



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service 10 March 2019



WILDERNESS STORIES LENT 1 - THE TESTING OF JESUS

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

Today's flowers are in memory of James William Rusher, brother of Jan Harland

The Call to Worship:

We light a candle in the name of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

JESUS, LED BY THE SPIRIT IN THE WILDERNESS;

JESUS, CONFRONTED BY DESTRUCTIVE FORCES;

JESUS, STRONG IN THE LOVE AND GOODNESS OF GOD.

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Down Ampney

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)



1. Come down, O love divine, seek out this soul of mine,
and visit it with your own ardor glowing.
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
And kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.
2. O let it freely burn, til earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let your glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.
3. Let holy charity my outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.
4. And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till we become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

Bianco da Siena (d. 1434)

Trans: Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890)

Prayer of Approach

Come down, O love divine,
because just as Jesus needed you in his wilderness,
SO WE NEED YOU IN OURS.

Come down, O love divine,
because just as Jesus was hungry,
SO WE ARE HUNGRY.

Just as Jesus was vulnerable,
SO WE ARE VULNERABLE.

Just as Jesus needed wisdom,
JUST AS JESUS NEEDED COURAGE,

just as Jesus needed patience,
JUST AS JESUS NEEDED GRACE,

so we long to be the place
WHEREIN YOU MAKE YOUR DWELLING.

The wilderness will be no desert
IF YOU ARE WITH US.

Silence

Praise the God who feeds the hungry!
PRAISE THE GOD WHOSE REIGN IS JUST!

Praise the God who gives us life!
PRAISE THE ONE WHO FEEDS US!

Praise the One who holds Jesus in love!
PRAISE THE ONE WHO GIVES US DIGNITY!

Praise the One who helps us think!
WE WORSHIP THE ONE WHO IS TRUE.

May the God of the Lenten journey
RECEIVE OUR PRAISE.

Silence

We offer also our confession.
Sometimes we pick on the vulnerabilities of others.
Sometimes we misuse our power.
Sometimes we discourage others to the point of sorrow.
We are sorry, and 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 of the Lenten journey;
you gave your Spirit to Jesus,
as he spent his time in the wilderness.
You strengthened and blessed him
to deal with what was false and destructive.
**GIVE US THE SAME GIFT
OF YOUR NURTURING SPIRIT,
THAT WE, LIKE CHRIST,
WILL GROW IN YOUR CONFIDENCE AND GRACE.**

We pray this in his name,
using the words he taught us:

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

Young People's Blessing:

Young ones, go to your worship with our blessing.
**TAKE OUR FAITH AND HOPE;
MAKE NEW THINGS WITH WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN.
MAY GOD BLESS AND GROW YOU. AMEN.**

Young ones are welcome to move through to the Sala del Sol (upstairs in the Knox Centre) for well supervised, faith-based youth activities.

The First Lesson: Romans 10: 8b-13

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

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 4: 1-13

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

Hymn:

Ebenezer

Thomas John Williams (1869-1944)



1. Jesus, tempted in the desert,
lonely, hungry filled with dread:
'Use your power,' the tempter tells him;
'turn these barren rocks to bread!'
'Not alone by bread,' he answers,
'can the human heart be filled.
Only by the Word that calls us
is our deepest hunger stilled!'
2. Jesus, tempted at the temple,
high above its ancient wall:
'Throw yourself from lofty turret;
angels wait to break your fall!'
Jesus shuns such empty marvels,
feats that fickle crowds request:
'God, whose grace protects, preserves us,
we must never vainly test.'
3. Jesus, tempted on the mountain
by the lure of vast domain:
'Fall before me! Be my servant!
Glory, fame, you're sure to gain!'
Jesus sees the dazzling vision,
turns his eyes another way:
'God alone deserves our homage!
God alone will I obey.'
4. When we face temptation's power,
lonely, struggling, filled with dread,
Christ, who knew the tempter's hour,

come and be our living bread.
By your grace, protect, preserve us
lest we fall, your trust betray.
Yours, above all other voices,
be the Word we hear, obey.

Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr (1923-2007)

Sermon: Answering the wilderness voice

*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: Improvisation on “Forty days and forty nights”
Daniel Cooper (b. 1997)



*Diplomatic post on a tropical island?
Bribe? Work opportunities?
Hush money?
Blackmail? Threat? Cheque after retraction?
Bread?
Water?*

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?
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?

Dan Schutte S.J. (b. 1947)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Janet Wilson

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

Food is offered

FOR THE FEEDING OF THE PEOPLE.

Money is offered

FOR THE FUNDING OF THE WORK.

People are offered

THAT THE BODY OF CHRIST MIGHT MOVE.

May all that is offered

FIND THE BLESSING OF GOD,

IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

AMEN.

Notices

We stand for

The Lenten Litany:

O Christ,

who began your ministry

with a time in the wilderness:

full of the Holy Spirit,

you met head-on

the destructive claims of the Tempter.

Along the Lenten path

LEAD US LORD JESUS.

O Christ,
to the manipulation of vulnerability,
to the corrupt use of power,
to the demeaning and destruction of life,
you said a Spirit-filled "No".
You drew upon your faith
in the God of provision and caring.
Along the Lenten path
LEAD US LORD JESUS.

God of love,
as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us,
so may we give ourselves to you,
living according to your will.
**KEEP OUR FEET FIRMLY
IN THE WAY WHERE CHRIST LEADS US,
THIS LENT,
AND ALL OUR DAYS.
AMEN.**

Hymn:

Spiritus Vitae

Mary Jane Hammond (1878-1964)



1. O breath of life, come sweeping through us,
revive your church with life and power;
O breath of life, come cleanse, renew us,
and fit your church to meet this hour.
2. O wind of God, come bend us, break us,
till humbly we confess our need;
then in your tenderness remake us,
revive, restore: for this we plead.

3. O breath of love, come breathe within us,
renewing thought and will and heart;
come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,
revive your church in every part.
4. Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating
while harvest fields are vast and white?
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting,
equip your church to spread the light.

Elizabeth Ann Porter Head (1850-1936)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Improvisation on “Forty days and forty nights” - 2
Daniel Cooper (b. 1997)

Tea and coffee are served following the service

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NOTICES

This Week: 10 March – 16 March 2019

Sunday	10.00am	Morning worship
	5.00 – 7.00pm	Len Pierce Lenten Study
Wednesday	10.00 am	Bible Study
Saturday	10.15 am	Bus Trip to Rangiora – see below

Next Week: 17 March – 23 March 2019

Sunday	10.00am	Morning worship
	5.00 pm	Film Group The Crucible – see below
	7.00 – 9.00pm	Len Pierce Lenten Study
Wednesday	10.00am	Bible Study

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Sunday 24 March, immediately after the service, a congregational meeting will be held to ask for approval of the Knox Centre Strengthening Project.

APW Morning Tea – 13th March 9.45 am. Oderings 'Secret Garden', 93 Stourbridge Street, Spreydon.

Film Group – The Crucible, about the Salem witch trials in Massachusetts 1660's. Very relevant in the current era of conspiracy, hysteria and fake news.

Knox Fireside Group - Will meet on Monday March 25 at 7 30pm In the Knox Lounge. Marjorie Columbus will be the speaker Topic "Antarctica". All welcome.

Sunday lunch starting up again! – Join a group of Knox people for a casual lunch at the Secret Garden café on March 17th. Meet at around 12 pm, on March 17th, at the Oderings Barrington Garden Centre café, next to the Z petrol station in Stourbridge St, just off Barrington St. There is nice cabinet food on offer or you can choose from the menu. Interested? Then please add your name to the list, placed at the entrance of the church or email jannekenyuysink@gmail.com. Names required by Monday 11th of March.

Flowers on Sundays - For several years some Knox members have quietly provided a flower arrangement to brighten a Sunday service at Knox, in a private commemoration of a personally significant date. This is a lovely tradition which we would like to encourage other Knox members to consider adopting. For the next few weeks a calendar will be in the new foyer each Sunday. If you would like to make a gift of flowers on a particular Sunday during the year please put your name on that date - or you may prefer to email/phone the Knox office to reserve the date you wish to commemorate. A reminder will come from the office as your particular date draws near. Please contact the office if you would like the Order of Service to note that the flowers are in memory of a particular person or event - this is entirely your choice and anonymity is fine. Knox has an assortment of vases in which you may place your gift of flowers and bringing a bunch or bouquet on Sunday morning before 9.30 am is fine, too. Contact Janet Wilson (338 7203). or Liz Baxendine (355 5137).

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

Notice of Lenten Spiritual Growth Programme

Len Pierce

The season of Lent begins on 6th March, Ash Wednesday.

The meaning of Lent has been lost in trivial, almost comic ideas of “giving up chocolate and any other thing that is pleasurable. I would like to invite any who are seeking a deeper relationship with God to join me on four Sunday evenings in March for a free ranging exploration of ways to rediscover the real purpose of Lent: to break into our lives of routine and dull repetition, to rediscover the life, energy and freedom God’s grace means for all.

The dates are as follows:

10th March, 5pm - 7pm

17th March, **7pm - 9pm (note later time)**

24th March, 5pm - 7pm

31st March, 5pm - 7pm

Some of the topics we will open are: Prayer (who still does it, and what is it anyway? Meditation (is it Christian or Easter?) New enquiry into the effectiveness of prayer in healing. New science of the mind that suggests that prayer is a basic human instinct. Why fast? What benefit? What is spiritual growth? Aids like journaling, spiritual friendship. Praying for peace - does it do any good?

If you are coming, we would like you to commit to the four sessions. We understand circumstances can prevent this - come when you can.



Lent 2019

“Wilderness Stories”

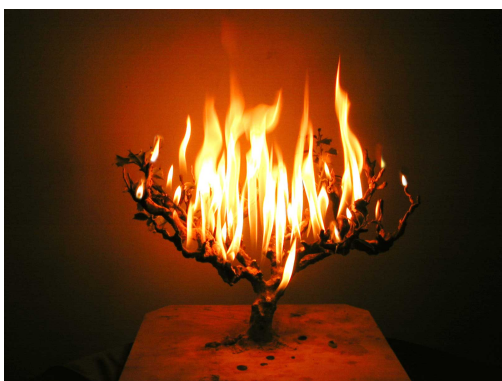
Within the great narrative arc of the Bible, it’s interesting to see how many new beginnings or significant faith moments are set in the context of wilderness. A number of these wilderness moments appear in the Bible lessons for this Lent, so we’re calling Lent 2019 “Wilderness Stories”.

All services are at 10:00am, with the exception of Tenebrae, which is at 7:30pm.



Sunday 17 March - Lent 2

Abram, finding the wilderness a hostile and frightening place, finds it almost impossible to make an offering to God. At the end of his rope, he hears God making to him a life-altering promise.



Sunday 24 March - Lent 3

In his “nowhere place”, Moses sees a burning bush and is called into what will become a life-long (but life-giving) struggle with people and the mysterious, insistent “I am”.



Sunday 31 March - Lent 4

On the verge of entering their own place, the people of Israel say goodbye to manna - the fading food by which God has fed them over the wilderness years. As wilderness provision passes away, there is a new light on the horizon.



Sunday 7 April - Lent 5

Prior to his re-entering the wilderness we hoped he might have been spared, Jesus gathers in a friendly place to rest. Arguments from the spirit of wilderness intrude.



Sunday 14 April - Palm Sunday

At a combined service with Durham Street Methodist Church, we follow Jesus as his triumphal entry into Jerusalem triggers his costly Passion.



Thursday 18 April - Tenebrae

"Shelter". On the night on which he is betrayed, the Lord of the Wilderness assures his "close ones" of shelter in a love that will never die. We break bread together, then gradually darken the church as the Shadow Passages are read.



Friday 19 April - Good Friday

"Death in the Wilderness" - a solemn service in which we revisit some of our Lenten wilderness reflections, and mourn a death in the ultimate wilderness of betrayal and misunderstanding.



Sunday 21 April - Easter Day

"A Flood of Life" - the darkness is flooded with light; the tomb is flooded with life; the wilderness bursts into colour, wonder and worship. We break bread with the risen Christ.



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Psalm 27
- Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18

Knox Directory

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Secretary: Jane Ellis,
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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