

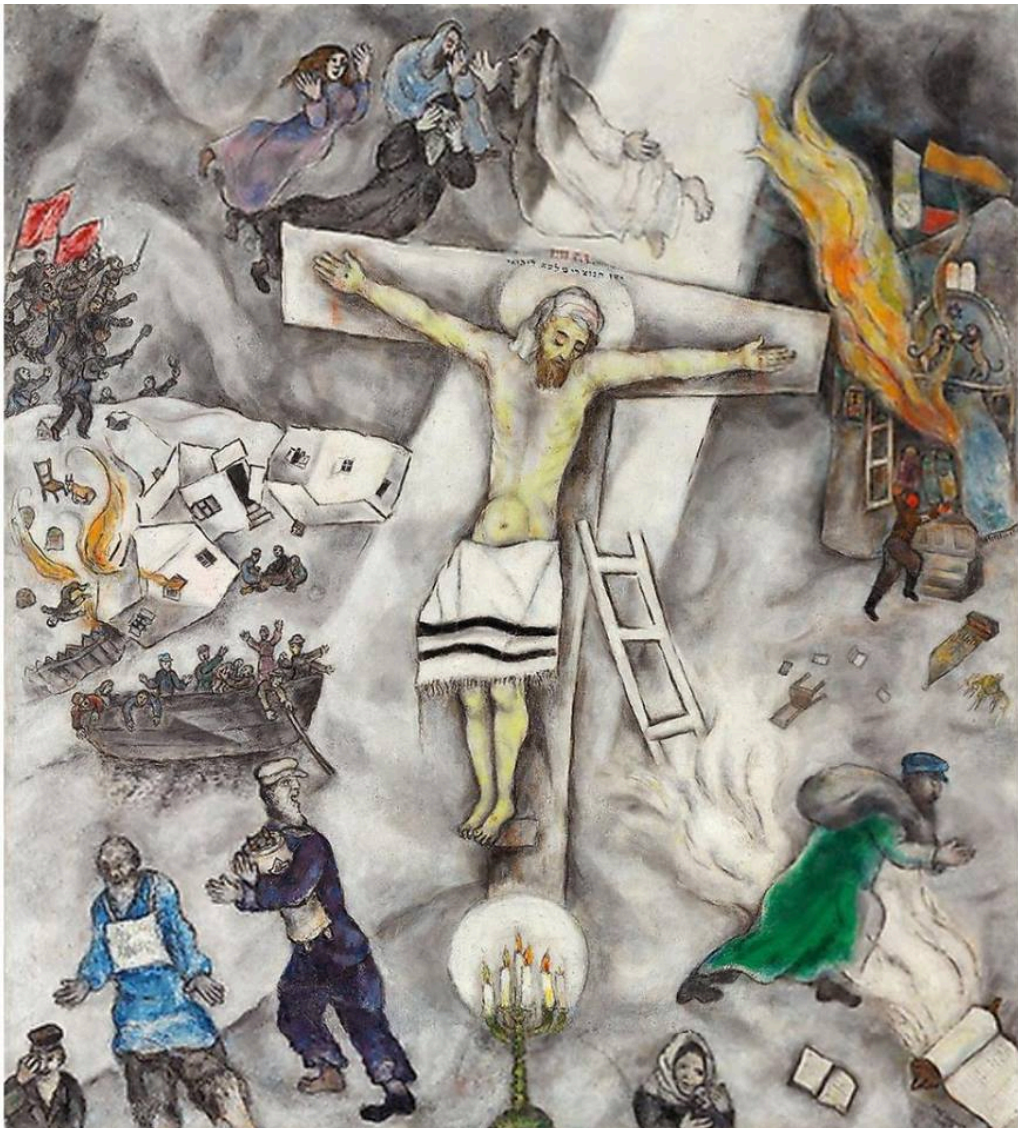


# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service 1 December 2019

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## AT AN UNEXPECTED HOUR

A COMMUNION SERVICE

## 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.

This is a communion service. The table at Knox is an open one.  
Members of any church, as well as any who are seeking God sincerely,  
are welcome to receive communion here.

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 GRACE AND TRUTH AMONG US;  
JESUS, SIFTING AND SORTING OUR THOUGHTS;  
JESUS, FOR WHOM WE WAIT.**

Kia noho a Ihowa ki a koutou. God be with you.  
**MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.**

**Hymn:**  
Stuttgart

Melody attrib. Christian F. Witt (1660-1716)



1. Come, O long-expected Jesus,  
born to set all people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
grant us your true liberty.
2. Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope to all the earth impart;  
dear desire of every nation,  
enter every longing heart.
3. Born all people to deliver,  
born a child, you came to reign!  
Born to rule on earth for ever,  
come, be known to us again.
4. By your own eternal Spirit  
come to claim us as your own;  
by your all-sufficient merit  
let us share your cross and crown.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

**Prayer of Approach**

At an unexpected hour,  
in an unplanned place,  
a child was born and lain in a manger.

**COME, LORD JESUS.**

At an unexpected hour,  
as John was baptising,  
the Son of Man came forth.

**COME, LORD JESUS.**

At an unexpected hour,  
the sky turned black  
as nails were piercing hands.  
**COME, LORD JESUS.**

At an unexpected hour,  
light filled the tomb,  
and life came forth.  
**COME, LORD JESUS.**

At an unexpected hour,  
as disciples stared up at the sky,  
and saw him no more,  
heaven said "He shall come again".  
**COME, LORD JESUS.**

Now the people worship and wait;  
they look to his coming.  
**AMEN,**  
**COME, LORD JESUS.**

*Silence*

Since we looked for him,  
**IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME PASSING.**

Since we missed him  
**IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME PASSING.**

Since we loved and served him in our neighbour,  
**IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME PASSING.**

Since we lived with open faith,  
**IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME PASSING.**

. . . 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 every moment and place,  
your dwelling is among us,  
you pervade our world.

**GIVE US EYES TO SEE YOU,  
EARS TO HEAR YOU,  
AND HEARTS TO RECEIVE YOU,**

through Jesus, the Christ,  
**AMEN.**

### **The Notices**

*If there are younger ones present*  
**A Conversation with the Younger Ones**

### **The Advent Wreath:** The Candle of Hope

The candle we light today is the candle of hope. The people of Israel hoped that they would be delivered from slavery. They hoped to see God coming on the clouds to save them.

**AT TIMES THEIR HOPE WAS FAINT;  
AT TIMES IT CONSUMED THEM.  
SINCE GOD HAD PUT ETERNITY IN THEIR HEARTS,  
THEY WERE A PEOPLE OF HOPE.**

Mary and Joseph were also people of hope. They hoped that their child would have a loving home and live a good life. They hoped that all the angel had said about him would come true.

We light this candle as people who possess the same hope.

**WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE GIFT OF JESUS,  
AND WE LOOK TO HIS COMING AMONG US.**

*The candle is lit*

## Prayer

The hope that you have put in our hearts is the beginning and end of all our prayer, dear God. We look to the day where the age-old longings of your people will be drowned in your glory. This Advent may we be made a people of a living hope, and come to know the presence of your Son.

**WE WAIT FOR YOUR LOVING KINDNESS, O GOD.  
SO COME, LORD JESUS.  
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.*

### Gospel Lesson: Matthew 24: 36-44

This is the gospel of Christ.

**PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.**

**Knox Singers:** The Lord will soon appear  
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

**Sermon:** One is taken; one is left.

*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.*

### Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*To the minister's words, "One is taken; one is left",  
you are invited to respond **"COME, LORD JESUS"**.*

. . . 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 Offering and Dedication**

*We stand for the dedication of the Offering.*

Blessed are you, O God of all creation.  
Through your goodness, we bring what we have gathered,  
using the talents that you have given us.  
It will further the work of your kingdom.  
**BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER.**

Blessed are you, O God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,  
which earth has given and human hands have made.  
It will become for us the bread of life.  
**BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER.**

Blessed are you, O God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.  
It will become for us our spiritual drink.  
**BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER,  
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, 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.*

## Communion Hymn:

Living Lord

Patrick Appleford (1925-2018)



1. Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have come to us,  
you are one with us,  
Mary's son;  
cleansing our souls from all their sin,  
pouring your love and goodness in,  
Jesus, our love for you we sing,  
living Lord.
2. Lord Jesus Christ,  
now and every day  
teach us how to pray,  
Son of God.  
You have commanded us to do  
this, in remembrance, Lord, of you:  
into our lives your power breaks through,  
living Lord.
3. Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have come to us,  
born as one of us,  
Mary's Son;  
bearing your cross to Calvary,  
rising from death to set us free,  
living Lord Jesus, help us see  
you are Lord.
4. Lord Jesus Christ,  
we would come to you,  
live our life for you,  
Son of God.  
All your commands we know are true,  
your many gifts will make us new,  
into our life your love breaks through,  
living Lord.



*We sit for*

**The Invitation, Institution, and Setting Apart of the Elements**

**The Great Eucharistic Prayer:**

May God be with you.

**AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

Lift up your hearts.

**WE LIFT THEM TO GOD.**

Let us give thanks to the world's creator.

**IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.**

It is right indeed . . .

**The Breaking of the Bread**

**Lamb of God:**

Jesus, Lamb of God,

**HAVE MERCY ON US.**

**JESUS, BEARER OF OUR SINS,**

**HAVE MERCY ON US.**

**JESUS, REDEEMER OF THE WORLD,**

**GRANT US YOUR PEACE.**

**The Communion**

*For the distribution, please come forward to the table, receive some bread, dip it in the cup, and return to your seat. If you prefer non-alcoholic grape juice or gluten free bread please take communion from the server with the communion tray.*

**The Prayer After Communion**

Eternal God,

we give you thanks and praise

that while we were still far off

you met us in your Son, and brought us home.

**MAY WE WHO SHARE HIS BREAD**

**LIVE HIS RISEN LIFE;**

**WE WHO DRINK HIS CUP**

**BRING LIFE TO OTHERS;**

**WE WHOM THE SPIRIT LIGHTS**

**GIVE LIGHT TO THE WORLD,**

**THAT ALL YOUR CHILDREN SHALL BE FREE,**

**AND THE WHOLE EARTH LIVE TO PRAISE YOUR NAME.**

**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)*

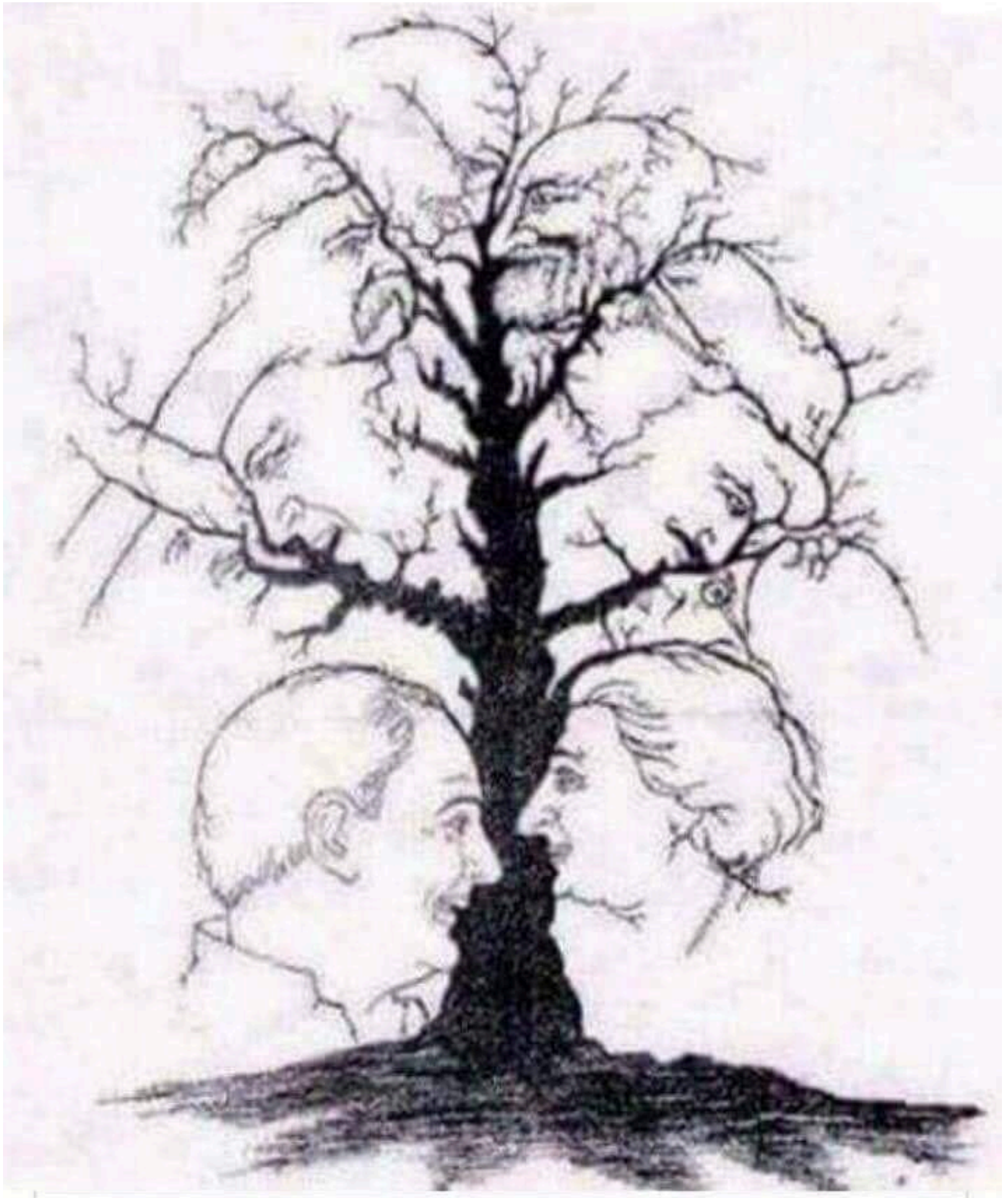
## **Benediction and Sung Amen**

### **Postlude:** Praise the Lord

Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

Following the service, morning tea and coffee are served in the church

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*Do we see him?*



### Bible readings for next week will be:

- Isaiah 11: 1-10
- Matthew 3: 1-12

## Knox Directory

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Secretary: Jane Ellis,  
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Office hours: Mon-Fri 9.00am-noon

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Church Council Clerk: Janet Wilson,  
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Director of Music: Daniel Cooper,  
organist@knoxchurch.co.nz

Pastoral Assistant: Jan Harland  
ph. 0273560215

Visit our website  
[www.knoxchurch.co.nz](http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz)



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