



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service **25 December 2018**



The Prince of Peace

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 already has been placed on the lectern, so will not be processed in. At 10 o'clock, with the congregation remaining seated, the minister approaches the Advent Wreath. Once he has 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

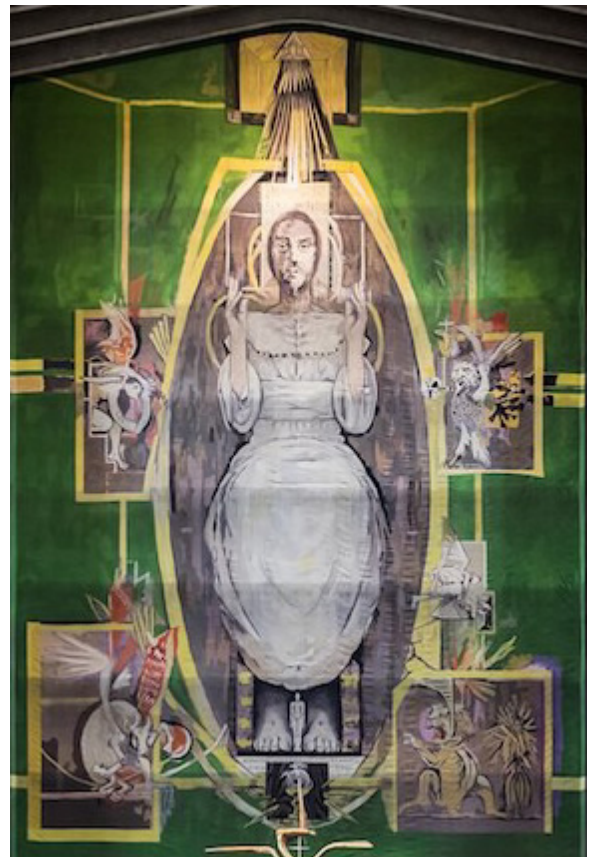
The Christmas Proclamation:

Unto us a child is born!

UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN!

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:

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)

The congregation sits for
The Prayers of Approach

Hail, you heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Who would have thought that a dynasty of peace,
of healing, of wholeness,
MIGHT HAVE BEGUN IN SUCH A WAY?

Who would have thought that
that for which the world so long had sought,
the balm for its woe,
the solution to its problem,
the peace which we eventually had had to acknowledge
the world could not give,
**SHOULD COME TO US
THROUGH THE BIRTH OF A CHILD.**

The coming of the mighty God
MIGHT WELL HAVE CHANGED OUR WORLD.

The coming of the wonderful counsellor
MIGHT WELL HAVE SHIFTED OUR TRACKS.

The war-stilling authority of the everlasting father-figure
MIGHT WELL HAVE TILTED THE AXIS.

But no,
there comes to us a child.
**“UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN.
UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN.”**

A baby.
A VULNERABILITY.

A small start,
A NEVER SHOUTING,
a birth
OF THE ONE THEY CALL THE PRINCE OF PEACE.

It may take us time,
God of Christmas wonder,
to work this through.
We teach the children -
THEY DO NOT TEACH US.

We are the experienced ones,
THEY PLAY IN THE NURSERY.

We are the thinkers,
THEY ARE THE FEELERS.

How could one of them
bring peace to the world?

This is a deep and searching question,
which we will commit into your strange Christmas story.

For the moment,
give us grace to come to the manger,
TO SEE THE VULNERABILITY OF THE CHILD,
and to pray for our perceiving
OF THE COMING OF THE PRINCE OF PEACE.

Glory be to you,
through Jesus, the Lord,
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 activity sheets and toys in the children's corner at the back of the church.



Hymn:

Quem Pastores

Melody from a German manuscript of 1410



1. Jesus, good above all other,
gentle child of gentle mother,
in a stable born our brother,
give us grace to persevere.
2. Jesus, cradled in a manger,
for us facing every danger,
living as a homeless stranger,
we make you our king most dear.
3. Jesus, witness to our dying,
risen Master, death defying,
Lord in heaven, your grace supplying,
keep us to your presence near.
4. Jesus, all our sorrows bearing,
you our thoughts and hopes are sharing,
while to us the truth declaring;
help us all that truth to hear.
5. Lord, in all our doings guide us;
let not pride and hate divide us;
we'll go on with you beside us
and with joy we'll persevere.

Percy Dearmer (1867-1936), alt.

The Bible Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2-6

In this is the Word of God.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

The Christmas Reflection: A peace sign

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:

Forest Green

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



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| 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. | 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. |
| 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. | 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.

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

To the minister's words "O come to us; abide with us",
you are invited to respond "**OUR LORD, EMMANUEL**".

... **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:

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)

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

REDUCED INEQUALITIES



The 2018 Appeal puts the spotlight on our responsibilities to each other and the planet our home. In 2015, the United Nations agreed to a new agenda for sustainable development made up of 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Goal 10 recognises the need for fairer access to the world's resources to achieve the core commitment to 'leave no one behind'. Already there are some worrying trends: world hunger has been increasing for the last three years and the number of refugees and displaced people is rising. Last year, Oxfam [reported](#) eight men owned the same wealth as 3.6 billion people, half the world's population. Large disparities between people's ability to access healthcare, education and basic human rights undermine efforts to achieve all the SDGs.

This goal [aims](#) to improve incomes for the bottom 40% in a population, stop discrimination and provide equal opportunities, and increase Official Development Assistance (ODA) and financial flows to the poorest countries. It covers fair and well-managed migration flows and to cut the cost of remittances. Without meeting this goal, millions of people will continue to be left behind.



Services over New Year

From 30 December through to 27 January, Knox and Durham Street Methodist hold combined morning services at Knox



Sunday 30 December

10:00am

Durham Street provides leadership

Sunday 6 January

10:00am

Communion service, with Durham Street providing leadership

Sunday 13 January, 10:00am

Durham Street provides leadership

Sundays 20 & 27 January,

10:00am

Knox provides leadership.

Sunday 3 February, 10:00am

We return to our usual service schedule.

ACTING COUNCIL CLERK -

Jean Brouwer will be acting council clerk 22-28 December. She may be contacted on 355 6534.

THE CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURE -

Knox Church Office will be closed from midday Friday 21st December until 9am Monday 7th January. Any queries please contact Jean Brouwer (22-28 December) on 355 6534 and Janet Wilson (from 28 December) on 338 7203.



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

Visit our website

www.knoxchurch.co.nz



website



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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