



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service Christmas Eve, 2017



a Christmas Eve service
of carols, candle light
and communion

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.

CANDLES AND COMMUNION SERVING

As you arrive tonight, you will be given a Christmas candle. During the singing of the opening hymn, candle bearers will move down the central aisles, lighting the candles of those adjacent to the aisle. Light your candle from those sitting next to you. Please be aware of where your flame is, paying particular attention to the person in front of you.

At Knox, we come forward to receive communion. Two lines form in the central aisle. Please join the line that has formed on your side of the aisle. Receive bread from the server, dip it in the communion cup, and return to your seat via the outer aisles. If, because of low light conditions or mobility issues, you feel you can't receive communion in this way, please let one of our welcomers know. We will arrange for communion to be brought to you in your seat.

The wine in the large silver communion cups contains alcohol, and the bread offered by the central servers is non-gluten free. The servers with the small trays (to the outside of the church) have small glasses of non-alcoholic grape juice and trays of gluten free bread.

If you wish to receive communion in a way that requires two hands, please hand your candle to the person behind you in the line. Please retrieve your candle from that person before he or she needs to receive communion.

Please be assured that the table at Knox is an open one. Members of any denomination, as well as any of no denomination who are seeking God sincerely, are welcome to receive communion here.

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**We gather again at Knox tomorrow, 25 December, at 10:00am,
for a simple service of celebration for Christmas Day.**



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

Before tonight’s service, as the congregation gathers, the Knox Singers will sing a carol. This is not part of the service, but courtesy is appreciated.

The Angel Gabriel
Traditional Basque Carol
arr. Edgar Pettman (1866-1943)

The Welcome

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

Opening Prayer

**... 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.**

We stand for
The candle-lighting Hymn
Irby

H. J. Gauntlett (1805-1876)



Verse 1 is sung by a soloist.

Verse 2 is sung by the Knox Singers only.

The congregation stands and starts singing at verse 3.

*1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle-shed
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.*

*2. He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.*

**3. And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.**

**4. Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
when, like stars, his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.**

C. F. Alexander (1818-1895)

We sit for

The Bible Lesson: Hebrews 13: 1-3, 5-6

In this is the Word of God.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

The Reflection: Entertaining angels

We remain seated to sing

Hymn:

Bunessan

Gaelic traditional melody



1. Child in a manger,
infant of Mary;
outcast and stranger,
Lord of all!
Child who inherits
all our transgressions,
all our demerits
on him fall.

2. Once the most holy
child of salvation
gently and lowly
lived below;
now, as our glorious
mighty Redeemer,
see him victorious
o'er each foe.

3. Prophets foretold him,
infant of wonder;
angels behold him
on his throne;
worthy our Saviour
of all their praises;
happy forever
are his own.

*Mary Macdonald (1789-1872)
tr. Lachlan Macbean (1853-1931)*



The Invitation, Institution and the Setting Apart of the Elements

Great Eucharistic Prayer:

May God be with you.
AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Lift up your hearts.
WE LIFT THEM TO GOD.

Let us give thanks to the world's Creator.
IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.

It is right indeed, eternal God.
The wise ones told us that at the very beginning,
it was just you.
We were assured that you were perfect in yourself,
fulfilled within yourself,
complete within yourself.
You were without any need of any other - an island.

BUT NO!
YOU CREATED A WORLD
TO BE YOUR FRIEND.
YOU INVITED THE "OTHER"
INTO YOUR LIFE.

The other had sea and land.
It had the creeping and crawling.
It had the flying and swimming,
the singing and soaring.
It had the thinking and hoping,
the fearing and longing.

**YOU CALLED IT ALL INTO YOUR CARE,
AND GAVE IT ROOM IN YOUR HEART.**

When we went off course, rejecting you,
and killing the ones you sent us,
you did not abandon us.

**YOU SENT US THE PROPHETS,
WHO GOADED US
INTO HOPING FOR RECONCILIATION.**

Then, in the fullness of time,
you came to us in Christ,
to hold us, and simply to make real your presence.

When *he* was killed and thrown away,
you raised him again.

**YOU MADE HIM ALIVE,
AND GAVE US A FUTURE.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God,
upon us who wait for the celebration of his birth,
and upon these elements of bread and wine,
that they may become for us his body and blood.

**MAKE US ONE WITH HIM,
ONE WITH ONE ANOTHER,
AND ONE IN MINISTRY IN THE WORLD
UNTIL AT LAST WE FEAST WITH HIM IN THE KINGDOM.**

Through your Son, Jesus Christ,
all honour and glory is yours, eternal God,
now and for ever.

AMEN.

The Breaking of the Bread

Lamb of God:

Jesus, Lamb of God,

HAVE MERCY ON US.

JESUS, BEARER OF OUR SINS,

HAVE MERCY ON US.

JESUS, REDEEMER OF THE WORLD,

GRANT US YOUR PEACE.

The Communion

Communion Motet: Quem Pastores
Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

Anthem: Poverty Carol
Caradog Roberts (1878-1935)

Prayer: To the God who makes room

Silence until midnight

The Reading of the Nativity: Luke 2:1-14

The Christmas Greeting

People of God,
Christ is born. God is with us.

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.**

***Please blow out your candles,
and greet one another with the peace of God.***

Without announcement, we stand to sing

Hymn:

Mendelssohn

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)



Hark! the he-rald an-gels sing glo-ry to the new-born king.

1. Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
joyful all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies,
with th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born king.*
2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the God-head see;
hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased one earth with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born king.*
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings;
mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us all from earth,
Born to give us second birth.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born king.*

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

*The congregation remains standing and joins in the **BOLD** typed lines for
The Christmas Litany:*

Jesus, Son of the living God,
Splendour of heaven,
GLORY BE TO YOU.

Jesus, Child in a manger,
King of Creation,
GLORY BE TO YOU.

Jesus, wonderful Counsellor,
mighty God,
everlasting Lord,
GLORY BE TO YOU.

Jesus, inexhaustible Wisdom,
our Way,
our Truth,
our Life,
GLORY BE TO YOU.

The Word was made flesh
and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.
THANKS BE TO GOD, AMEN.

Without announcement, we sing

Hymn:

Adeste Fideles

John Francis Wade (c.1711-1786)

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -
dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

1. O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him
born the king of angels;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

2. God of God,
Light of light,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore him . . .

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above.
'Glory to God,
glory in the highest':
O come, let us adore him . . .

4. Yea, Lord we greet thee,
born on Christmas morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:
O come let us adore Him . . .

John Francis Wade (c.1711-1786)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Toccata on "Joy to the World"
Martin Setchell (b. 1949)

The Retiring Offering

A retiring offering will be taken for the Christian World Service Christmas appeal. You can place your donation in one of the baskets held by Knox people at the exits, or you may prefer to post a donation directly to CWS using the postage paid envelope attached to the CWS leaflet.

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 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



website

Minister: Rev. Dr Matthew Jack

minister@knoxchurch.co.nz

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Church Council Clerk: Janet Wilson,

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