



# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service 18 June 2017

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**HE LAUGHS**

## WELCOME TO KNOX

Knox Church is a congregation within the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. We aim to create Christian community in which people of all ages, sexual orientations, cultural backgrounds and socio-economic situations are included as equally valued participants in our congregational life. We cherish our diversity, offering a safe place of belonging to any who wish to explore their beliefs in an atmosphere promoting discussion, the development of healthy relationships and spiritual growth. We strive to be open to dialogue and shared experiences with people of other faiths. We enjoy worshipping the God made known in Jesus, endeavouring to do so in ways that are relevant to our daily lives, respect the integrity of creation, and make a positive difference to our wider world.

A loop system for hearing aids operates at Knox.

Toilets are available through the door on the lectern side of the sanctuary.

In the absence of our regular organist, we welcome Valerie Xiang.

### The Call to Worship:

We light a candle in the name of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.  
**JESUS, FULFILMENT OF THE PROMISE MADE TO ABRAHAM;  
JESUS, GOD'S JOY AND LAUGHTER LIVED AMONG US;  
JESUS, IN WHOM WE JOURNEY FROM FEARING TO FAITH.**

Kia noho a Ihowa ki a koutou. God be with you.  
**MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.**

### Hymn:

Leoni

Hebrew Synagogue Melody



1. The God of Abraham praise  
all praises to God's name,  
who was and is and is to be,  
fore'er the same!  
The one eternal God,  
before what now appears;  
the First, the Last: beyond all thought  
through timeless years!
2. The God of Sarah praise!  
All praise the God of life,  
who takes our fear and laughing scorn,  
who bears our doubt and strife,  
whose promise, standing strong,  
endures unto the end,  
who calls our hope and worship now  
to heav'n ascend.
3. God's spirit freely flows,  
high surging where it will;  
God spoke of old in prophet's word;  
that word speaks still.  
Established is God's law,  
and changeless it shall stand,  
deep written on the human heart,  
in every land.
4. God has eternal life  
implanted in the soul;  
God's love shall be our strength and stay,  
while ages roll.  
All praise the living God!  
Extol that hallowed name,  
who was and is, and ever shall  
be still the same.

*Vv 1, 3 & 4, Thomas Olivers (1725-1799), alt.  
V 2, Matthew Jack (b. 1963)*

### **Prayer of Approach**

Mystery and wonder  
approach the home of Abraham and Sarah.

**THEY WELCOME THEM;  
THEY EMBRACE THE COMING OF GRACE.**

Belief-stretching hope  
is spoken to Abraham and Sarah.  
**THEY STRUGGLE TO RESPOND -  
WITH A MIXTURE OF FEAR AND LAUGHTER.**

Much later,  
as fantastic promises come true  
and a child of laughter is born,  
**THE FUN AND FAITHFULNESS OF GOD  
ARE REVEALED.**

Now fun and faithfulness come to *our* house,  
to this place of prayer.  
**TO GOD WE GIVE OUR WELCOME.  
TO GOD WE OPEN OUR EMBRACE.  
TO GOD WE COMMEND OUR SMILING.  
TO GOD WE OFFER OUR LAUGHTER.**

We offer the laughter that comes from  
our joy of knowing God's love.  
**WE OFFER ALSO THE LAUGHTER THAT SCORNS,  
DERIDES AND DISMISSES.**

We offer the burning buildings,  
the flying missiles,  
the tensions of our world, saying:

Lord have mercy.  
**CHRIST HAVE MERCY.**  
Lord have mercy.

### **Assurance and Response**

. . . In the name of Christ I say to you:  
You are forgiven and you are free.  
**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

### **Prayer of Supplication:**

In ancient time, O God,  
your servant Sarah learned of your love  
through the birth of her son Isaac.  
**HE WAS A CHILD OF LAUGHTER.**

At his birth,  
Sarah said that all who heard of him  
would laugh with her.

**MAY WE LAUGH WITH SARAH, O GOD.  
MAY WE BE PEOPLE WHO SHARE YOUR JOY.**

We pray this in the name of Jesus,  
and even as he taught us, so together we say:

**OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN  
HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME,  
YOUR KINGDOM COME,  
YOUR WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN.  
GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD.  
FORGIVE US OUR SINS  
AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US.  
SAVE US FROM THE TIME OF TRIAL  
AND DELIVER US FROM EVIL.  
FOR THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY ARE YOURS  
NOW AND FOR EVER. AMEN.**

### **The Passing of the Peace**

Kia tau tonu te rangimarie o te Ariki ki a koutou.  
The peace of Christ be with you all.

**A KI A KOE ANO HOKI;  
AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

*We exchange a sign of peace with one another.*

*If there are younger ones present*  
**A Conversation with the Younger Ones**

#### **Young People's Blessing:**

Young ones, go to your worship with our blessing.  
**TAKE OUR FAITH AND HOPE;  
MAKE NEW THINGS WITH WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN.  
MAY GOD BLESS AND GROW YOU.  
AMEN.**

*Young ones are welcome to move through to the Sala del Sol (upstairs in the Knox Centre) for well supervised, faith-based youth activities.*

# Report from the third Mission Discernment Forum: The Work of the Gardener



**The Knox Singers:** The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester  
*Len J. White (1831-1913)*

**The First Lesson:** Genesis 18: 1-15

**The Second Lesson:** Genesis 21: 1-7

In this is the Word of God  
**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

## **Hymn:**

Little Cornad

Martin Shaw (1875-1958)



1. Lord of our growing years,  
with us from infancy,  
laughter and quick-dried tears,  
freshness and energy:  
*Your grace surrounds us all our days -  
for all your gifts we bring our praise.*

2. Lord of our strongest years,  
stretching our youthful powers,  
lovers and pioneers  
when all the world seems ours:  
*Your grace surrounds us all our days -*
3. Lord of our middle years,  
giver of steadfastness,  
courage that perseveres  
when there is small success:  
*Your grace surrounds us all our days -*
4. Lord of our older years,  
steep though the road may be,  
rid us of foolish fears,  
bring us serenity:  
*Your grace surrounds us all our days -*
5. Lord of our closing years,  
always your promise stands;  
hold us when death appears,  
safely within your hands:  
*Your grace surrounds us all our days -*

*David Mowbray (b. 1938)*

**Sermon:** Laughing with Sarah



Generally, sermons are posted on our website shortly after the service at:  
<http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/sermons.html> Hard copies of the sermons are available before and after the service – ask the person at the door.

**Music for Reflection:** Prelude, from “Prelude, Fugue and Variation”  
César Franck (1882-1890)

**Hymn:**

Servant Song

Richard Gillard (b. 1953)



1. Brother, sister, let me serve you;  
let me be as Christ to you.  
Pray that I might have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey,  
we are trav'lers on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christ light for you  
in the night time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping,  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
'till we've seen this journey through.
5. When we sing to God in heaven  
we shall find such harmony  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.
6. Brother, sister, let me serve you;  
let me be as Christ to you.  
Pray that I might have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

*Richard Gillard (b. 1953)*

## Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*led by Bob Fendall*

### The Offering and Dedication

*We stand for the dedication of the Offering*

To the God who turns derision into joy,  
**TO THE GOD WHO TURNS FEAR INTO CONFIDENCE,**  
to the God who turns nothing into everything,  
**WE MAKE OUR OFFERING IN FAITH.**

Bless what we offer now,  
**AND MAKE US A PEOPLE OF YOUR GRACE.**  
**AMEN.**

### Notices

#### Hymn:

Columbus

Colin Gibson (b. 1933)



1. Where the road runs out and the signposts end,  
where we come to the edge of today,  
be the God of Abraham for us,  
send us out upon our way.  
*Lord, you were our beginning,  
the faith that gave us birth.  
We look to you our ending,  
our hope for heaven and earth.*

2. When the coast is left and we journey on  
to the rim of the sky and the sea,  
be the sailor's friend, be the dolphin Christ,  
lead us on to eternity.  
*Lord, you were our beginning . . .*
  
3. When the clouds are low and the wind is strong,  
when tomorrow's storm draws near,  
be the spirit bird hovering overhead  
who will take away our fear.  
*Lord, you were our beginning . . .*

*Colin Gibson (b. 1933)*

**Benediction** and **Sung Amen**

**Postlude:** Postlude in D Minor  
C.V. Stanford (1852-1924)

Tea and coffee are served in the Knox Centre Lounge following the morning service

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## NOTICES

|                   |                                    |                                                              |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>This Week:</b> | <b>18 June 2017 – 24 June 2017</b> |                                                              |
| Sunday            | 10.00am                            | Morning Worship<br>Congregational Meeting – <i>see below</i> |
|                   | 11.15am                            | Faith, Film and Fiction – <i>see below</i>                   |
| Monday            | 7.30pm                             | Knox Fireside Group – <i>see below</i>                       |
| Wednesday         | 10.00am                            | Bible Study in Committee Room                                |
| <b>Next Week:</b> | <b>25 June 2017 – 1 July 2017</b>  |                                                              |
| Sunday            | 10.00am                            | Morning Worship                                              |
| Wednesday         | 10.00am                            | Bible Study in Committee Room                                |

**Congregational meeting** - A congregational meeting will be held this Sunday 18 June, immediately after the morning service, in order to approve the budget for 2017-2018. Copies of the budget are available for perusal.

**Faith Film and Fiction** – Sunday 18 June, 11.15am in the Lounge. Presentation of book – The light between Oceans.

**Dessert Evening for new people** – Sunday 18 June, 7 – 9pm in the Lounge.

**Knox Fireside Group**- The next meeting for the Knox Fireside group will be on Monday 19 June at 7 30pm in the Knox Lounge . The speaker will be Jan Harland who will talk about her trip to Canada and USA. All welcome

**Wednesdays at One** – Lunchtime concerts at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, 373 Manchester Street. A weekly feast of music. Light lunch available at the Cathedral Café. \$10 waged, \$5 unwaged. For more information follow Wednesdays at One on Facebook.

**Soup Makers!!** – A vital part of each Forum is the soup and bread midway during the session. It would be great if we could spread the soup making for the next 3 Forum Sundays (last Sundays of May, June and July). If you can help, please see Jennifer McKinnon or Janet Wilson.

Knox church values the support of all who are involved in our community's life.

For those who wish to contribute financially, charitable donations are eligible for a tax rebate of 33%. Options are available for giving; for information please contact our Donation Secretary, Janet Wilson, ph 338 7203, email [janetwilson@clear.net.nz](mailto:janetwilson@clear.net.nz)



### The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Matthew 10: 24-31
- Matthew 10: 32-39

## Knox Directory

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Secretary: Jane Ellis,  
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Office hours: Mon-Fri 9.00am-noon

Visit our website

[www.knoxchurch.co.nz](http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz)



website

Minister: Rev. Dr Matthew Jack  
minister@knoxchurch.co.nz

Session Clerk: Janet Wilson,  
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Director of Music: Daniel Cooper,  
organist@knoxchurch.co.nz

Pastoral Assistant: Jan Harland  
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facebook



## Keeping in Touch

Please help us get acquainted with you by filling in this form  
and putting it in the offering bag.

Name:

Contact details