Kaurihohore Historic Church
P O Box 4118, Kamo, Whangārei 0141

Kaurihohore / Kamo Co-operating Parish
Sunday 26 June 2022 – Pentecost

Our service today has been prepared by Rev Freddy De Alwis

Sentence: Let us go up the hill of the Lord, to the Temple of our Lord. He will teach us what He wants us to do; we will walk in the paths He has chosen. *Micah 4: 2a.*

Hymn HFTC 265: *Morning Has Broken*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0TInLOJuUM

Call to Worship:

People of God, draw near.
For in the sacred presence of Love we live and move and have our being.
We leave behind the life of our days for a time and find ourselves embraced by God.
God's Spirit is in all and through all and gives life and breath to all living things.
In this present stillness, gathered as a community,
we realise the Spirit of Christ.
Risen Christ is not far from each of us and the heart of Christ beats on!
Silent Prayer

We open our hearts to one another and, in these moments of stillness, become aware of the warmth, the breath, the life we share. The Spirit of Christ abides in the shared space between us.
May we inhale deeply of this sacred presence and exhale words and actions of Godly love.   Amen.

Song: *This is the day* – S28 HFTC (from Psalm 118)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GuVZOzUx0No

Prayer of Confession and Healing:

We confess God of compassion, that regrettably
we do not always live as you would want us to live.
We live in the past. We run away from the fullness of life.
We choose to live in darkness rather than the light.
Forgive us risen Lord Jesus
And lead us into the experience of forgiveness.

We do not always remember who we are.
Our faith flickers and begins to fade.
Our hope drains from us when life becomes complex.
Our generosity is measured by how much we feel loved.
Our capacity to love hindered by our own selfishness.

Forgive us risen Lord Jesus
And lead us into the experience of forgiveness through your holy
name. Amen.

Hymn HFTC 452 : *And Can It Be That I Should Gain*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tu2uA6U4Fxg

First Reading: Micah 4: 1 - 5   (page 1449)

Second Reading: Luke 9: 49 – 56   (page 1613)

Reflection: "*Peaceful coexistence"* Sermon Notes   Luke 9:49-55 Micah 4:1-5

- Lessons in Christian fundamentalism and Peaceful coexistence – tolerance.

- We have **the** whole **truth,** our **way** is the only way - Vs. 49, Master we saw a man driving out demons in your name, and we told him to stop, because he doesn't belong to **our group**.

At present, there are over 2,400 different Christian faith groups. Most teach that their 'way' is the only way.

- Two ways of understanding **"diversity"**

- if you take it as a **challenge**, a competition, then you will have to eliminate others, that is what happened in the medieval period disregarding other religions, cultures, philosophies etc, as pagans, uncivilized barbarians.

Inclusive, Methodist, Presbyterian

-If you take **diversity** as a rich component of the society, Christianity as well as other religions, philosophies and cultures will become a blessing.

There are many ways to understand God, but God has His own way to come into our hearts, No one or no church/religion has the whole monopoly of the truth of God.

- Among the greatest religious leaders none was as articulate on **coexistence** as John Wesley, "I have no more right," he said, to object to a person for holding a different opinion from mine.

When his nephew Samuel, son of his brother Charles, went to a Roman Catholic Church, John wrote to him, I don't care what church you go to as long as you believe in Jesus Christ. ..

'Be true to your principles, ……use every ordinance which you believe is of God. Beware of narrowness of spirit, …..love as brothers and sisters those who cannot agree with you, …..agree with truth and reason. Condemn no one for not thinking as you think. Let everyone enjoy the full liberty of thought, abhor every approach, in any kind or degree, to the spirit of persecution. If you cannot reason or persuade a person into the truth, never attempt to force someone into it.'

2. Since the hospitality of Jesus was refused by the Samaritans, the disciples wanted to take revenge, and wanted to destroy the villages.   <u>Hospitality and **Peace vs violence** –</u> If they accept that's fine otherwise destroy them all.

There was a centuries old quarrel between Jews and Samaritans - John 4:9. Jesus taking that route to Jerusalem was unusual: and to find hospitality was still more unusual. Jesus was extending a hand of friendship to people who were enemies. In this case His hospitality and friendship were refused. Therefore, his disciples got mad and wanted to take revenge, destroy the villages.

- **The irrationality of ethic and religious hatred, intolerance and violence:**

The amount of religious and ethnic hatred and violence in the world is not only appalling, it is also difficult for many people to understand.

"A person born in Middle-east or Pakistan is very likely to be a Muslim, a one born in Thailand, Sri Lanka, Burma or Tibet is very likely to be a Buddhist, a one born in most parts of India is very likely to be a Hindu and one born in Britain, Europe or the U.S.A. is likely to be a Christian. In Africa it is a mixture of Christian and Muslims.

A question arises as to why anybody should become an enemy just because he or she professes a different religion? What is the root cause of intolerance?

3. **What does it mean by Peaceful Coexistence** Micah 4:1-5 Dream or vision of the Prophet?

There are many challenges to achieving reasonable levels of consensus and peaceful coexistence among human beings. As well as the lack of dialogue on more objective issues that pervade social life, there are **deadlocks, controversies**, and **disputes**, what can be said about clashes between diverse convictions and beliefs, often antagonistic about certain ethics, principles, and customs.

This scenario is further aggravated by the fact that the same right to freedom of religion of a given individual is used by him/her as a weapon against the identical right of the other and, in this conflict, one or both parties maintain that they hold the **absolute truth with them**.

Religious intolerance stems from the idea that I/we hold the absolute truth. And also, which refers to insecurity diminishing our faith, therefore we need to protect it.

Finally, let us turn to the Prophet Micah 4:1-5 Dream or vision of the Prophet?

- ❖ God will settle disputes among the nations…Vs 3
- ❖ Values of the Kingdom – people will turn killing machines or weapons into agricultural tools. Turn the minds of scientists to development rather than building nuclear weapons. Vs 3b

- ❖ No preparation for war…Vs 3c
- ❖ Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig-tree, And no-one will make them afraid. Vs 4 means every one lives in peace….Peace is having his/her own income, living without fear.
- ❖ Each nation will have its own religion and God, but we will worship our God. Vs 5.

Hymn FFS 32: *God Who Sets Us On A Journey – Joy Dine*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FSx_wtdQHm0

Lord's Prayer:

Hymn FFS 11: *Come Teach Us Spirit of our God*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAX27v2Lz1E

Inclusive, Methodist, Presbyterian

<u>Benediction & Grace:</u>

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. Amen, Amen, Amen.

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Advice to the people called Methodist

10 October 1745, John Wesley

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