



# KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## **Order of Service** 10 December 2017

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# **LIVING AND DEALING WITH GUILT**

a community responds

## 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 Director of Music,  
we welcome Russell Kent to the organ bench. Kia Ora, Russell!

### Organ Preludes:

Wauchet Auf (Advent chorale prelude)  
Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748)

Berceuse  
John Marsh (1752-1828)

### The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD;**

**JESUS, PROCLAIMED BY JOHN THE BAPTIST;**

**JESUS, PROMISING A BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

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

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

*Without announcement, we stand to sing*

**Hymn:**

Winchester New

William Henry Havergal (1793-1870)



1. The Baptist shouts on Jordan's shore,  
the earth shakes with a mighty roar,  
awake, let lazy sleep now flee:  
behold, the voice of prophecy!
2. The earth and sky and sea now feel  
that which their Author will reveal:  
the Child now leaping in the womb  
as God does human form assume.
3. Clean up your hearts, lay down the way,  
for God approaches day by day;  
prepare for such a worthy heir,  
for such a guest your house prepare.
4. Through you, O Jesus, you alone  
salvation, solace, strength are known;  
without your love we fade like grass,  
like wilted flowers our lives will pass.
5. O One who comes to set us free,  
O Child, to you our song will be,  
with Father, Spirit mothering,  
to you shall praise for ever ring!

*Charles Coffin (1676-1749)*

*tr. John Chandler (1806-1876) and others, alt.*

**Prayer of Approach**

A voice cries out in the wilderness:

“prepare the way of the Lord,

make straight in the desert

a highway for our God.”

**AMEN! COME, LORD JESUS!**

John the Baptist appears in the desert,  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
He promises the arrival of one greater than himself,  
who will save and bless the people.  
**AMEN! COME, LORD JESUS!**

The people flock out to hear him,  
longing for a hallowed way,  
an effective way,  
of leaving guilt behind,  
and finding forgiveness.  
**AMEN! COME, LORD JESUS.**

They long for their brokenness to be healed,  
for their loneliness to be filled,  
for their relationships to be mended.  
**AMEN! COME, LORD JESUS.**

Even so with us!  
Looking for somewhere to leave our heavy burdens,  
longing to let go of our regrets,  
seeking a baptism that will leave us clean and free,  
we seek the Holy Spirit of Jesus.  
**AMEN! COME LORD JESUS.**

And so, for what we have done,  
for what we have omitted to do,  
for sins of ignorance  
and sins of deliberate intention,  
for the many ways we have failed our God  
our fellow human beings,  
and ourselves,  
we say

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:

Almighty God,  
unto whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden,  
**CLEANSE THE THOUGHTS OF OUR HEARTS  
BY THE INSPIRATION OF YOUR HOLY SPIRIT,  
SO THAT WE MAY PERFECTLY LOVE YOU  
AND WORTHILY PRAISE YOUR HOLY NAME.**

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.*



## Vote of thanks to our Sunday School teachers

### The Advent Wreath: The Candle of John the Baptist

John baptized many people in the Jordan.  
They were burdened and troubled.  
He said "one who is more powerful than I  
is coming after me."  
He said "I have baptised you with water;  
but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

We light a candle to show that we are open  
to John's testimony.

**GIVE US HUMILITY, O GOD,  
TO SEEK AND SERVE CHRIST.**

*(The candle is lit)*

Take us from regret to hope!  
**AMEN! COME, LORD JESUS.**

### 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 the last well supervised, faith-based youth activities for the year. Sunday School begins again next year in February.*

The First Lesson: Isaiah 40: 1-11

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

The Gospel Lesson: Mark 1: 1-8

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



*Without announcement, we stand to sing*

**Hymn:**

Merton

William Henry Monk (1823-1889)



1. Hark! a herald voice is calling:  
"Christ is near," it seems to say,  
"cast away the dreams of darkness,  
waken, children of the day!"
2. Wakened by the solemn warning  
let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling,  
shines upon the morning skies.
3. Lo, the Lamb so long expected  
comes with pardon down from heaven;  
let us meet him with repentance,  
pray that we may be forgiven.
4. So when love comes forth in judgment,  
debts and doubts and wrongs to clear,  
faithful may he find his servants  
watching till the dawn appear.

*Anon*

**Sermon:**

A community copes with Ross

*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:**

Pastoralla on Divine Mysterium  
Stanley Vann (1910-2010)

*Without announcement, we stand to sing*

**Hymn:**

Down Ampney

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)



1. Come down, O love divine, seek out this soul of mine,  
and visit it with your own ardor glowing.  
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,  
And kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.
2. O let it freely burn, til earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
and let your glorious light shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.
3. Let holy charity my outward vesture be,  
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;  
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,  
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.
4. And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace, till we become the place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

*Bianco da Siena (d. 1434)*

*Trans: Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890)*

**Prayers for Others and Ourselves**

*led by Len Pierce*



**The Offering and Dedication:** Christmas Meditation  
Andrew Moore (b. 1954)

*We stand for the dedication of the Offering*

We offer money and food,  
and time and faith.

**DARE WE OFFER, ALSO, O GOD,  
OUR WILLINGNESS TO FORGIVE  
AND BE FORGIVEN?**

Dare we offer our commitment  
to making the world a kinder, safer place?

**DARE WE OFFER  
TO BE PEOPLE OF YOUR ADVENT?**

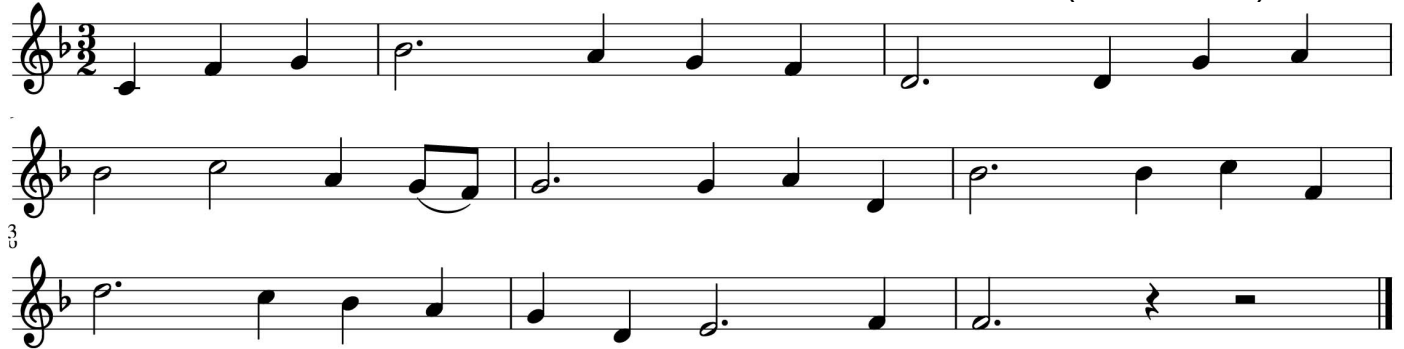
Receive what we offer, O God,  
**AND MOVE US TO A GREATER FAITH.  
AMEN.**

**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. 1931)*

**Benediction and Sung Amen**

**Postlude:** Overture from Cantata 147  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

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

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## Christian World Service Christmas Appeal

### Advent 2



Sujatha (centre) is now the *panchayat* (or local council) president. She has the skills she needs to make changes that improve the lives of her village in Tamil Nadu state in South India. As a Dalit and a woman she has worked hard to make the panchayat work for the poorest people and create hope for their future. Human Rights Foundation has trained her and others to exercise their political rights, standing up against those who try to take community land and resources.

**Please give generously to the Christmas Appeal. Let's make hope our story!**



## NOTICES

**This Week: 10 December – 16 December 2017**

Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship

**Next Week: 17 December – 23 December 2017**

Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship

**Carols at Riccarton Bush**, 6.30pm, Sunday 10 December 2017. Come and join us in singing Christmas carols with Addington Brass.

**Free Community Christmas Dinner** – Friday 15 December 6.30pm St Albans Uniting Church. Please RSVP to 3857545 by Wednesday 13 December.

### **Theology House: Diploma Christian Studies courses 2018**

Study theology and ministry at NZQA Level 5 for minimal cost and maximal reward. Mix of face to face learning and online tutorials. Three courses offered in 2018. All details at [www.theologyhouse.ac.nz](http://www.theologyhouse.ac.nz) or ring Claire on 03 341 3399.

Enrolment by 1 February 2018 for Semester 1 courses.

**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 [janmwil507@gmail.com](mailto:janmwil507@gmail.com)**



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

- Romans 16: 25-27
- Luke 1: 26-38

## Knox Directory

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



website



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