



# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service 8 September 2019

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## A COMING TO LIFE

a service of readings, reflections and pieces of music  
for Spring Flower Sunday

## 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.

Please don't leave any items unattended around the church;  
they may cause alarm.

We take care to use inclusive language in our services. References to God in traditional prayers and hymns may sometimes be gender-specific. As we pray and sing together, you're invited to adapt the words we've chosen. When we pray the "Lord's prayer", feel free to pray in your first language.

### The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, GOD'S SPRINGTIME IN A WINTER WORLD;  
JESUS, BRINGING LIFE TO OUR HOUSES AND HOMES;  
JESUS, CALLING US INTO THE NEW CREATION.**

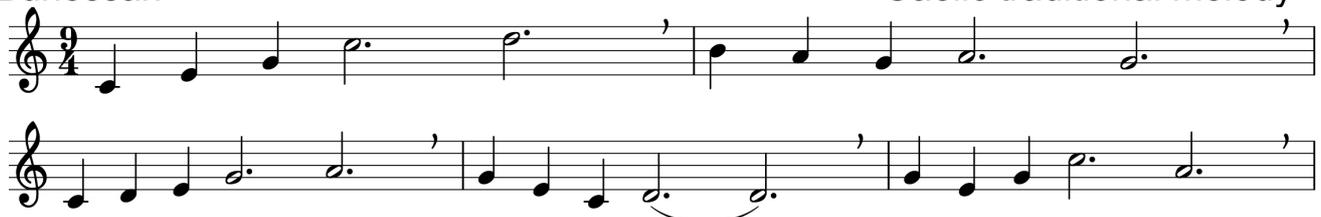
Kia noho a Ihowa ki a koutou. God be with you.

**MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.**

### Hymn:

Bunessan

Gaelic traditional melody





1. Morning has broken like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird:  
praise for the singing, praise for the morning,  
praise for them springing fresh from the world!
2. Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dew fall on the first grass:  
praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where his feet pass.
3. Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning  
born of the one light Eden saw play:  
praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's re-creation of the new day!
4. Morning has broken like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird:  
praise for the singing, praise for the morning,  
praise for them springing fresh from the world!

*Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)*

### **Scripture Sentence:**

The God who said,  
"Out of darkness the light shall shine!"  
is the same God who made light shine in our hearts,  
to bring us the knowledge of God's glory  
shining in the face of Christ.

*2 Corinthians 4: 6*

By God's love and life,  
it now is Spring.

### **Prayer of Approach**

You come upon the earth, O God,  
cold in its winter.

You think of colour for fallowness,  
and fragrance for blandness.

You think of light and beauty.

**LOVE AND PRAISE TO YOU.**

You come upon the human person,  
cold in our winter.  
You think of hope and hurt,  
of longing and love.  
You think of what's been done,  
and what's been left to do -  
because it just was too cold and rainy.  
**LOVE AND PRAISE TO YOU.**

You come to how we live together,  
cold in our winter.  
You see the strained relations,  
the complicated interactions.  
You know we long to live in peace.  
**LOVE AND PRAISE TO YOU.**

So then, O God,  
you warm your creation.  
You take it in your embrace.  
**LOVE AND PRAISE TO YOU.**

Spring for the winter,  
life for the dead,  
hope for the empty.  
**LOVE AND PRAISE TO YOU.**

Hear our silent prayers of praise.

*Silence*

God of Springtime,  
if we have made people cold,  
if we have taken colour from their lives,  
if we have failed to be people of Jesus' Springtime,  
**WE ARE SORRY,  
AND CONFESS.**

Lord have mercy.  
**CHRIST HAVE MERCY.**  
Lord have mercy.

*Silence*

## **Assurance and Response**

In the Springtime Spirit of God,  
and in the name of Christ, I say to you:  
you are forgiven and you are free.

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

## **Prayer of Supplication:**

Springtime Jesus,  
you went about your world,  
bringing life and hope to all you met.  
You put colour in the grey  
and life in the death.

**BLESS US TO BE YOUR PEOPLE,  
BRINGING COLOUR  
TO THE GREY PLACES,  
LIFE TO THE DEAD PLACES,  
AND PRAISE TO ALL PLACES.**

We pray this in the name of Jesus,  
who taught us to pray saying:

**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**

**A Prayer of Blessing for the Flowers:**

O God, your goodness is stamped on creation.  
Its beauty echoes yours.

**WE THANK YOU FOR THESE FLOWERS.**

O Christ, you spoke of the flowers of the fields.  
You said if God clothed them, who neither toiled nor worried,  
then how much more would God clothe us.

**WE THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR FAITH IN GOD'S GOODNESS.**

O Spirit of God, bless these flowers,  
that, as they are handed to people today,  
they may become signs of divine love  
and human caring.

Brighten the homes to which they will go,  
**AND FILL ALL OUR HOMES  
WITH PEACE.**

We pray this in Jesus' name.  
**AMEN.**



**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.*

## Hymn:

St Elizabeth

Schlesische Volkslieder, 1842



1. Fairest Lord Jesus,  
Lord of all creation  
Jesus, of God and earth the son;  
you will I cherish,  
you will I honour,  
you are my soul's delight and crown.
2. Fair are the meadows,  
fairer still the woodlands,  
robed in the verdure and bloom of spring.  
Jesus is fairer,  
Jesus is purer,  
he makes the saddest heart to sing.
3. Fair are the flowers,  
fairer still the children  
in all the freshness of youth arrayed;  
yet is their beauty  
fading and fleeting;  
Lord Jesus, yours will never fade.
4. Fair is the moonlight,  
fairer still the sunshine:  
fair is the shimmering starry sky:  
Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines clearer  
than all the heavenly host on high.
5. All fairest beauty  
heavenly and earthly,  
wondrously, Jesus, in you is found;  
none can be nearer,  
fairer or dearer  
than you, my brother, to me bound.

*Anonymous*

## A Series of Readings, Reflections and Pieces

### A Reading:

Song of Songs 2: 10-15

### A Reflection:

Love reveals Spring

### A Musical Response



### A Reading:

Matthew 9: 18-19, 23-26

### A Reflection:

Can God call a flower to blossom?

### A Musical Response

### A Reading:

John 11: 38-44

### A Reflection:

Lazarus' deeper Spring

### A Musical Response



A Reading: Revelation 21: 1-7

A Reflection: Until God speaks of new creation



**Hymn:**

Laast Uns Erfreuen

from Geistliche Kirchengesäng 1623



1. To you, O God, all creatures sing  
and all creation, everything  
sings your praises, alleluia!  
Your burning sun with golden beam  
your silver moon with softer gleam  
sing your praises, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
2. The flowers that in our gardens grow,  
Spring sun that melts the ice and snow,  
sing your praises, alleluia!  
The cold is beckoned to the warm,  
and from our winter death is formed  
many praises, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3. One father's heart that mourns a child,  
yet knows God's life on her has smiled,  
sings your praises, alleluia!  
Martha and Mary deeply grieve,  
until their brother life receives,  
then sing praises, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
  
4. Now we who are of tender heart,  
forgiving others, take our part,  
sing your praises, alleluia!  
Christ goes before us to renew  
the way that leads us home to you.  
Hear our praises, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*William Henry Draper (1855-1933),  
based on Cantic of the Sun, Francis of Assisi (1182-  
1226),  
adapted by Miriam Therese Winter,  
second and third verses, Matthew Jack*

### **Prayers for Others and Ourselves**

*led by Bob Fendall*

### **The Offering and Dedication**

*We stand for the dedication of the Offering*

From small buds

**MAY GOD GROW GREAT FLOWERS.**

From early Spring

**MAY GOD MAKE A WONDERFUL SUMMER.**

Into cold and dark places

**MAY GOD PLACE WARMTH AND LIGHT.**

And from this ordinary offering

**MAY GOD BLESS THE WORLD  
AND US IN OUR SERVICE.**

Through Jesus, God's prophetic flowering,

**AMEN.**

## Notices

### Hymn:

Dunedin

Vernon Griffiths (1894-1985)



1. Where mountains rise to open skies  
your name, O God, is echoed far,  
from island beach to kauri's reach,  
in water's light, in lake and star.
2. Your people's heart, your people's part  
be in our caring for this land,  
for faith to flower, for aroha  
to let each other's mana stand.
3. From broken word, from conflict  
stirred,  
from lack of vision, set us free  
to see the line of your design,  
to feel creation's energy.
4. Your love be known, compassion  
shown,  
that every child have equal scope:  
in justice done, in trust begun  
shall be our heritage and hope.
5. Where mountains rise to open skies  
your way of peace distil the air,  
your spirit bind all humankind,  
one covenant of life to share!

*Shirley Murray, (b. 1930)*

**Benediction** and **Sung Amen**

**Organ Postlude**



**The Bible readings for next week will be advised on the website**

## Knox Directory

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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