



# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## **Order of Service** **25 December 2017**

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**but, to those who received him . . .**

a simple celebration  
for Christmas Day

## 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.

This morning the Bible has already been placed on the lectern, so will not be processed in. At 10 o'clock, with the congregation remaining seated, two readers approach the Advent Wreath. Once they have read the Nativity Passage from Luke's Gospel, the Christ Candle is lit. The service proceeds from there.

**The Nativity:** Luke 2: 1-14

**The Lighting of the Christ Candle**

**The Christmas Proclamation:**

Behold, I bring you good news of great joy!

**GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!**

Come, let us go now to Bethlehem,  
**AND LET US SEE THIS THING THAT HAS COME TO PASS.**



*Without announcement, we stand to 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!*

*Organ Fanfare and organ solo verse*

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)*

*The congregation sits for*  
**The Prayers of Approach**

Yea, little One,  
we greet thee,  
born this happy morning.  
We greet you, child of Mary,  
little brown thing of Middle Eastern appearance.  
We greet your black hair,  
your dark brown eyes.  
**LITTLE CHRISTMAS CHILD,  
WE RECEIVE YOU,  
AND BELIEVE IN YOUR NAME.**

Yea, we greet you, child of **all** humanity,  
flesh of our flesh,  
bone of our bone.  
We greet two eyes, two ears,  
nose and fingers and toes.  
**LITTLE CHRISTMAS CHILD,  
WE RECEIVE YOU,  
AND BELIEVE IN YOUR NAME.**

Yea, we greet you, child of human need -  
defenseless, soft and hungry,  
crying and thirsting,  
calling upon our basic human decency.  
We greet you simply because it would be wrong not to.



**LITTLE CHRISTMAS CHILD,  
WE RECEIVE YOU,  
AND BELIEVE IN YOUR NAME.**

Yea, we greet you, child of whom there are rumours of eternity.  
We greet the Word made flesh,  
the light that shines,  
the new creativity.

**LITTLE CHRISTMAS CHILD,  
WE RECEIVE YOU,  
AND BELIEVE IN YOUR NAME.**

In greeting you,  
we know that we ourselves may be greeted.  
In receiving you,  
we know that we may well be received.  
In rejoicing in your birth,  
we wonder that we, ourselves, might find ourselves born anew,  
receiving power to become children of God.

**LITTLE CHRISTMAS CHILD,  
WE RECEIVE YOU,  
AND BELIEVE IN YOUR NAME.**

On a Christmas morning,  
**WE GREET YOU,  
AMEN.**

*If there are younger ones present*  
**A Conversation with the Younger Ones**

*Although there is no Sunday School during the summer holidays, young ones are welcome to enjoy the children's corner at the back of the church. There are some craft materials which children can use to make decorations for the Christmas tree. Sunday School begins again in February.*



**Hymn:**

Forest Green

English traditional melody  
arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)



1. O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by:  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.
2. O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King  
and peace to men on earth;  
for Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.
3. How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

*Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) alt.*

**The Bible Lesson:** John 1: 1-14

This is the gospel of Christ.

**PRAISE TO CHRIST THE WORD.**

**The Christmas Reflection:** Hello, little baby?

*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.*



**Hymn:**

Corde Natus

Piae Cantiones Theoderici, 1582



1. Of the Parent's heart begotten  
when the worlds were yet to be,  
one there was with no beginning,  
one who is eternally,  
source and ending of all things that have been,  
and all things that are to be  
evermore and evermore.
2. By this word was all created  
by this word were all things done:  
land and air and deepest ocean,  
harmony of three in one  
and all growing in the luminance  
shed forth from the moon and sun,  
evermore and evermore.
3. This is One whom seers and sages  
sang of old with one accord,  
whom the voices of the prophets  
promised in their faithful word;  
now Christ shines, the long-expected:  
let creation praise its Lord  
evermore and evermore.



4. In the heights of heaven adore him,  
angel hosts his praises sing,  
all dominions bow before him  
and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
every voice in concert sing  
evermore and evermore.

*Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348 - c.413)*  
*tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866),*  
*Henry Williams Baker (1827-1877) and others*

### Prayers for Others and Ourselves

**... 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.**

### Notices



# 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 on 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)*

### **Benediction and Sung Amen**

**Postlude:** Processional  
William Mathias (1934-1992)

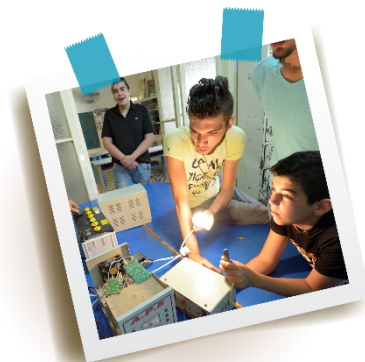
### **Retiring Offering**

A retiring offering is taken for the Christian World Service Christmas Appeal. Regular offering envelopes may also be placed in the offering baskets and find their way into the regular offering system.

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## **Christian World Service Christmas Appeal**

### **Christmas Day**



In Lebanon, Syrian refugee students relish the opportunity to learn at the Sabra Centre. With their families, they have fled from war. Falling funding for refugee services and rising costs is making life harder. School is a welcome opportunity to learn skills that they can take with them no matter what the future. Older students can train in electronics and computer maintenance so that one day they can return home to bring hope to their shattered homeland.

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

# 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

28 Bealey Ave, Christchurch 8013

Secretary: Jane Ellis,

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