



# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service 8 March 2020

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## IS LOVE ENOUGH?

## 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.

Following the service, morning tea and coffee are served  
in the Lounge of the Knox Centre

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### The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, PATIENTLY BEARING THE WORLD'S DEEPER QUESTIONS;  
JESUS, SHEDDING LIGHT WHERE HE CAN;  
JESUS, EXPRESSION OF THE HEART OF GOD.**

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

**MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.**

**Hymn:**

Abbots Leigh

Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991)



1. God is love, the heavens adoring;  
God is love, let earth rejoice;  
let creation sing its praises,  
high rejoicing with one voice.  
God who laid the earth's foundation,  
and who spread the heavens above,  
God who breathes through all creation.  
is pure love, eternal love.
2. God is love, and is enfolding  
all the world in one embrace,  
with unfailing grasp is holding  
every child of every race.  
And when human hearts are breaking  
under sorrow's iron rod,  
then they find that selfsame aching  
deep within the heart of God.
3. God is love, and, though with blindness  
sin affects the souls of all,  
God's eternal loving-kindness  
holds and guides us when we fall.  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
o'er us final triumph gain;  
God is love, so love for ever  
o'er the universe must reign.

*Timothy Rees (1874-1939), alt.*

## **Prayer of Approach**

Is there, at the heart of all things,  
a love that holds our world together?  
**WE SING OF THE LOVE OF GOD.**

Is there something about our having been created,  
and called into community,  
that speaks to us of what we are for?  
**WE SING OF THE LOVE OF GOD.**

Is there something about how we weep,  
and yearn and feel,  
that is addressed by eternity?  
**WE SING OF THE LOVE OF GOD.**

Is there something about a learned man,  
stumbling through the dark,  
to be in vulnerable conversation with someone wiser and kinder,  
that sweeps away all fear of judgment?  
**WE SING OF THE LOVE OF GOD.**

And could it be,  
just perhaps,  
that we too, even we,  
here and now and for always  
are loved?  
**WE SING OF THE LOVE OF GOD.**

God is love,  
so love, forever,  
o'er the universe must reign.  
**WE REJOICE IN THE LOVE OF GOD,  
THROUGH JESUS, THE LIGHT WHO SHINES.**

*Silence*

Yes, we sing also of human hearts breaking,  
and sorrow being like an iron rod.  
**FORSAKING ONE ANOTHER,  
WE FORSAKE THE LOVE OF GOD.**

We sing also of blindness  
and sin-sick souls.  
**WE SING OF A HURT  
AND PERPLEXED CREATION.**

We search for understanding,  
**BUT FIND NONE.**

We look for wisdom,  
**FINDING ONLY FOLLY.**

We want to live with courage,  
**MANAGING ONLY FEAR.**

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, whose love for the world is great,  
in a conversation with Jesus,  
Nicodemus found the beginnings  
of his own journey into love.  
**GRANT THAT WE TOO,  
MAY ENGAGE WITH THE MIND OF CHRIST,  
AND WITH HIS LOVE,  
SO BEGINNING OUR OWN NEW BIRTH.**

We pray this in the name of Jesus,  
using the words he gave us, saying:

**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

*Our next Sunday School day is 15 March. Today, young ones are welcome to enjoy activity sheets and toys in the children's corner at the rear of the church.*

## The First Lesson:

## Psalm 121

In this is the Word of God

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

## Knox Singers:

God so loved the world

## John Stainer (1840-1901)

### The Gospel Lesson:

John 3: 1-17

This is the gospel of Christ.

**PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.**

**Hymn:**

## St Leonard's

## Arthur Cyril Barham Gould (1891-1953)



1. May the mind of Christ my Saviour  
live in me from day to day,  
by his love and power redeeming  
all I do and say.



2. May the Word of God dwell richly  
in my heart from hour to hour  
so that all may see I triumph,  
by his love empowered.
3. May the peace of God, Creator,  
guide my life in everything,  
that I may be calm to comfort  
sick and sorrowing.
4. May the love of Jesus fill me  
as the waters fill the sea;  
him exalting, self denying,  
this is victory.
5. May I run the race before me  
strong and brave to face the foe,  
looking only unto Jesus  
as I onward go.

*Katie Barclay Wilkinson (1859-1928), alt.*

**Sermon:**

Investigating the old bore

*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:

Down Ampney

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)



1. Come down, O love divine, seek out this soul of mine,  
and visit it with your own ardor glowing.  
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,  
And kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.
2. O let it freely burn, til earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
and let your glorious light shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.
3. Let holy charity my outward vesture be,  
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;  
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,  
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.
4. And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace, till we become the place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

*Bianco da Siena (d. 1434)*

*Trans: Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890)*

### Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*led by Ken Booth*



## **The Offering and Dedication**

*We stand for the dedication of the Offering*

We offer our minds,

**PRAYING GOD'S GIFT OF UNDERSTANDING.**

We offer our hearts,

**PRAYING GOD'S CAPACITY TO LOVE.**

We offer our speaking,

**PRAYING GOD'S GIFT OF JUST THE RIGHT WORDS.**

We offer this money and food,

**PRAYING THAT IT WILL BECOME LIFE AND LIGHT  
FOR THOSE IN NEED.**

**AMEN.**

## **Notices**

*We stand for*

**The Lenten Litany:**

O Christ,

you met the sincere questions of an enquiring mind  
with patience, creativity and love.

You were a light shining in the darkness.

Along the Lenten path,

**LEAD US LORD JESUS.**

O Christ,

you challenge us not to condemn  
our brothers and sisters.

You assure us

that we are loved.

Along the Lenten path,

**LEAD US LORD JESUS.**

God of love,

as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us,

so may we give ourselves to you,

living according to your will.

**KEEP OUR FEET FIRMLY IN THE WAY WHERE CHRIST LEADS US,  
THIS LENT, AND ALL OUR DAYS.**

**AMEN.**

**Hymn:**  
Moscow

Felice Giardini (1716-1796)



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. God whose almighty word<br>chaos and darkness heard<br>and took their flight,<br>hear us, we humbly pray,<br>and, where the gospel day<br>sheds not its glorious ray,<br>let there be light! | 3. Spirit of truth and love,<br>life-giving, holy Dove,<br>speed on your flight!<br>Move on the waters' face,<br>bearing the lamp of grace,<br>and in earth's darkest place<br>let there be light! |
| 2. Saviour, who came to bring,<br>on your redeeming wing,<br>healing and sight,<br>health to the sick in mind,<br>sight to the inly blind,<br>now to all humankind<br>let there be light!       | 4. Gracious and holy Three,<br>glorious Trinity,<br>Wisdom, Love, Might,<br>boundless as ocean's tide<br>rolling in fullest pride,<br>through the world far and wide<br>let there be light!        |

*John Marriott (1780-1825) alt.*

**Benediction and Sung Amen**

**Postlude:** Improvisation  
Daniel Cooper (b. 1997)



## NOTICES

**This Week:**

**8 March – 14 March 2020**

Sunday

10.00am

Morning Worship

4.00pm

Knox Film Group – **see below**

Wednesday

10.00am

Bible Study

**Next Week:**

**15 March – 21 March 2020**

Sunday

10.00am

Morning Worship

Monday

7.30pm

Knox Fireside Group – **see below**

Wednesday

10.00am

Bible Study

**Sunday 8 March 4pm in the lounge.** As part of the Lenten Studies, the film **Brother Sun, Sister Moon** (1972) will be shown. Directed by the famous Franco Zeffirelli, the film examines the life of St. Francis of Assisi, including the effect on his family, town, society and church of the decision to give up his previous life of riches and follow the rule of poverty, chastity and obedience to God.

**Daily Bible readings guide – “With love to the world”** If you haven’t seen this guide, there is a copy of the Feb-May issue in the foyer to have a look at and/ or purchase for \$10. See Janet McGiven or Trudy Heney for further information.

**Bus trip to Kaiapoi 14 March** - A bus trip (public transport) has been planned for the 14<sup>th</sup> of March, this time to Kaiapoi. We are aiming at catching the number 95 bus together at 9:52 (hourly service) from the Victoria St. bus stop, across the road from Knox. Please be at the bus stop from 9:45, in case the bus is early. You can leave your car at the Knox car-park. Arrival in Kaiapoi (MC Donald’s) at around 10:24. There are several coffee shops, a new pub/café on the river’s edge and various retail shops to explore. There are a few nice walking tracks along the river for those who want to stretch their legs. You may even be able to catch a cruise on the Kaiapoi River Queen but note that you need to book this in advance. To return, there is a bus at 11:29, arrive Vic St 12:03; 12:29, arrive 1:03; 1:29, arrive 2:03 etc.

**Sunday lunch** – come and join us for lunch on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> of March at the Kowhai Café, at the Oderings Barrington Garden Centre in Stourbridge St. A table has been booked for us for midday and there is ample parking. You can choose from the menu or pick something from the cabinet. If you’d like to come, then please, add your name to the attendance list at the church entrance. Names are required by Monday the 9<sup>th</sup>. If you didn’t put your name down and still would like to come along, you can also email [jannekenyuysink@gmail.com](mailto:jannekenyuysink@gmail.com) but no later than Monday the 9<sup>th</sup>, please.

**Knox Fireside Group** - The next meeting of the Knox Fireside Group will be on Monday 16 March at 7.30pm in the Church ( entry via the Bealey Avenue door into the new foyer) Janet Wilson will be the Speaker. She will speak about a recent visit to Jakarta and Manila. All welcome

**A great prelude to Holy Week.-** The Christchurch City Choir will be joined by City Choir Dunedin, the Cathedral Choristers, CSO and six superb soloists at Christchurch Town Hall **7.30pm on Saturday 4 April**. With over 250 musicians on stage, it will be an epic performance. Bach’s *St Matthew Passion* is a stunning creation, the music is dramatic, passionate and emotional. Bookings via Ticketek



### The Bible readings for next week will be:

- John 4: 5-26
- John 4: 27-42

## Knox Directory

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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:

Email or phone number:

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](mailto:office@knoxchurch.co.nz) Ph 3792456 or Janet Wilson, Donations Secretary [janmwil507@gmail.com](mailto:janmwil507@gmail.com) Ph 338 7203.