



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service 29 December 2019



**TOWARDS THE NEW CREATION
(the calling of the co-Creators)**

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, FIRST-BORN OF THE NEW CREATION;

JESUS, CALLING US TO STEP FORWARD IN FAITH;

JESUS, LORD OF THE COMING YEAR.

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

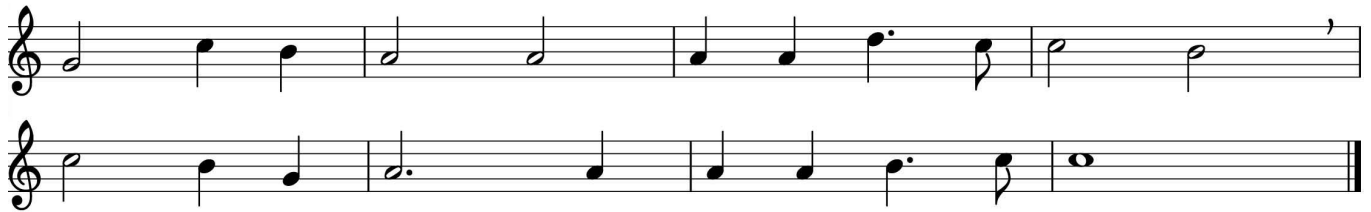
MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Lord of the Years

Timothy Dudley Smith (b. 1926)





1. Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
Urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
Sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.
2. Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
Speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
Teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.
3. Lord, for our land in this our generation,
Spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
For young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.
4. Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
Loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
Hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.
5. Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -
Self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
Past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)

Prayer of Approach

You have brought us,
loving God,
from somewhere this side of the "already",
to somewhere short of the "not yet".
Time is that through which we travel,
AND YOU ARE THE FAITHFUL ONE.

Year succeeds year,
loving God,
from the days of our infancy,
to seasons of strength,
to the mellowing of our life.
Innocence meets experience,
AND YOU ARE THE FAITHFUL ONE.

And there, on the horizon,
a vision of the world made new -
of the wiping away of tears,
and the banishment of pain,
and sacred presence among us.
Faith and hope are provoked,
AND YOU ARE THE FAITHFUL ONE.

Because you have always been with us,
WE WORSHIP YOU.

Because you bless and build,
WE WORSHIP YOU.

Because you nurture us towards a better world,
WE WORSHIP YOU.

Along the way to the better world,
it's possible to stumble.
Because we belittle the vulnerable,
WE PRAY OUR SORROW.

Because we pollute the planet,
WE PRAY OUR SORROW.

Because we are violent towards those who are different,
WE PRAY OUR SORROW.

Because we choose cruelty over kindness,
WE PRAY OUR SORROW.

For the folly and fierceness of the year just past,
for the beauty that we have broken,
for the battering of flora and fauna and people,
we make our confession, saying:

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, you made humanity in your image,
blessed us,
and called us to join you,
delighting in what was made,
and working faithfully to nurture it.
**BLESS US WITH YOUR GRACE,
THAT WE MIGHT TEND THE EARTH GENTLY,
LOVE ONE ANOTHER CAREFULLY,
AND WORSHIP YOUR TRULY.**

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

*Although there is no Sunday School over the summer holidays,
young ones are welcome to enjoy the books and toys
available in the activity area at the rear of the church.*

The First Lesson: Genesis 1: 26-31

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

The Second Lesson: Revelation 21: 1-7

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

Hymn:

St Anne

probably William Croft (1678-1727)



1. Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:
2. under the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure:
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.
3. Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God
to endless years the same.

4. A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone:
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.
5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears everyone away:
we fly forgotten as a dream
dies at the opening day.
6. Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.

Pondering the year just gone

Music for Reflection

Taking up the year now given

*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.*



Hymn:

Camberwell

John Michael Brierly (b. 1932)



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| 1. God gives us a future,
daring us to go
into dreams and dangers
on a path unknown.
We will face tomorrow
in the Spirit's power,
we will let God change us,
for new life starts now. | 2. We must leave behind us
sins of yesterday,
for God's new beginning
is a better way.
Fear and doubt and habit
must not hold us back:
God gives hope, and insight,
and the strength we lack. |
| 3. Holy Spirit teach us,
how to read the signs,
how to meet the challenge
of our troubled times.
Love us into action,
stir us into prayer,
till we choose God's life,
and find our future here. | |

Elizabeth J. Smith (b. 1956)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

To the minister's words " God of the new creation",
you are invited to respond, **"HELP US SEIZE THE COMING YEAR"**.

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

We willingly make a material offering, O God,
praying that we might also make an offering of our love and our time.

**MAY THE COMING YEAR
BE A YEAR OF GENEROSITY AND FAITH,
FOR YOUR MERCY'S SAKE,
AMEN.**

Notices

Hymn:

Richmond

later form of melody by Thomas Haweis (1734-1820)



1. Fill thou my life, O gracious God,
in every part with praise,
that my whole being may proclaim
thy being and thy ways.
2. Not for the lip of praise alone
nor ev'n the praising heart
I ask, but for a life made up
of praise in every part:
3. Praise in the common things of life,
its goings out and in;
praise in each duty and each deed,
however small and mean.
4. Fill every part of me with praise:
let all my being speak
of thee and of thy love, O God,
poor though I be and weak.

5. So shalt thou, God, receive from me
the praise and glory due;
and so shall I begin on earth
the song for ever new.
6. So shall no part of day or night
unblessed or common be,
but all my life, in every step
be fellowship with thee.

Horatius Bonar (1808-1889), alt.

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude

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

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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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The meeting to approve the recommended tender for the Knox Centre strengthening project is now planned for 5 January immediately after the Sunday service. If the Christmas and New Year holidays cause delays and rescheduling the meeting to 12 January is necessary this will be notified on 29th December.

If you missed out donating, through Knox, to the Christian World Service Christmas appeal, you can always make a donation directly to CWS



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.



Resolutions?

A few years ago some friends of mine and I decided not to make New Year resolutions anymore. Instead we took up the practice of identifying five things about the previous year for which we were grateful. Spending time pondering the top five was enriching – and maybe more consistent with the Christian practice of gratitude than resolutions are.



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Jeremiah 31: 7-14
- John 1: (1-9), 10-18

Knox Directory

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Director of Music: Daniel Cooper,
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Pastoral Assistant: Jan Harland
ph. 0273560215

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