

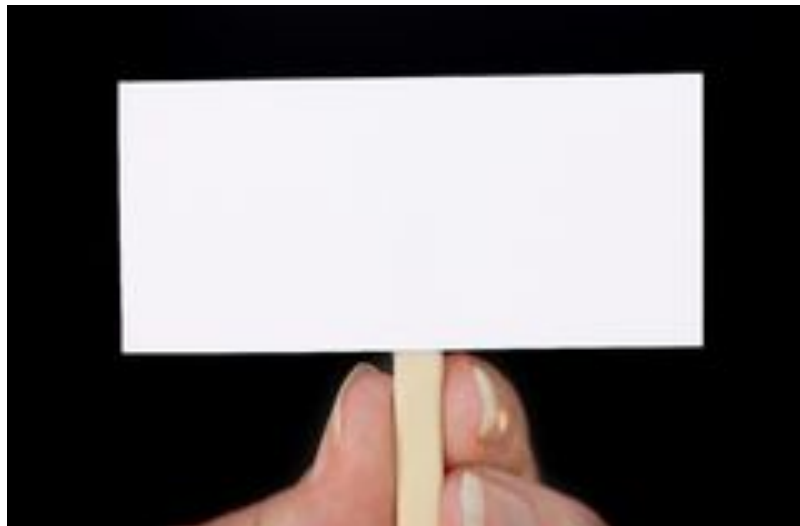


# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service 30 July 2017

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## PEARLS, SEEDS AND OTHER TINY SIGNS

## 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.

### The Call to Worship:

We light a candle in the name of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

**JESUS, REVEALING THE HIDDEN TREASURE OF GOD'S LOVE;  
JESUS, TELLING TALES OF SEEDS, PEARLS AND YEAST;  
JESUS, IN WHOM WE FIND LIFE AND SHELTER.**

Kia noho a Ihowa ki a koutou. God be with you.

**MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.**

### Hymn:

St Denio

Welsh Hymn Melody



1. Come, learn of God's Kingdom, the kingdom of light,  
its dawning dispelling the darkness of night;  
the light of God's glory is shining abroad,  
in splendour proclaiming that Jesus is Lord.
2. Come, seek for God's kingdom, the kingdom of Christ,  
a pearl without equal, a treasure unpriced,  
a city unshaken the years cannot move,  
where life everlasting is founded on love.
3. Come, enter God's kingdom, the gates are flung wide;  
in God's great redemption, God's children abide:  
the keys of the kingdom are theirs who proclaim  
the word of the gospel and faith in his Name.
4. Inherit God's kingdom; for Jesus declares  
to those who confess him, the kingdom is theirs:  
O come then rejoicing, his glories to sing,  
as heirs of that kingdom where Christ is the King!

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)*

### **Prayer of Approach**

Somewhere a seed is dying,  
and a tree is forming -

**ALL BEYOND OUR CAPACITY TO SEE.**

Somewhere some treasure is lying,  
hidden in field -

**ALL BEYOND OUR CAPACITY TO FIND.**

Somewhere yeast is enlivening,  
mixed and mingled in the festive loaf that we shall eat -

**LITTLE GRAINS, ALMOST INVISIBLE.**

Somewhere a pearl is forming,  
whose beauty will be amazing -

**BUT WHICH IS HIDDEN NOW  
IN OCEAN DEEPS  
AND MURKY MYSTERY.**

And somewhere,  
in that realm where human spirit  
and Holy Spirit  
speak each to the other,  
Jesus is weaving stories:

**STORIES OF SEEDS BECOMING TREES,  
OF TREASURE BEING FOUND,  
OF PEARLS BEING REVEALED.**

He says: "This is the kingdom of God".

*(Silence)*

We seek the kingdom of which Jesus spoke.  
**WE YEARN FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE.**

We hunger for the yeasty liveliness.  
**WE LONG TO SHELTER UNDER THE BOUGHS OF GOD'S TREE.**

Yet we confess our distance from the kingdom.  
We are citizens in a world of forgetfulness.  
**WE ARE CITIZENS OF THE BLINDNESS OF BUSY-NESS.**

We seldom meditate on the life that might open our eyes.  
**WE ARE NOT CAREFUL AMONG THE TENDER,  
NEW-GROWING THINGS OF GOD.**

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:**

Kingdom-giving God, whose Son, Jesus,  
told tales of early signs  
of the great love that surrounds us,  
**HELP US MEDITATE UPON HIS LIFE AND LOVE,  
THAT WE MAY SEE THE MANY SIGNS AROUND US  
OF YOUR CLOSENESS AND GOODNESS.**

Help us release whatever keep us blind to you,  
**AND GROW US INTO YOUR BEAUTIFUL NEW CREATION.**

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.*

**The First Lesson:** Psalm 105: 1-11, 45b

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

**The Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

This is the gospel of Christ.  
**PRAISE TO CHRIST THE WORD.**

**Hymn:**

To God be the glory

William Howard Doane (1832-1915)



1. To what can the kingdom of God be compared?  
A mustard seed falls where a field's been prepared,  
and there, where predictable plantings should be,  
there grows up a wild bush — as big as a tree!  
God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:  
loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.  
Your reign is amazing, your ways still astound,  
just like that new life springing forth from the ground.
2. A small bit of leaven will change the whole bread:  
a poor woman sees that her neighbors are fed,  
a church reaches out to the youth in the town,  
a man shares his faith and God's blessings abound.  
God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:  
loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.  
Your reign is among us, creation is blessed,  
when even a few faithful lives change the rest.
3. While some look for treasure or one priceless pearl,  
God's reign is the gift wise ones seek in this world.  
A girl sells possessions to help those in need;  
a boy chooses faithfulness rather than greed.  
God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:

loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.  
Your reign is a treasure that wise ones pursue;  
may we seek your kingdom in all that we do.

*Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (b. 1961)*

**Sermon:** What tree?

*Generally, sermons are posted on our website shortly after the service at: <http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/sermons.html>*

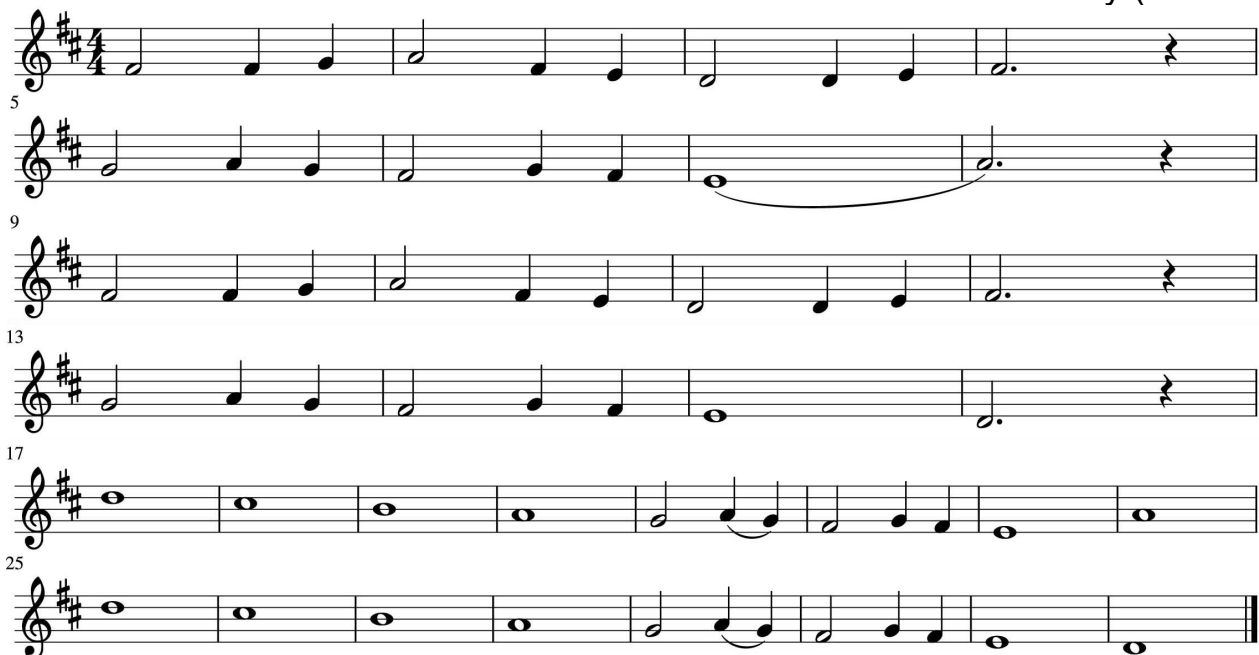
*Hard copies of the sermons are available before and after the service – ask the person at the door.*

**Music for Reflection:** Pastorale  
Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

**Hymn:**

Seek Ye First

Karen Lafferty (b. 1948)



1. First set your mind on the kingdom of God  
and on its justice and truth,  
then all you need will be given to you,  
Alleluia.
2. No one can live by bread alone;  
sharp is our hunger of soul;  
only the word of the Lord will sustain,  
Alleluia.

3. Ask and it will be given to you,  
seek and you will find,  
knock and the door will be opened to you,  
Alleluia.

*Colin Gibson (b. 1933)*

### Prayers for Others and Ourselves

In our prayers for others and ourselves, to the minister's words  
"We offer this moment",  
you are invited to respond "**GOD HEAR OUR PRAYER**".

### The Offering and Dedication

*We stand for the dedication of the Offering*

Small seeds grow into great trees;  
**IN THE GRACE OF GOD,  
SMALL OFFERINGS  
MAKE POSITIVE DIFFERENCES.**

May the offering we make  
find momentum in the grace of God  
**WHO GIVES TREASURE TO ALL PEOPLE  
AND LOVE TO ALL THE WORLD.  
AMEN.**

### Notices

#### Hymn:

Hanover

probably William Croft (1678-1727)





1. The kingdom of God is justice and joy;  
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy.  
God's power and glory in Jesus we know;  
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.
2. The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;  
the captives are freed, and all people find place,  
the outcast is welcomed, God's banquet to share;  
and hope is awakened in place of despair.
3. The kingdom of God is challenge and choice:  
believe the good news, repent and rejoice!  
His love for his people, brought Christ to his cross:  
our crisis of judgment for gain or for loss.
4. God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal;  
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.  
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call;  
and all things cry "Glory!" to God all in all.

*Bryn Austin Rees (1911-1983)*

### **Benediction and Sung Amen**

**Postlude:** Prelude in Classical Style  
Gordon Young (1919-1998)

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

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"Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards."

Søren Kierkegaard  
Danish philosopher



## NOTICES

### **This Week: 30 July 2017 – 5 August 2017**

Today	10.00am	Morning Worship
	11:30am	Mission Discernment Forum
Wednesday	10.00am	Bible Study in Committee Room

### **Next Week: 6 August 2017 – 12 August 2017**

Sunday	10.00am	Morning Worship
Wednesday	10.00am	Bible Study

**EcuAction Seminars** - 5.30 – 7pm at Knox Centre, 28 Bealey Ave. Free Event (koha). Thursday 3 August – Money Matters, a living income for all.

**Learn Te Reo** - REGISTER NOW FOR TERM 3! An opportunity to share in the Church's bi-cultural journey. Our tutors lead us in a 6 part series of workshops introducing Maori language and culture in Aotearoa New Zealand. This is a course for beginners and will include work on the Anglican Maori liturgies. Development of this course is overseen by the Anglican Diocesan Bicultural Education Committee and Theology House.

**Term 3:** 7pm to 9:15pm, Tuesdays | **8, 15, 22, 29 August and 5, 12 September. Registrations to be received by Claire Bonner, Administrator, by 5pm Tuesday 1 August 2017.** Ph: 03 341 3399 E: [admin@theologyhouse.ac.nz](mailto:admin@theologyhouse.ac.nz)

**Next Theologian at the Cathedral** - Hear Dean Martyn Percy, Christ Church, Oxford preach at 5pm Evensong, Sunday 13 August 2017 at the Transitional Cathedral. Light supper then Martyn Percy will lead a brief seminar, concluding 7:30 pm. All welcome. Topic to be announced.

**Sharing the Good News in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century** - Saturday 26 August, 9:30 am – 3:45 pm Christchurch North Methodist Church, Cnr Harewood Road and Chapel Street, Christchurch. A workshop for lay worship leaders, lay preachers, and all those involved in team ministry. Keynote speakers include: Rev Andrew Gamman, Dr Kathleen Rushton RSM, Wallace Woodley, and Rev'd Jill Keir. Cost: \$10 pp, \$30 per parish. Bring lunch to share, morning and afternoon tea provided. Registrations to: Linda Cowan, [lindacowan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lindacowan@xtra.co.nz) by 18 August.

***Bread of Heaven/Daily Bread*** - Spend a day with Sara Miles, San Francisco author, founder and director of The Food Pantry at St Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church Wednesday 20 September 2017, 10 am to 3.15 pm at The Village Church, cnr Ilam/Aorangi Rds, Christchurch. Cost: \$60 – includes lunch. Registration essential: to Claire Bonner, [admin@theologyhouse.ac.nz](mailto:admin@theologyhouse.ac.nz) , by 5pm Friday 15 September 2017

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)

## Knox Mission Discernment Process - after Church today

### Forum Five



### WHEAT FROM CHAFF

**30 July**, 11:30am – 12:30pm, soup break, then 12:50pm – 1:50pm

Near the end, we should have a number of areas of interest emerging. Keeping in mind our character and values, our mission bottom lines and major drivers, where our focus is falling, and what brings us joy, we'll sift and sort our options. We'll set goals for whatever we decide we need to do next.

This forum is an opportunity for us to refine where we think God already is working, and articulate what we believe the Spirit is saying to the Church. We'll then put this next to our resources (human and material), skills, ethos and ambition for God's world. Again we'll measure all this against our past experiences of growth in spirit and our finding of joy.



## The Bible reading for next week will be:

- Matthew 5: 1-11

## Knox Directory

28 Bealey Ave, Christchurch 8013  
Secretary: Jane Ellis,  
ph. (03) 379 2456,  
office@knoxchurch.co.nz  
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,  
ph. (03) 338 7203

Director of Music: Daniel Cooper,  
organist@knoxchurch.co.nz

Pastoral Assistant: Jan Harland  
ph. 0273560215



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## 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