

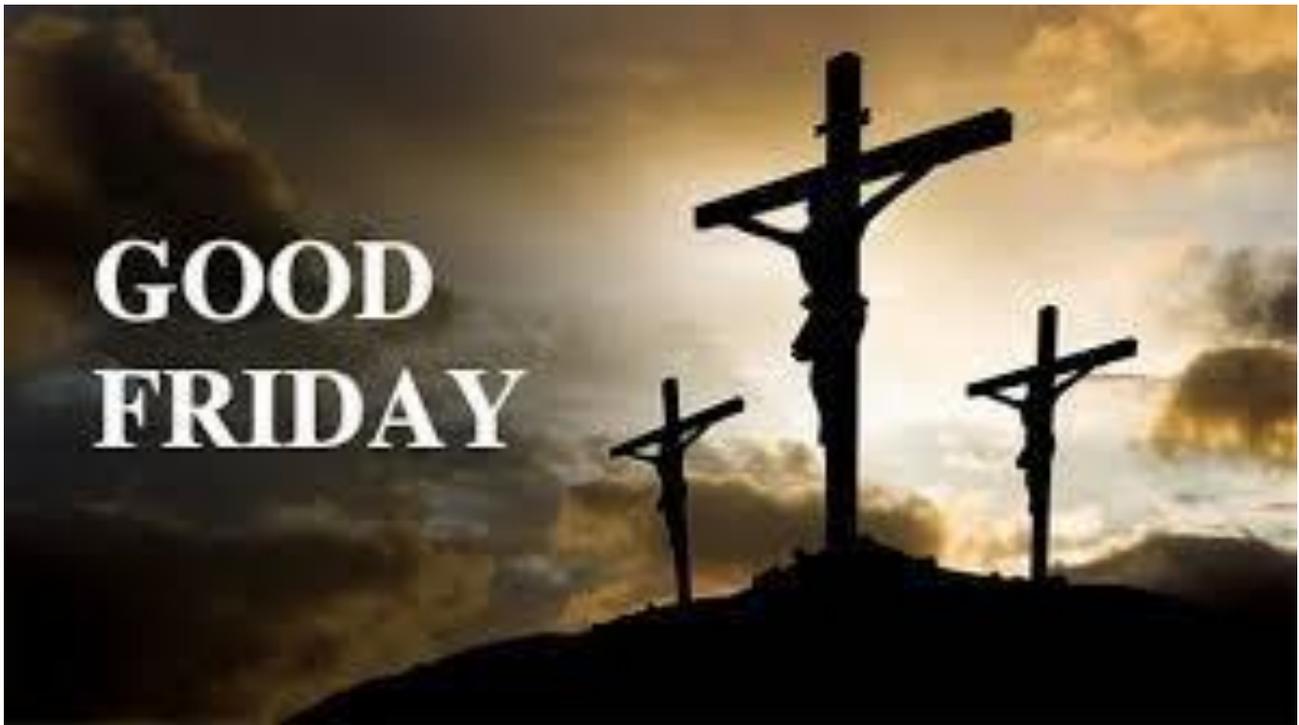


Kaurihohore Historic Church

P O Box 4118, Kamo, Whangarei 0141



Kaurihohore / Kamo Co-operating Parish Sunday 15 April 2022 – Good Friday



Our service today has been prepared by Rev Freddy De Alwis

The excitement of the crowd couldn't help but draw you in.
The shouts of affirmation have now altered.

No more hosannas.

No more waving of branches.

No longer do they cry: blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord".

The excitement of the crowd couldn't help but draw you in.
The shouts of affirmation are now accusations.

The only thing they wave now is a whip.

The only cry now is "crucify him".

Hymn HFTC 147: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_fvFfPqjO4

Call to Worship:

The sun is hidden by darkness.
Sadness overwhelms the gathered few.
Yet out of the greyness hope arises-
Our future has not been abandoned.

“My God why have you forsaken me?”
Alone and abandoned the Christ is nailed to a cross,
His head hanging in agony.
Tormented and harassed yet he still lifts his head
And a promise to one in pain is made:
“This day you will be with me in glory”.
Nothing can impede God’s love.

Silence,.....Prayer:

Is it nothing to you, all you that pass by?
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow.
[*Lamentations 1:12*]

The Lord says:
My people, what have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me!
I led you from slavery to freedom,
but you led your Saviour to the cross.
I brought you out of Egypt,
but you handed me over to the high priests.

**Holy God,
holy and mighty, holy and immortal One,
have mercy on us.**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
If we have died with him, we shall also live with him.

If we endure, we shall also reign with him.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

[‘A Litany for Good Friday’ from *Uniting in Worship*]

Hymn HP (Hymns and Psalms) 424: O Crucified Redeemer –

Tune: LLANGLOFFAN

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUE7Du_SU2Y

Bible Readings: Luke 23: 32-35 and 44-49

Reflection:

Then Pilate **handed Jesus over** to them to be crucified. So, they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to the Place of the Skull. There they crucified him with two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews”.

Most of the happenings on the night, fall under a category of a “**handing over**” handed over by Judas, Jesus was handed over to the Sanhedrin Mk 14:42; then by Sanhedrin he was handed over to Pilate Mk15:1,10; by Pilate, he was handed over to the soldiers Mk 15:15, all who whole heartedly, in the name of the powerful of this world hand over to the death Mk15:25.

According to Roman custom those condemned to death on the cross were generally slaves and rebels. Death on the cross was a barbarous and terrible punishment, they were first whipped without mercy. Then they had to carry the crossbar on their shoulders to the place of execution.

They were nailed to the cross and raised up above the ground two or three metres high, where they remained for hours without end or days, until they approached death by haemorrhage, a burst heart, or collapse. Jesus remained on the cross from midday until 3pm.

The gospels tell us that he spoke several times as tradition we say 7 times, but never know...Mark still preserves its Aramaic formulation “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani, My God, My God, why have you deserted me”. Mk 15:34.

What is the meaning of the death of Christ?

The disciples were taken by surprise and they fled Mk 14:27, in fact Jesus died on the cross with the protest in his mouth that “why have you deserted me” Mk 15:34, the frustration of youth of Emmaus, our hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free Lk 24:21,

The cross itself was a visible sign of God’s damnation and shame Dut 21:23, Gal 3:13, Heb 12:2. From the beginning the disciples did not see any salvific meaning in the crucifixion and death of Christ.

Jesus Christ lived in unparalleled intimacy with God, Jesus calling him Abba (You, my beloved Father or Daddy) in the name of this beloved Father or Dad he preached the Kingdom of God.....Good and Justice to the poor and the oppressed, it was a bad news to the rich and the powerful, he disturbed the comfort to comfort the disturbed. He knew the consequences.

The consequences came with three-fold allegations from money –polluted religious hierarchy of his day, the problem they had with Jesus was blasphemy and they knew that they couldn’t convince Pilot with that therefore they had to formulate political charges against him, Lk 23:1-2,

- **Misleading people**- revolutionary, terrorist
- He tells people not to pay taxes
- Claiming that he himself is a king

With the aid of a colonial power, they have dragged the incarnated God, the ultimate truth, to the cross.

- He knows that the people who have power over the poor will do anything to keep their power and privileges.
- He knows that whoever tries to change the exciting evil structures of the world / society, must pay with death.
- He knows of the tragic end of John the Baptist.

I would like to conclude this reflection by drawing your attention to meditate upon the words Jesus said on the Cross:

“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.” Luke 23:32-34 –

“This day you shall be with me in paradise.” Luke 23:39-43 -

“He is your son. She is your mother.” John 19:26-27 –

“My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” Matthew 27:45-46 -

“I am thirsty” - John 19:28 –

“It is finished” – John 19:29-30 -

“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit” - Luke 23:44-46 –

Amen.

Hymn HFTC 139: *O Sacred Head*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qo4UlgRr_nE

Benediction:

He hangs on the cross

but we are not without hope

He died on the cross

but we are not without hope

He lies in a tomb

but we are not without hope

God’s blessings are upon us as we look toward a new day.

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