



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service 10 September 2017



THE GOD OF GROWTH

- a service for Spring Flower Sunday -

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, WHOSE LIFE WAS A GREEN FROND IN THE COLD;

JESUS, THE FIRST-FRUIT OF THE NEW CREATION;

JESUS, WHOSE NEWNESS INFUSES OUR LIFE.

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Highwood

Richard Runciman Terry (1865-1938)



1. O God of every shining constellation
that wheels in splendour through the midnight sky:
grant us your Spirit's true illumination
to read the secrets of your work on high.
2. You, God, have made the atom's hidden forces;
your laws its mighty energies fulfil:
teach us, to whom you give such rich resources,
in all we use, to serve your holy will.
3. O Life, awaking life in cell and tissue;
from flower to bird, from beast to humankind:
help us to trace, from birth to final issue,
the sure unfolding purpose of your mind.
4. You, God, have stamped your image on your creatures
and, though they mar that image, love them still:
lift up our eyes to Christ, that in his features
we may discern the beauty of your will.
5. Great God of nature, shaping and renewing,
you made us more than nature's child to be;
you help us tread, with grace our souls enduing,
the road to life and immortality.

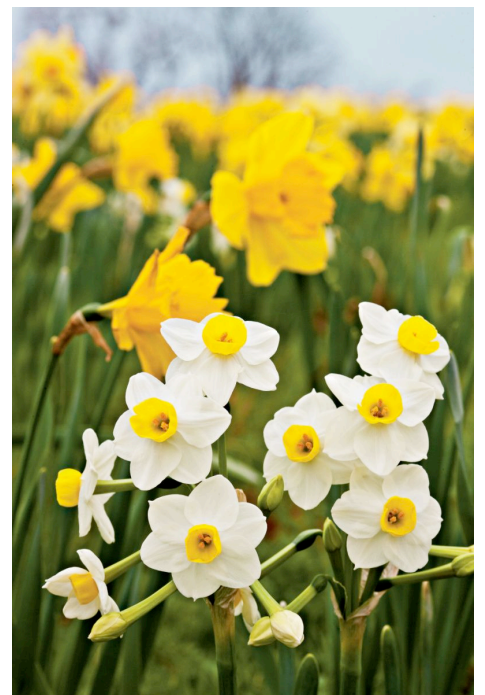
Albert Frederick Bayly (1901-1984)

Prayer of Approach

A church stands on the corner of two streets.
Two streets lead, eventually, to every corner of a city.
The city sits on the edge of an island.
The island lies within a stretching sea.
BROADER, FURTHER, BIGGER.

The sea covers vast surfaces of a planet.
The planet spins around a sun.
The sun lies on the edge of a galaxy.
The galaxy is dwarfed by the vastness of space.
VASTER, GREATER, HIGHER.

It is a wondrous work.
Yet our scientists theorise that it's bleeding energy,
that it's destined to grind to a halt.



Our people-watchers prophesy an equal bleeding
from our commitments and social cohesion.

SADDER, DARKER, LONELIER.

The prophets of our age note the advancement of
anger,
the growing of division,
the depletion of good will:

**A STATE UNDER THE DIAGNOSIS OF
“TERMINAL”.**

Yet, here,
in the tiny sequestering of our gardens and parks,
blossoms burst and flowers emerge.
Colours shine and perfumes spread.
To our blessed beholding
such new-created beauty is given.

CLOSER, KINDER, DEARER.



As a sign of your faithfulness and creativity,
you gift this season with deeds of new creation.

**ON A SPRING FLOWER SUNDAY
WE REJOICE IN THE GOD OF GROWTH.**

And because we believe that you are kind and renewing,
and because we believe that Spring
is just a sign of a greater creative power,
we have courage to confess our weaknesses.

We will keep a silence,
once we say:

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

Silence

Assurance and Response

. . . And know also, forever,
that because of the great love of God,
in the name of Christ,
you are forgiven and you are free.
THANKS BE TO GOD.

Prayer of Supplication:

God of growth,
while the cycles of decay and dissolution do their work,
YOU COME TO US AS THE GIVER OF SPRING.

Into our narratives of energy exhausted and hope defeated,
YOU COME AS THE INAUGURATOR OF TOMORROW.

Give us grace to be people who plant and water in your name.
TAKE AWAY FROM US OUR TENDENCIES TO DIVIDE AND KILL.

Put within us a spirit of hope,
THAT ALL YOUR PEOPLE TRULY SHALL LIVE.

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

A Prayer of Blessing for the Flowers:

O God, your goodness is stamped on creation.
Its beauty echoes yours.

WE THANK YOU FOR THESE FLOWERS.

O Christ, you spoke of the flowers of the fields.
You said if God clothed them, who neither toiled nor worried,
then how much more would God clothe us.

**WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR FAITH IN GOD'S GOODNESS.**

O Spirit of God, bless these flowers,
that, as they are handed to people today,
they may become signs of divine love
and human caring.

Brighten the homes to which they will go,

**AND FILL ALL OUR HOMES
WITH PEACE.**

We pray this in Jesus' name.

AMEN.



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 104: 14-24

In this is the Word of God

THANKS BE TO GOD.

The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 3: 1-9

In this is the Word of God

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Hymn:

Wir Pflügen

Johann Abraham Peter Schulz (1747-1800)



1. We plough the fields, and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand,
who sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.
*All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
then thank our God, O thank our God,
for blessings of such love.*
2. God only is the maker
of all things near and far;
who paints the wayside flower,
who lights the evening star,
obeyed by winds and tempest,
by whom the birds are fed;
much more to us, in needing,
bestowing daily bread.
All good gifts around us . . .

3. We thank you then, Creator,
for all things bright and good,
the Spring-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
Accept the gifts we offer
for all your love imparts,
and, what you most desire, God,
our humble, thankful hearts.
*All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
then thank our God, O thank our God,
for blessings of such love.*

*Mathias Claudius (1740-1815),
tr. Jane Montgomery Campbell (1817-1878),
alt. Matthew Jack*

Sermon: Against Entropy

*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: Flute Piece
Thomas Thorley (c.1755 - c. 1825)

Hymn:

Concord

Robert James Berkeley Fleming (1921-1976)



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Let there be light,
Let there be understanding,
Let all the nations gather,
Let them be face to face. | 2. Open our lips,
Open our minds to ponder,
Open the door to concord
Opening into grace. |
|---|---|

3. Perish the sword,
Perish the angry judgment,
Perish the bombs and hunger,
Perish the fight for gain.

4. Hallow our love,
Hallow the deaths of martyrs,
Hallow their holy freedom,
Hallowed be your name.

5. Let there be light,
Open our hearts to wonder,
Perish the way of terror,
Hallow the world God made.

Frances Wheeler Davis (b.1936)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Len Pierce

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

From small buds

MAY GOD GROW GREAT FLOWERS.

From early Spring

MAY GOD MAKE A WONDERFUL SUMMER.

Into cold and dark places

MAY GOD PLACE WARMTH AND LIGHT.

And from this ordinary offering

**MAY GOD BLESS THE WORLD
AND US IN OUR SERVICE.**

Through Jesus, God's prophetic flowering,
AMEN.

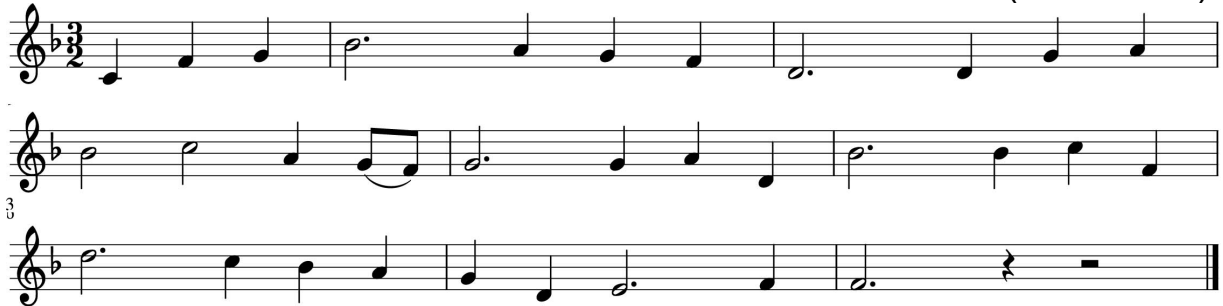
Notices



Hymn:

Dunedin

Vernon Griffiths (1894-1985)



1. Where mountains rise to open skies
your name, O God, is echoed far,
from island beach to kauri's reach,
in water's light, in lake and star.
2. Your people's heart, your people's part
be in our caring for this land,
for faith to flower, for aroha
to let each other's mana stand.
3. From broken word, from conflict
stirred,
from lack of vision, set us free
to see the line of your design,
to feel creation's energy.
4. Your love be known, compassion
shown,
that every child have equal scope:
in justice done, in trust begun
shall be our heritage and hope.
5. Where mountains rise to open skies
your way of peace distil the air,
your spirit bind all humankind,
one covenant of life to share!

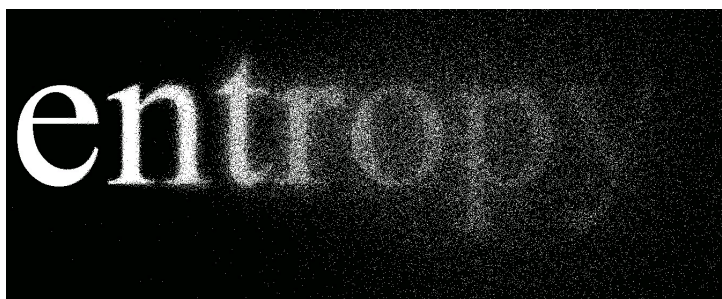
Shirley Murray, (b. 1930)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Movement 1, from Trio Sonata in D minor, BWV 527
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1759)

Tea and coffee are served in the Church following the morning service

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(Nah!)



Our next chapter: Knox's on-going discernment process

At the end of today's service, please pick up, hot off the press, a copy of the "Wheat from Chaff" mission discernment paper. In late July, we held the last of our five mission forums, during which we talked about where our mission focus lay and what sorts of next steps we might take.

From the discussion, a number of things emerged:

- a desire to take our immediate neighbours more seriously, providing impetus and space for local community relationships to form and deepen - Knox as a network hub
- a desire, within ascendant negative examples, to model positive engagement
- a desire to value more the strategic relationships we have with local socially concerned others
- a desire to offer peaceful, reflective space to our neighbourhood
- a desire to provide "conversational space" for healing interactions

In next week's service, we will explore these themes, offering our hope and prayerful consideration.

After the service, there will opportunity for you to offer your thoughts. There will be no formal forum (nor any lovely soup), but I will be in the children's area to hear your thoughts. If you don't want to express your thoughts out loud, we'll have "post-it" notes for you to write on and stick to a white board on the day or over the following week.

Matthew.



*The
Knox Singers
present:*



A Spring Awakening

*An afternoon of
your favourite Hymns and Anthems*

Vivaldi's Gloria

selections from Handel's Messiah

Musical Director Daniel Cooper

2:30pm Sunday 10th

September

Knox Church, corner Bealey Avenue / Victoria Street

Entry \$15 waged, \$10 unwaged, \$25 Family



NOTICES

This Week: 10 September – 16 September 2017

Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
2.30pm Knox Singers Concert – **see below**
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: 17 September – 23 September 2017

Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Soup Booklet - The booklet of delicious soups eaten at the recent Forum Series is now ready for sale. \$5 per copy with all proceeds going to Knox rebuild. Available in the Knox Foyer or from the Church Office.

Spring Sunday - 10th September. To celebrate Spring, we will deliver small bunches of flowers to our shut-in and other senior members after the service. It would be great if you could bring spring flowers to be distributed after the service – the flowers can be already bunched or will be bunched after the service. Also needed are people to deliver the flowers – this will be an opportunity to connect with other church people.

Knox Fireside Group - The next Fireside Group meeting is on Monday 18 September at 7:30 in the Committee Room. Members are invited to bring their hobbies, crafts that they are doing now or perhaps have worked on in the past, and share them with others. This is open to all members of the congregation to come and share.

Sathya Sai International – A free introductory talk: “How to achieve an ethical and compassionate society”. Tuesday 26th September, 7:00pm in the Hall. Speakers: Dr Narendranath Reddy (USA), Neville Fredericks (Australia) and Richard Wallis, Founder of SSI NZ. All welcome.

Annual Car Park Clean Up - Please reserve 30 September, 9:30 am for what has become the annual car park clean up and socializing event. Bring tools including broom and shovel!

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

Last year's General Assembly, looking forward to this year's general election, adopted the following statement: "we say yes"

Justice in Action: "We say "yes!"

Say yes to the dignity and value of every person.

We say no to a society that ascribes different value to people depending on where they were born or how they make their way in this world. Therefore we commit ourselves to the work of peace making, reconciliation and building a society of justice and equality.

Say yes to closing the gap between the rich and the poor.

We say no to the rich getting richer at the expense of the poor getting poorer. Therefore we seek to give privilege to the voices of the poor in our communities.

Say yes to dignified and affordable housing that provides for the wellbeing of family and community.

We say no to families forced to live in garages and in unhealthy over crowded homes. Therefore we seek the collaboration of Government, businesses, social service agencies, social entrepreneurs and local faith communities to find short and long term solutions to the crisis of homelessness.

We say yes to safe and loving families.

We say no to family violence. Therefore we support white ribbon and neighbours days and conversations in our communities that break the silence on family violence.

Say yes to a New Zealand that is welcoming and hospitable to refugees seeking sanctuary.

We say no to outdated government policies that fail to make New Zealand a responsible global citizen. Therefore we advocate for an increase in the refugee quota along with communities of welcome and hospitality.

We the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand say yes to rolling up our sleeves and doing something about it.

We say no to all talk and no action. Therefore we are prepared to put our resources of time, talent and treasure to making a difference as a visible witness to the good news of Jesus Christ.

In the upcoming 2017 General Election and beyond we say yes to policies that deliver greater social equality.

We say no to tax cuts that do not meet the needs of the most vulnerable. Therefore we seek any government proposal on tax cuts be redirected towards the needs of the most vulnerable AND a review of our taxation policies to reflect an equitable society.

We say yes to a sustainable and zero carbon economy.

We say no to policies and practices that contribute to unsustainable growth such as dependence on fossil fuels and excessive lifestyles. Therefore we advocate movement towards clean and sustainable energy and action to limit destructive human impacts on the environment.

Within our own communities of faith we say yes to "Justice and Action" being incorporated into the life and mission of every congregation.

We say no to blind eyes and deaf ears to the cry of the poor. Therefore we pray that we will be broken open by the love of God for our communities and become agents of grace, compassion, healing and social transformation.

The PCANZ, along with Presbyterian Support, is sitting around the table with Government and social service agencies giving voice and advocacy on these issues.

The PCANZ, in partnership with Presbyterian Support throughout the country, is offering practical support and resources as we work together towards social transformation.

We call upon every Presbyterian, Union and Cooperating congregation to take up the gospel mandate of being agents of Justice and Action.



Jershon Tatana - Hastings / Heretaunga



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Isaiah 43: 18-19a
- Acts 17: 16-28

Knox Directory

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Office hours: Mon-Fri 9.00am-noon

Visit our website

www.knoxchurch.co.nz



website

Minister: Rev. Dr Matthew Jack
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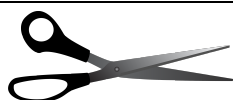
Session Clerk: Janet Wilson,
ph. (03) 338 7203

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