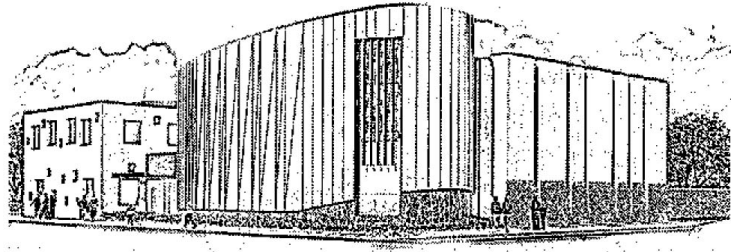




KNOX CHURCH
love faith outreach community justice



**Durham Street
Methodist Church**

Order of Service

21 January 2018



RESCUED FROM HIS PEOPLE

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, SHINING BRIGHTLY ON THE DAMASCUS ROAD;

JESUS, RESCUING PAUL FROM HIMSELF AND OTHERS;

JESUS, GIVING NEW LIFE AND DIRECTION TO THE CHURCH.

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Rustington

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918)



1. Christ has risen while earth slumbers,
Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised,
as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing;
let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumour –
Christ is risen, God is here!
2. Christ has risen for the people
whom he loved and died to save;
Christ has risen for the women
bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen, well determined
to block off the path of Saul,
come to halt the persecutions
and to rescue one and all.
3. Christ has risen, and for ever
lives to challenge, and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled,
all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen. Christ is present,
making us what he has been –
evidence of transformation
in which God is known and seen.

*John Bell (b. 1949)
and Graham Maule (b. 1958), alt.*

Prayer of Approach

To Saul,
it was a thrilling engagement,
a task to be passionate about;
it was a calling
to which he was wonderfully suited.
SO ONTO THE DAMASCUS ROAD HE WENT.

To the Scribes and Pharisees,
it was a welcome campaign,
to which they gave their letters of agreement.
THEY CHEERED HIM ALONG THE DAMASCUS ROAD.

To the risen Christ,
it was a tragedy,
not just for his people,
but also for the young man
whose spirit was de-forming.
“It hurts you, Saul”, he said.
AND SO, A DAMASCUS INTERVENTION.

On the Damascus road,
BRIGHT LIGHT SHINES;

On the Damascus road,
THE VOICE OF TRUTH SOUNDS OUT.

On the Damascus road,
**EVIL IS HALTED,
AND GOOD IS RECLAIMED.**

We confess that we find this story strange.
It is at odds with our experience
of persecutions that are not halted.
It is at odds with all the times
when a saving hand from heaven
has been difficult to discern.
It is at odds with our world,
in which people seldom suddenly change.
**SO BLESS US, SAVING GOD,
AS WE LISTEN FOR YOUR TRUTH.**

Bless us also,
as we confess our contribution to the tragedy:
**THE NOT LISTENING,
THE NOT SEEING,
THE REFUSING TO UNDERSTAND.**

Confessing the evils to which we have smiled,
nodded, and chuckled,
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:

O God,
whose Christ's appearing on the Damascus road
was a rescuing of many,
give us grace to think about this miracle of change.

**ENABLE US TO BECOME AGENTS OF YOUR INTERVENTION,
THAT THE RESCUING OF THE PEOPLE
FROM THE PEOPLE
WILL BE MORE THAN JUST AN IDEA.**

We pray this in the name of the Damascus Christ,
and even as we have been taught to pray,
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

Although there is no Sunday School during the summer break, young ones will find activity sheets and toys in the play area at the back of the church.

The First Lesson: Acts 26: 9-21

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

The Second Lesson: Galatians 1: 11-24

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

Hymn:

Amazing Grace

American Folk Hymn Melody



1. Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
that saved one such as me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught
my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!
3. Through many dangers,
toils and snares
I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.
4. My God has promised good to me,
whose word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

John Newton (1725-1807)

Sermon:

Rescuing?

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: Prière

C. Franck (1822-1890)

Hymn:

Corvedale

Maurice Bevan (1921-2006)



1. There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than in God's heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.
2. For the love of God is broader
than the grasp of mortal mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make God's love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify God's strictness
with a zeal too greatly grown.

3. There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.
If our love were but more simple,
we would take him at his word;
and our lives would be all gladness
in the joy of Christ our Lord.

Frederick William Faber (1814-63), alt.

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Andrew Johnston

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

If turning from death to life is possible,
if rescue from deformation and sorrow is possible,
if finding new life in service is possible,
**THEN MAY GOD'S BLESSING
SEND THIS OFFERING TO ALL THE RIGHT PLACES.**
Bless the food, the money, and the people,
FOR THE BLESSING OF THE WORLD.
AMEN.

Notices

Hymn:

Lord of the Years

Timothy Dudley Smith (b. 1926)



1. Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.
2. Lord, for that Word, the Word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the Word, receive your people's praise.
3. Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.
4. Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.
5. Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)

Benediction and **Sung Amen**

Postlude: March from Scipio
G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

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

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NOTICES

This Week: 21 January – 27 January 2018
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship

Next Week: 28 January – 3 February 2018
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship

Faith, Film and Fiction – The book and film groups will start again this year on Sunday 11 February in the lounge at 5pm when we will watch the film Poi E! The first book presentation will be on Sunday 25 February in the Committee Room at 11.15am. For dates and details of the year's programme please contact Bronwyn at bronwynwiltshire@gmail.com

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 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

From “Humans of New York”: is this an instance of Damascus rescue?



“I was a full time housewife. I kept mostly to myself. I was a very shy person. Then one year a local school asked if I could volunteer to teach art to the children. Just one hour every day. I did such a good job that the next year they asked me to teach full time. My husband didn’t want me to do it. He said: ‘You told me it would just be one hour.’ But I told him: ‘I listened to you for twenty-five years, now it’s my turn to take the reins.’ I ended up teaching for fifteen years. I built such a good reputation that children came from other schools to join my class. The whole school threw a party when I retired. The children sang songs and danced. It just made me feel so special. Teaching was the best decision I ever made. Now I feel like I’ve done something positive with my life.”



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Psalm 111
- 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13

Knox Directory

28 Bealey Ave, Christchurch 8013
Secretary: Jane Ellis,
ph. (03) 379 2456,
office@knoxchurch.co.nz
Office hours: Mon-Fri 9.00am-noon

Minister: Rev. Dr Matthew Jack
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

Pastoral Assistant: Jan Harland
ph. 0273560215



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