



# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service Christmas Eve, 2019

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## The journey to the heart

a Christmas Eve service  
of carols, candle light  
and communion

## **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.

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.

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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.

## **CANDLES AND COMMUNION SERVING**

As you arrive tonight, you will be given a Christmas candle. During the singing of the opening hymn, candle bearers will move down the central aisles, lighting the candles of those adjacent to the aisle. Light your candle from those sitting next to you. Please be aware of where your flame is, paying particular attention to the person in front of you.

At Knox, we come forward to receive communion. Two lines form in the central aisle. Please join the line that has formed on your side of the aisle. Receive bread from the server, dip it in the communion cup, and return to your seat via the outer aisles. If, because of low light conditions or mobility issues, you feel you can't receive communion in this way, please let one of our welcomers know. We will arrange for communion to be brought to you in your seat.

The wine in the large silver communion cups contains alcohol, and the bread offered by the central servers is non-gluten free. The servers with the small trays (to the outside of the church) have small glasses of non-alcoholic grape juice and trays of gluten free bread.

If you wish to receive communion in a way that requires two hands, please hand your candle to the person behind you in the line. Please retrieve your candle from that person before he or she needs to receive communion.

Please be assured that the table at Knox is an open one. Members of any denomination, as well as any of no denomination who are seeking God sincerely, are welcome to receive communion here.

Before the service, as the congregation gathers,  
the Knox Singers will sing a carol.  
This is not part of the service, but courtesy is appreciated.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel**  
plainsong melody with organ variations  
John Mason Neale (1861),  
translating a text from Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710

### **The Welcome**

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

### **Opening Prayer**

**. . . 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.**

We stand for  
**Hymn**  
Irby

H. J. Gauntlett (1805-1876)



**Verse 1 is sung by a soloist.**

**Verse 2 is sung by the Knox Singers only.**

**The congregation starts singing at verse 3.**

1. *Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle-shed  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.*

2. *He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and mean and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.*

3. **And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love,  
for that child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.**

4. **Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him; but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high;  
when, like stars, his children  
crowned  
all in white shall wait around.**

C. F. Alexander (1818-1895)

We sit for  
**The Bible Lesson:**

Luke 1: 26-38

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

**The Reflection:** How am I going to do this?

*We remain seated to sing*

**Hymn:**

Forest Green

English traditional melody



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|--|--|
| <p>1. O little town of Bethlehem,<br/>how still we see thee lie!<br/>above thy deep and dreamless<br/>sleep<br/>the silent stars go by:<br/>yet in thy dark streets shineth<br/>the everlasting Light;<br/>the hopes and fears of all the<br/>years<br/>are met in thee tonight.</p> | <p>3. How silently, how silently<br/>the wondrous gift is given!<br/>So God imparts to human hearts<br/>the blessings of his heaven.<br/>No ear may hear his coming;<br/>but in this world of sin,<br/>where meek souls will receive him,<br/>still<br/>the dear Christ enters in.</p> |
| <p>2. O morning stars, together<br/>proclaim the holy birth,<br/>and praises sing to God the King<br/>and peace to men on earth;<br/>for Christ is born of Mary;<br/>and, gathered all above,<br/>while mortals sleep the angels<br/>keep<br/>their watch of wondering love.</p>     | <p>4. O holy child of Bethlehem,<br/>descend to us we pray;<br/>cast out our sin and enter in,<br/>be born in us today.<br/>We hear the Christmas angels<br/>the great glad tidings tell;<br/>O come to us, abide with us,<br/>our Lord Emmanuel.</p>                                  |

*Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) alt.*



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

**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, eternal God,  
because, from the very beginning,  
you have reached beyond yourself  
in kindness and love.  
With kindness and love,  
you spoke to us through the beauty of creation -  
**PUTTING STARS IN THE SKY,  
SNOW ON THE MOUNTAIN,  
WATERS IN THE SEA.**

With kindness and love,  
you spoke to us through the prophets  
and the poets,  
**AND ALL WHO ENCOURAGED US  
TO LIVE CREATIVELY AND BRAVELY,  
AND WITH HOPE.**

And then, in the fullness of time,  
with kindness and love you came to us in Christ,  
bone of our bone,  
flesh of our flesh,  
a child given not just to Joseph and Mary,  
**BUT TO THE WHOLE HUMAN FAMILY.**

Growing up among us,  
he taught us prayers and told us stories.  
**"THE KINGDOM IS WITHIN YOU", HE SAID,  
"IT'S COMING VERY CLOSE".**

He fed thousands with a handful of loaves,  
he hauled in schools of fish with a second drop of the net.  
**HE HEALED THE SICK  
AND EXPOSED THE HYPOCRITE.**

He drank deep from the cup of suffering,  
and on one dark Friday  
**HE TAUGHT US HOW TO CRY.**

Yet, having died by human hands,  
he came again one Easter morning.  
The kingdom was among us,  
and, through the mystery of resurrection,  
would never fail.  
**IN KINDNESS AND LOVE,  
YOU WERE WITH US.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God,  
upon us who wait for the celebration of his birth,  
and upon these elements of bread and wine,  
that they may become for us his body and blood.  
**MAKE US ONE WITH HIM,  
ONE WITH ONE ANOTHER,  
AND ONE IN MINISTRY IN THE WORLD  
UNTIL AT LAST WE FEAST WITH HIM IN THE KINGDOM.**

Through your Son, Jesus Christ,  
all honour and glory is yours, eternal God,  
now and for ever.  
**AMEN.**

### **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

**Anthem:**     Fairest Lord Jesus  
                  Silesian folk song (1842)  
                  arr. Martin How (b. 1931)

## The Watch Prayer

*We remain seated to sing*

### Hymn:

Infant Holy

Polish traditional carol melody



1. Infant holy,  
   infant lowly  
   for his bed a cattle stall;  
   oxen lowing,  
   little knowing  
   Christ the babe is Lord of all;  
   swift are winging  
   angels singing,  
   nowells ringing,  
   tidings bringing,  
   Christ the babe is Lord of all.

2. Flocks were sleeping,  
   shepherds keeping  
   vigil till the morning new  
   saw the glory,  
   heard the story,  
   tidings of a gospel true;  
   thus rejoicing,  
   free from sorrow,  
   praises voicing  
   greet the morrow,  
   Christ the babe was born for you.

*Polish Carol,  
tr. Edith Margaret Gellibrand Reed (1885-1933)*

## Silence until midnight

**The Reading of the Nativity:** Luke 2:1-14



## The Christmas Greeting

People of God,  
Christ is born. God is with us.

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.**

*Please blow out your candles,  
and greet one another with the peace of God.*

*Without announcement, we stand to sing*

### Hymn:

Mendelssohn

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)



*Hark! the he-rald an-gels sing glo-ry to the new-born king.*

1. Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled:  
joyful all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies,  
with th'angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born king.*
2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the God-head see;  
hail th'incarnate Deity!  
Pleased one earth with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born king.*

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings;  
mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us all from earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born king.*

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

*The congregation remains standing for*

**The Christmas Litany:**

Jesus, Son of the living God,  
Splendour of heaven,  
**GLORY BE TO YOU.**

Jesus, Child in a manger,  
King of Creation,  
**GLORY BE TO YOU.**

Jesus, wonderful Counsellor,  
mighty God,  
everlasting Lord,  
**GLORY BE TO YOU.**

Jesus, inexhaustible Wisdom,  
our Way,  
our Truth,  
our Life,  
**GLORY BE TO YOU.**

The Word was made flesh  
and dwelt among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
**THANKS BE TO GOD, AMEN.**

Without announcement, we sing

**Hymn:**

Adeste Fideles

Words and music, John Francis Wade (c.1711-1786)



1. O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him  
born the king of angels;  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*Christ the Lord!*

2. God of God,  
Light of light,  
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
begotten, not created:  
*O come, let us adore him . . .*

3. Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing all ye citizens of heaven above.  
'Glory to God,  
glory in the highest':  
*O come, let us adore him . . .*

4. Yea, Lord we greet thee,  
born on Christmas morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing:  
*O come let us adore Him . . .*

## **Benediction and Sung Amen**

**Postlude:** Toccata on "Joy to the world"  
Martin Setchell

## **The Retiring Offering**

A retiring offering will be taken for the Christian World Service Christmas appeal. You can place your donation in one of the baskets held by Knox people at the exits, or you may prefer to post a donation directly to CWS using the postage paid envelope attached to the CWS leaflet.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER CLOSURE** - Knox Church Office is now closed for the summer break. It will open again at 9:00am on Monday 13 January. Any urgent matters from today until 31 December should be directed to the acting Church Council Clerk, Jean Brouwer, on 355 6534, and thereafter to Janet Wilson, the Church Council Clerk on 338 7203.

## **Knox Directory**

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website

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