



# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service 17 December 2017



**EXPECTING THE ORDINARY?**

## 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 Director of Music,  
we welcome Valerie Xiang to the organ bench. Kia Ora, Valerie.

### The Call to Worship:

We light a candle in the name of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world:  
**JESUS, BORN TO A WOMAN OF EXPLODED EXPECTATIONS;**  
**JESUS, NURTURED IN A HOME OF “HOW CAN THIS BE”;**  
**JESUS, GOD’S HOPE, LIVED OUT IN HUMAN ACTION.**

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

### Hymn:

Thaxted

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)





1. O God beyond all praising, we worship you today  
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;  
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,  
at blessings without number and mercies without end:  
we lift our hearts before you and act upon your word,  
we honour and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.
2. Then hear, O gracious Saviour, accept the love we bring,  
that we who know your favour may serve you as our king;  
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,  
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:  
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,  
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

*Michael Perry (b. 1942)*

### **Prayer of Approach**

God, beyond all human speech,  
God, divine mystery,  
God, before whose glory  
humanity falls silent,  
**WE WORSHIP YOU TODAY.**

God of generous giving,  
God of unnumbered blessings,  
God of mercy unending,  
**WE WORSHIP YOU TODAY.**

God of secret telling,  
God of purpose showing,  
God of gracious unfolding of meaning,  
**WE WORSHIP YOU TODAY.**

God whose Word fell into the life of Mary,  
like the voice of an angel,  
God whose calling was deep,  
God gently leading a youth into adventurous vocation,  
**WE WORSHIP YOU TODAY.**

God, you expand our horizons,  
you challenge us with adventure,  
you dare us to say "We are servants of the Lord".  
**SO WE PRAY YOUR EXTENDING OF OUR VISION,  
YOUR ENLIVENING OF OUR HOPE,  
YOUR NURTURING OF OUR IMAGINATION AND FAITH.**

And in our praying,  
we acknowledge our ways:  
**NOT VISION, BUT BLINDNESS,  
NOT ADVENTURE, BUT BOREDOM,  
NOT HOPE, BUT CYNICISM,  
NOT COMMITMENT, BUT INDIFFERENCE.**

Admitting these inclinations,  
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:**

God, you announced your favour to Mary.  
You challenged her to take on an extraordinary life.  
Speak also to us.  
**DISTURB OUR SMALL PLANS  
WITH YOUR GREAT HOPE.**

Provoke our dreaming  
with your great inspiring.  
**EMBOLDEN OUR IMAGINATION  
WITH YOUR GREAT AMBITION.**

For we pray it in the name of Jesus,  
who taught us to pray together, saying:

**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 Angel's Candle**

Gabriel said to Mary  
“Greetings, favoured one;  
the Lord is with you.”  
He said “Do not be afraid.”

We light a candle to show solidarity  
with all who are frightened,  
or confused by their Advent calling.

**GIVE US COURAGE, O GOD,  
TO TAKE ON OUR GODLY WORK.**

*(The candle is lit)*

Make us a people of adventuresome spirit.  
**AMEN! COME, LORD JESUS.**



*Although there is no Sunday School today, young ones are welcome to enjoy the activity corner at the back of the church where they will find toys and an activity sheet. Sunday School begins again in February.*

**The First Lesson:** Romans 16: 25-27

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

**The Gospel Lesson:** Luke 1: 26-38

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

**Hymn:**

Woodlands

*Walter Greatedorex (1877-1949)*



1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of the word;  
in God my saviour shall my heart rejoice.
2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
his holy name - the Lord, the Mighty One.
3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)*

**Sermon:** Dreams and reality

*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 in E minor, BWV 555  
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

**Hymn:**

Here I am Lord:

Dan Schutte S.J. (b. 1947)



1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people's cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin,  
my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

*Refrain:*

Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?

*Refrain*

3. I the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them,  
my hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

*Refrain*

*Dan Schutte S.J. (b. 1947)*

**Prayers for Others and Ourselves**

*led by Bob Fendall*

**The Offering and Dedication**

*We stand for the dedication of the Offering*

We offer money and food,  
asking it be blessed to good and fruitful use.

**WE OFFER ALSO OUR HOPE,  
OUR IMAGINATION,  
OUR COURAGE FOR THE ADVENTURE.**

May God bless it,  
since we pray it  
in Jesus' name.

**AMEN.**

**Notices**

## Hymn:

Veni Emmanuel

from Fifteenth Century French Processional



1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Christ of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice!*

*Emmanuel shall come to you,  
O Israel!*

2. O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
and order all things far and nigh,  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
and help us in that way to go.

*Rejoice . . .*

3. O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer  
our spirits by your advent here;  
love stir within the womb of night,  
and death's own shadows put to flight.

*Rejoice . . .*

4. O come, Desire of Nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
make envy, strife and quarrels cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

*Rejoice . . .*

*Based on antiphons from Advent Vespers,  
trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and others, alt.*

## Benediction and Sung Amen

### Postlude:

Carillon Toccata

Douglas E. Wagner (b. 1952)

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

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# Christian World Service Christmas Appeal

## Advent 3



Thanks to freshwater on tap, the lives of three HIV and AIDS orphans have been transformed in Southwest Uganda. Spared from long treks and early morning queues, they enjoy drinking crystal clear water from their very own water tank. When everything is dry and dusty from another drought, there is nothing better than fresh water to drink. They have time to help their grandmother with gardening and chores, and go to school. The Centre for Community Solidarity channels hope through 25 local associations of people caring for the orphans of HIV and AIDS.

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



## NOTICES

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

Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship

**Next Week: 24 December – 30 December 2017**

Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship

### **ACTING COUNCIL CLERK**

Jean Brouwer will be acting council clerk over Christmas and the New Year holiday period. She may be contacted on 355 6534.

### **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.

## Christmas Services

**Sunday 24 December,  
10:00am**

A Service of  
Nine Lessons and Carols

featuring the traditional  
Christmas readings and lots of  
festive music.



**Sunday 24 December,  
11:15pm**

# A Christmas Eve service of Carols, Candlelight and Communion

vacancy, no-vacancy and  
welcoming the child



**Monday 25  
December, 10:00am**

## A simple celebration for Christmas Day

“to those who received him, he gave the power to become children of God”



## Services over New Year

From 31 December through to 21 January, Knox and Durham Street Methodist hold combined morning services at Knox



**Sunday 31 December**  
**10:00am**

## Durham Street provides leadership

**Sunday 7 January**  
**10:00am**

Communion service, with Durham  
Street providing leadership

**Sundays 14 & 21 January,  
10:00am**

Knox provides leadership.

**Sunday 28 January, 10:00am**

We return to our usual service schedule.

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:**

Genesis 3: 3-15

Isaiah 11: 1-9

Luke 2: 8-16

Genesis 22: 15-18

Luke 1: 26-38

Matthew 2: 1-11

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Luke 2: 1-7

John 1: 1-14

## **Knox Directory**

28 Bealey Ave, Christchurch 8013

Secretary: Jane Ellis,

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Office hours: Mon-Fri 9.00am-noon

Minister: Rev. Dr Matthew Jack

[minister@knoxchurch.co.nz](mailto:minister@knoxchurch.co.nz)

for emergencies, (03) 3570 111

Church Council Clerk: Janet Wilson,  
ph. (03) 338 7203

Director of Music: Daniel Cooper,  
[organist@knoxchurch.co.nz](mailto:organist@knoxchurch.co.nz)

Pastoral Assistant: Jan Harland  
ph. 0273560215

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



website



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## **Keeping in Touch**

Name:

Contact details