



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service 8 December 2019



AWAITING THE NEW HARMONY

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 image on the front page of the order of service is Stanley Spencer's "Christ in the wilderness - the scorpion" (1930s). Scorpions usually nip and sting larger animals that threaten them. Human beings tend to squash small things that frighten them. Spencer's Jesus has open hands, and the scorpion is fine. Today's sermon is called "Predators and prey".

Today we welcome Valerie Xiang, who is filling in for Daniel Cooper, while he is with the Knox Singers at St Mark's Avonhead for their Nine Lessons and Carols.

The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, WHOSE COMING WAS PROPHESED BY JOHN;
JESUS, EMERGING FROM HIS PLACE AMONG THE PEOPLE;
JESUS, COMMENCING GOD'S NEW CREATION.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Winchester New

William Henry Havergal (1793-1870)



1. The Baptist cries on Jordan's shore,
the earth shakes with the mighty roar,
awake, let lazy sleep now flee:
behold, the voice of prophecy!
2. The earth and sky and sea now feel
that which their Author will reveal:
the Child now leaping in the womb
as God does human form assume.
3. Clean up your hearts, lay down the way,
for God approaches day by day;
prepare for such a worthy heir,
for such a guest your house prepare.
4. Through you, O Jesus, you alone
salvation, solace, strength are known;
without your love we fade like grass,
like wilted flowers our lives will pass.
5. O One who comes to set us free,
O Child, to you our song will be,
with Father, Spirit mothering,
to you shall praise for ever ring!

Charles Coffin (1676-1749)

tr. John Chandler (1806-1876) and others, alt.

Prayer of Approach

God puts eternity in the human heart,
and so, there is a longing.

TO FILL THE VOID,

THE PEOPLE GO OUT TO THE WILDNERNESS.

In the wilderness they are met by John,
who says that the reign of God is near.
**HE TELLS THEM TO REPENT,
FOR THE TIME IS RIPE.**

Among those seeking baptism
is Jesus from Nazareth.
**HIS PRESENCE THERE
IS THE GOOD NEWS FROM GOD.**

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
THE LEOPARD SHALL LIE DOWN WITH THE KID.

The cow and the bear shall graze together,
THE SERPENT AND THE CHILD SHALL PLAY.

There shall be no destroying or hurting,
FOR THE NEW CREATION WILL HAVE BEGUN.

Thanks be to God
FOR THE COMING OF CHRIST.

Silence

Christ has come,
BUT THE WORLD STILL GOES TO WAR.

The new creation has been born,
BUT OLD ENMITIES STILL REIGN.

The Spirit has been given,
BUT STILL WE HAVE PREDATOR AND PREY.

Still the longing,
still the need for repentance,
STILL THE AXE IS AT THE ROOT.

So 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:

You appointed John, O God,
to ready the people for the coming of Christ.
You moved him to call them to repentance,
and to baptize them as a sign of your forgiveness.

**ENABLE US, AS YOU ENABLED JOHN,
TO RESPOND TO FAITH WITH FORGIVENESS,
TO CHALLENGE COMPLACENCY,
AND TO WELCOME CHRIST WHEN WE SEE HIM.**

We pray this in the name of Jesus,
using the words he has given 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

The Advent Wreath: The Candle of Love

The candle we light today is the candle of love. St Paul wrote about many things: things from the depths of depression, things from the heights of praise. He spoke of mysteries and of imagination. He spoke of journeys to heaven, and of visions and secrets. He spoke about faith and charity and power and truth. But he said that none of these were the greatest thing.

THE GREATEST THING WAS LOVE.

Mary and Joseph awaited the birth of their child. They waited for love to reach out and touch the world. They waited for the birth of the one who said - quite simply - "Love one another."

We light this candle as people who are claimed by his same love.

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

The candle is lit

Prayer

O Saviour of the world, you have called us to love one another, and to show by this that we have seen the heart of the holy God. So we pray: This Advent may we be made a people of love.

**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.

The First Lesson: Isaiah 11: 1-10

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

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 3: 1-12

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Hymn:

Love Unknown

John Nicholson Ireland (1879-1962)



1. God, bring the day to pass
when forest, rock and hill,
the beasts, the birds, the grass,
will know your finished will:
when we attain our destiny
and nature its lost unity.
2. Forgive our careless use
of water, ore and soil;
the plenty we abuse,
supplied by others' toil:
save us from making self our creed,
turn us towards our neighbour's need.
3. Give us, when we release
creation's secret powers,
to harness them for peace,
our children's peace and ours:
teach us the art of mastering,
which makes life rich and draws death's sting.
4. Creation groans, travails,
bound in its futile plight
until the hour it hails
the new found of the light,
who enter on their true estate.
Come, Lord: new heavens and earth create.

Ian Mason Fraser (b. 1917)

Sermon:

Predators and prey

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:

Meditation

John Pullein (1878-unknown)

Hymn:

Tawa

Jillian Bray (b. 1939)



1. Gentle God, when we are driven
past the limits of our love,
when our hurt would have a weapon
and the hawk destroy the dove,
at the cost of seeming weak,
help us turn the other cheek.
2. Gentle Spirit, when our reason
clouds in anger, twists in fear,
when we strike instead of stroking,
when we bruise and sting and smear,
cool our burning, take our pain,
bring us to ourselves again.
3. In the mirror of earth's madness
let us see our ravaged face,
in the turmoil of all people
let compassion find a place,
touch our hearts to make amends,
see our enemies as friends.
4. Let our strength be in forgiving
as forgiven we must be,
one to one in costly loving,

finding trust and growing free,
gentle God, be our release,
Gentle Spirit, teach us peace.

Shirley Murray (b. 1931)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Janet Wilson

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

That a meal might be put on the table,
WE OFFER THIS FOOD.

That God's work might be done,
WE OFFER THIS MONEY.

That the prey might be given safety and freedom,
WE OFFER OUR COURAGE AND COMMITMENT.

May it all find a blessing,
**THROUGH THE LIFE OF CHRIST AMONG US,
AMEN.**

Notices



The Egyptian plover bird is happy to linger in the mouth of a crocodile, since the crocodile seems to know that it's good that they clean its teeth.

Symbiosis, however, is different from altruism.

So this isn't really an image of the new creation, is it?

Hymn:

Glasgow from Thomas Moore's Psalm-Singer's Pocket Companion, c. 1756



1. Behold! the mountain of our God
in latter days shall rise
on mountain tops above the hills,
and draw the wondering eyes.
2. To this the joyful nations round,
all tribes and tongues shall flow;
up to the hill of God, they'll say,
and to God's house we'll go.
3. Among the nations God shall judge;
wise judgments truth shall guide;
God's sceptre shall protect the just,
and quell the sinner's pride.
4. No strife shall rage, nor hostile feuds
disturb those peaceful years;
to ploughshares they shall beat their swords,
to pruning-hooks their spears.
5. No longer hosts encountering hosts
shall crowds of slain deplore;
they hang the trumpet in the hall
and study war no more.
6. Come then, O house of Jacob! come
to worship at the shrine;
and, walking in the light of God,
with holy beauties shine.

Scottish Paraphrases, 1781, alt.

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Allegretto Brillante
Franco Leoni (1864-1949)

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

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Ahmad Feroz

During this last week, I received a visit from Ahmad Feroz. It seems clear that Ahmad, while worshipping at the Linwood Mosque on 15 March, received three bullet wounds to his back. He's now walking again slowly, but also having to pay electricity bills, medical bills for his child, and a host of other bills. He's received some money from Victim Support, but says he's struggling to get by. Like us all, I have heard that the Christchurch City Council's "Our people, our city" fund is releasing funds to injured victims on a need by need basis.

<https://newsline.ccc.govt.nz/news/story/our-people-our-city-fund-helps-mosque-shooting-victims> So I'm not sure why this money seems not to be getting through to Ahmad. I'm offering to link him with PSUSI for guidance and advocacy, but wonder whether any Knox person would be willing to talk to him, and consult for him with PSUSI for the "Our people" funding. His English is good, but he feels ill-equipped to engage with big structures.

Matthew.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 22 December, 10:00am

Christmas Eve, 24 December, 11:15pm

A service of Carols and Communion

Christmas Day, 25 December, 10:00am

A Simple Service of Celebration



NOTICES

This Week: 8 December –14 December 2019

Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship

Next Week: 15 December –21 December 2019

Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship – **see below**

CHRISTMAS BAKING - Any Christmas baking orders not picked up yesterday will be in the gallery area.

CAROLS AT RICCARTON BUSH – 6.30pm Sunday 8 December. Hosted by Riccarton – Spreydon Anglican Parish. Music, Addington Brass. Come and join us.

ECUMENICAL CAROL SERVICE - The Ecumenical Carol service for North Christchurch Churches will be held at Christchurch North Methodist Church Chapel St at 5pm on Sunday 8th December. All welcome. Knox will host the service in 2020.

15TH DECEMBER COMBINED SERVICE - As Sunday 15th December will be the last Sunday Durham St will be worshipping in the halls there will be a combined service followed by Morning Tea in the lounge hosted by Durham St.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - On Sunday 15 December, immediately following the morning service, a congregational meeting will be held in order to approve awarding a contract for the Knox Centre strengthening project.

ST GEORGES IONA DONATIONS - During the month of December donations to St Georges Iona could include Christmas goodies and gifts. St Georges Iona also host a Christmas meal on Christmas Day and would appreciate gifts for children, boxes of sweet biscuits, toiletries especially those for men.

Knox church values the support of all who are involved in our community's life. Knox Church is a charity. All charitable donations are eligible for a tax rebate of 33%. Bank account 03 1705 0029641 00. Put your name in the reference field and email your contact details to the office or donations secretary. For further information or options contact:
office@knoxchurch.co.nz Ph 3792456 or Janet Wilson, Donations Secretary **janmwil507@gmail.com** Ph 338 7203.



WATER

This Christmas, Christian World Service asks you to support families in need of water. From families of HIV and AIDS orphans in Uganda's dry region to fisherfolk on south India's coast who have lost access to the sea and their

livelihoods, the demand for water is very great. In rural and urban areas, water shortages or sometimes severe floods are having a huge effect. With your help families can get access to the water they need to escape. The right to the dignity that comes with safe water, good sanitation, and a decent livelihood belongs to us all.

Please make your donation in the envelope provided (available on the table in the new foyer) or donate on line at: <http://christmasappeal.org.nz/donate/>.

The need is clear – give water for Christmas, the essence of survival.

Please remember the people of Samoa



As at 5:00pm on Thursday 5 December, the measles death toll in Samoa was 62 - most fatalities being children. A friend from Tagata Atumotu said this week that part of the tragedy is that it was all so easily preventable.

Medics note that although a vaccination programme is now in place and accelerating, it takes two weeks after vaccination for immunity to develop. It is, therefore, predicted, sadly, that the death rate will spiral up until Christmas.



*The work arrangement probably works, but perhaps there is trust and affection?
New creation?*



The boy from Thailand, who was brought up with a snake.

This page is blank.
It waits for the new creation to fill it
with peace, justice and love.



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Isaiah 35:1-10
- Luke 1: 47-55

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



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