



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service 22 September 2019



An Ideal World

“... An unknown artist from Florence saw the ideal city as supremely beautiful and spacious, with large, gracious buildings existing in compatibility. It is a view that uplifts the heart; but the ideal city is uninhabited. Once human beings come onto the scene, with their clutter and noise, this gentle image of peace would be destroyed. But we misunderstand the nature of peace if we think of it as an ideal world, or as dependent on silence or solitude: we have, sooner or later, to admit reality - with all its in-built anxieties.”

Sister Wendy Beckett - nun and art historian.

CHILDREN OF THIS AGE AND CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT

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, WHO LIVED IN NO UTOPIAN BLISS;

JESUS, FULL OF LIGHT, BUT WISE IN HIS TIMES;

JESUS, CALLING US TO WALK IN FAITH AND CLEVERNESS.

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

St Denio

John Roberts (1822-1877)





1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes;
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting nor wasting, but ruling in might;
your justice like mountains high soaring above,
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. Your life is life giving to both great and small,
in all life you're living, the true life of all:
we blossom and flourish, as leaves and as flowers,
then wither and perish, but naught dims your powers.
4. So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;
all praise we now render, as your angels do;
in awe at the splendor of light hiding you.

Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908)

Prayer of Approach

Wise God,
KNOWING GOD,
creative God,
MENDING GOD;
hear our prayer,
AMEN.

Story-telling Jesus,
STREET-WISE JESUS,
criminal Jesus,
GENTLE JESUS;
hear our prayer,
AMEN.

Poverty-filling Spirit,
TABLE-TURNING SPIRIT,
corruption-crushing Spirit,
SPIRIT OF TRUTH;
hear our prayer.
AMEN.

We do not know, O God,
whether we come to worship
as children of the light,
OR AS CHILDREN OF THIS AGE.

We do not know whether we are caring for creation
OR MILKING IT DRY.

We do not know whether we are wise or foolish,
OVERLY CLEVER
OR TERRIBLY NAÏVE.

So we consider our separate lives,
AND OUR LIFE TOGETHER,
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 wisdom and light,
your Jesus told us a story
about learning from those who are worldly-wise.
He made us nervous.

**HELP US TO LEARN WHAT YOU WOULD HAVE US LEARN,
TO KEEP OUR HEARTS DIRECTED TOWARDS YOU,
AND TO BE USEFUL IN YOUR UNFOLDING PURPOSES.**

We pray this in Jesus' name,
using the words he gave 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: Amos 8: 4-7

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

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 16: 1-13

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

Hymn:

Woodlands

Walter Greatedorex (1877-1949)



1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of the word;
in God my saviour shall my heart rejoice.
2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name - the Lord, the Mighty One.
3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)

Sermon:

Mr Lee and Gustav Mahler

*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

Hymn:

Kelvingrove

Scottish Traditional Tune

$\text{♩} = 80$

The musical score is written on five staves in 3/4 time. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 80. The score includes measure numbers 7, 13, 20, and 26. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

1. Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?
2. Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?
3. Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

John Bell (b. 1949)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Andrew Johnston

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

May God make us wise;

MAY GOD MAKE US GENEROUS.

May God make us creative;

MAY GOD MAKE US KIND.

May God enable us to make a good offering,

FOR THE BLESSING OF THE WORLD,

AND THE GLORY OF JESUS.

AMEN.

Notices

Hymn:

Slane

Irish Traditional Melody



1. Lord of creation, to you be all praise!
Most mighty your working, most wondrous your ways!
Your glory and might are beyond us to tell,
and yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.
2. Lord of all power, I give you my will,
in joyful obedience your tasks to fulfill.
Your bondage is freedom; your service is song;
and, held in your keeping, my weakness is strong.

3. Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind,
rich truth that surpasses man's knowledge to find;
what eye has not seen and what ear has not heard
is taught by your Spirit and shines from your word.
4. Lord of all bounty, I give you my heart;
I praise and adore you for all you impart,
your love to inspire me, your counsel to guide,
your presence to shield me, whatever betide.
5. Lord of all being, I give you my all;
if I ever disown you, I stumble and fall;
but, led in your service your word to obey,
I'll walk in your freedom to the end of the way.

Jack Copley Winslow (1882-1974)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude

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

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Open Church

During the mission discernment process we've been following over the last few years, one of the first "peace projects" floating to the top was the opening of the church, as a quiet space for the city, on lunchtimes during the week. We were delighted to launch the "Open Church" this last week, with wonderful volunteers opening the doors for two hours each day, Monday to Thursday. We're catching up with publicity, via the circulation of flyers, but do feel free to spread the word amongst your friends and family. A beautiful place of peace is available in our busy city.

This year's second peace project

Alongside the "Open Church" project, the mission discernment group determined that a second project we would trial this year was a good Knox attendance at the annual Inter-faith prayer gathering at the Peace Bell in the Botanic Gardens. We decided that rather than make a big noise and have a high profile, this year we would just go and take a look. The more people taking a look, the better. Unfortunately, the Peace Bell event is at 2:00pm on Sunday 13 October, the same day we have our AGM and an open day as part of Heritage Week. Please focus your energies on the events that day where you feel you can make the best contribution. However many people willing to go to the Peace Bell event will share lunch beforehand, and walk together to the event. A week or so later, we'll reflect on the value of the experience.

Last week's sermon

Last week's sermon was a reflection on the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin. I noted that the God-figure searches unceasingly to restore to community the object (person) that has been lost. The searching One is someone who cares for the missing. I framed the reflection around the people who now are missing from Christchurch following the mosque shootings - and Simon Bridges' comments that everyday New Zealanders don't care about the "Christchurch Call". A number of people suggested that the sermon should be sent to Simon Bridges, so I sent it. Mr Bridges responded the next day:

From: Hon Simon Bridges <Simon.Bridges@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: A sermon preached at Knox Church, Christchurch, this morning

Date: 16 September 2019 at 6:51:52 AM NZST

To: Matthew Jack

Dear Matthew,

I have never said NZers don't care about the Christchurch call.

Regards,

Simon Bridges

Sent with BlackBerry Work



NOTICES

This Week: 22 September – 28 September 2019

Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship

Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: 29 September – 5 October 2019

Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship

11.15am Knox Book Group – *see below*

Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Daniel Cooper – A Masters Degree Conducting Recital. Saturday 28 September 8.30pm at The Piano, 156 Armagh Street. Mozart “Exsultate, Jubilate” K.165. Baird “Concertino for Basson and Orchestra”. Schubert, “Symphony no.5 in B-flat major, D.485”.

Knox Book Group – Sunday 29 September at 11.15am in the Committee Room. “The Lady in the Van” by Alan Bennett. The eccentric, stubborn and homeless Miss Shepherd moves her broken down van into Alan Bennett’s garden. She is not an easy tenant and Alan a reluctant landlord.

Working Bee - Date for diaries. A tidy up in the Knox Centre. The stair well at the east end needs a good scrub as well as the light shades in the foyer needing to be emptied of dust. Some of the committee room chairs are also in need of a clean. Saturday October 5 at 9:30.

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



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Jeremiah 32: 1-3a, 6-15
- 1 Timothy 6: 6-19

Knox Directory

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Director of Music: Daniel Cooper,
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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