WHY??....
- **There are issues of justice involved here.**

The English understanding of the Treaty was the Maori chiefs gave the British Crown the right to govern the country, in return for full protection of their **lands, fisheries, forests, villages, culture and treasures.**

The Maori version of the Treaty was that Maori retained the sovereignty. The sovereignty refers to “Mana” and is attached to their gods, spirits, spiritualise etc..

In the 21st century, we are in the midst of a massive renegotiation of moral relationships and boundaries.

We are struggling to set

- more ethically based principles,
- more inclusive communities, with respect for each other's religious, ideological, cultural and ethnic identities,
- more Biblically justified and enduring terms for human relationships.

This list can go on and on....But what have we achieved? Is there anything we can be proud of? Our relationships with others and God?.....

3. Jeremiah 31:31-34. Jeremiah, is in the midst of brokenness, shame, defeat and anxiety, he resolves to renew God's covenant that has been broken by ancient Israel (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

God said through Jeremiah; I will place my Torah/Law within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God; they shall be my people" (31:33).

That means the Law and the commandments have been embedded into human conscience.

It demands us to live according to our own conscience or to live out conscience.

The question is, why do we go against our conscience? Pride, Arrogance? Privileges or opportunities etc...

Many times we hear this; sorry friend I am doing my Job....What does it mean...doing something against our consciences?....

The Cuban Methodist Theologian Israel Batista reminds us "**to rediscover the storehouse of meaning that is particularly ours.**"

Such storehouse of meaning may not provide us with answers but they can **provide insights to guide** us and can **open new possibilities for us**. No it's not enough for us is it, but we want everything instantly because we live in a busy world.

If I ask you what kind of God we need? Our answers could differ; A God who can guide and be with me, or a God who can fix us, isn't it. Very sorry to disappoint you, God is not going to fix you but, He is going to be with you and guide you through your life difficulties...Ps 23: 4, Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me;...

In the covenant Prayer we say –
I am no longer my own but yours.
Your will, not mine, be done in all things.

4. **We are no longer our own, but yours and we commit ourselves to do your will.....** Micah 6.8 (New International Version)

“...what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly
and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God”

The first two parts of this requirement concern our relationships with other people: “To act justly and to love mercy”. The last concern is our relationship with God: “to walk humbly with your God.”

You see, “**What does the Lord require of you = Me?**” It is the most important question that a person can ask in their life. What we do, and say and how we act, We cannot go wrong in life if we but **act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God.**

Act justly – Justice is the whole mark of Christianity....

Justice is part of the nature of God. It comes from God

“**just and true are his ways**” writes John (Revelation 15.3).

A characteristic of the predicted Messiah is that “he will bring justice” (Isaiah 42).
When we turn to Christ and the Holy Communion

Holy Communion is the new covenant with our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so we may live his life on earth

This is our calling this morning as we come before him to renew our covenant. He died for us to live His life on earth. He said “**This is my body**” NOT this stands for my body, it means not only memory but of living contact with Jesus Christ. **What Wesley is asking** from us is to renew the relationship with Christ or to have living contact with Christ.

This cup – Is the NEW covenant in my blood = It means “this cup is the new covenant it cost my blood” It cost the life of Christ to make that relationship possible. The old covenant relationship is based on Law, but the new covenant relationship is based on LOVE. Therefore, we are here to re-new our covenant with God, may God help us all in our faith journey. Blessings to all. Amen.

Covenant Prayer (*The Methodist Worship Book (UK)*)

Loving and Holy God, with joy we take upon ourselves the yoke of obedience and for love of you, commit ourselves to seek and do your perfect will. We are no longer our own, but yours.

I am no longer my own but yours.

Your will, not mine, be done in all things,

wherever you may place me,

in all that I do and in all that I may endure;

when there is work for me and when there is none;

when I am troubled and when I am at peace.

Your will be done when I am valued and

when I am disregarded; when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking;

when I have all things, and when I have nothing,

I willingly offer all I have and am to serve you,

as and where you choose.

Glorious and blessed God Father, Son and Holy Spirit

you are mine and I am yours.

May it be so forever.

Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.

Greeting of Peace:

Lord Jesus Christ, in your tenderness, bind us with bonds of love that cannot be broken.

My brothers and sisters, the peace of Christ be with you.

And with you also.

Let us look around loved one's old friends, new friends

Let us greet them with a smile, that is a sign of Peace.

The Thanksgiving

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.

**We invite you to share in communion at home
by using biscuits/bread and tea/coffee/juice
as your communion elements**

Breaking of the bread:

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.**

Share the bread and wine:

Prayer after Communion:

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 HFTC 217: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0gvCODgV1fc>

Benediction & Grace:

Go to harvest the fruit of compassion, healing, hospitality and justice wherever you find it and the Spirit of God will go with you.

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.

Today

We formally welcome Wendy and Sue as members of our Parish. We are pleased you have chosen to share with us in our faith community.

News and Views after Church. This is a time to share your ideas, provide feedback to Parish Council and be updated on any matters of importance.

Regular Events

Wednesday - Circle of Friends meets weekly at **9.30 am** at Kaurihohore Church except the Wednesday that Women's Fellowship meets. You are invited to come along for this time of sharing and support.

Thursday – Mums and Bubs music for pre-schoolers meets weekly during term time, 10 to 11.30 am at Kaurihohore Church

Girls' Brigade – Over the next few weeks Girls' Brigade members will be working through the activity packs distributed at a special "Drive Thru" event on 17 February. We will be keeping contact via phone, email, Zoom and Facebook for the 1st term rather than meeting face to face.

Sunday mornings before Church, Prayer Meeting at 9.45 am in the Church Office. You are welcome to join in with this as you are able. Please see Jane if you have any questions or prayer needs.

Please note: World Day of Prayer on Friday 4 has been cancelled due to lack of organisers.

Telephone Tree

To activate the Telephone Tree concerning any circumstances for which prayers are requested e.g., Pastoral care prayers or bereavements etc. Contact Rosalie - Pastoral Care Team Convenor ph. 435 1779

Church Contact:

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