



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service 12 April 2020



The end of isolation EASTER DAY A COMMUNION SERVICE

A home-made video of this service will go "public"
at noon on Thursday 9 April, at

<https://youtu.be/gjQ-P7tlCkg>

Celebrating communion during a time of lock-down

For a long time, now, we have celebrated communion on Easter Day. Communion has acted as a wonderful affirmation, after Good Friday's victory of separation, of Christ being present again among his people. Communion, obviously, normally involves the people gathering, to affirm that they are one body in Christ. Although this is difficult in a time that we are in lockdown, I think it's still important to act out our unity in Christ. So, I've decided to include communion in our service for Easter Day. It may be enough for you to see the bread broken at my house, or it may be important for you to also have bread at your house. I leave it over to you to do what feels right for you at this time. The One whom we worship will, I believe, understand what we are trying to do.

Matthew.

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.

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 Easter Narrative: John 20:1-18

The Easter Greeting:

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

The Lord is risen.

HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Hymn:

Easter Hymn

Melody from Lyra Davidica, 1708



1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, O heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!
2. Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won,
vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell:

The Prayer of Adoration

. . . So honour and glory,
worship and wonder
are yours, Christ-raising God,
in whose celebration
joyfully we sing:

The Doxology:

3. Lives again our glorious king;
where, O Death, is now your sting?
Once he died, our souls to save;
where's your victory, O grave?

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

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.

Scripture Lesson:

John 20: 19-23

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

The Easter Sermon

Most years, the Easter sermon is a response to the Good Friday reflection.

On Good Friday this year, the reflection was about isolation, the creating of distances between people, with the crucifixion presented as the ultimate expression of social isolation of God by humanity. Jesus was driven away from the people and life he loved. Today's Easter reflection looks at what the risen Christ did to restore community. He re-engaged with Mary, then he appeared among the disciples, who had locked themselves away behind closed doors - and greeted them with peace. It is a new beginning: God again embraces the world.

Generally, sermons are posted on our website shortly after the service at:
<http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/sermons.html>

Music for Reflection:

This joyful Eastertide

Charles Wood (1866-1926)

Matt Harris (baritone), Daniel Cooper (harpsichord)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*To the minister's words, "Jesus, risen One; through your resurrection",
you are invited to respond **"GOD RENEWS THE WORLD"**.*

. . . 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 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.**



Communion Hymn:

Maccabaeus

adapted from G. F. Handel (1685-1759)



1. Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes, where thy body lay.
*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*
2. Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord is living, death has lost its sting,
Thine be the glory . . .

*Edmund Louis Budry (1854-1932),
tr. Richard Birch Hoyle (1875-1939), alt.*

We sit for

The Invitation, Institution, 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

Closing Prayer

The Easter Litany:

For early morning,
GOD'S NAME BE PRAISED.

For the giving of strength and song,
GOD'S NAME BE PRAISED.

For empty tombs,
GOD'S NAME BE PRAISED.

For glory and light,
GOD'S NAME BE PRAISED.

**FOR NEW BEGINNINGS,
FOR CHRIST ALIVE,
FOR EASTER LIFE
AND LIVING FAITH,
GOD'S NAME BE PRAISED.**

Hear the praises of your Easter people
this Easter morning,
and every morning,
**THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD,
AMEN.**

Hymn:

Heartbeat

Shirley Murray (1931-2020)



1. Christ is alive, and the universe must celebrate,
and the stars and the suns shout on this Easter Day!
Christ is alive, and his family must celebrate
in a great Alleluia, a great Alleluia
to praise the power that made the stone roll away.
2. Here is our hope: in the mystery of suffering
is the heartbeat of Love, Love that will not let go,
Here is our hope, that in God we are not separate,
and we sing alleluia, we sing alleluia
to praise the power that made the stone roll away.
3. Christ Spirit, dance through the dullness of humanity
to the music of God, God who has set us free!
You are the pulse of the new creation's energy;
with a great Alleluia, a great Alleluia,
we praise the power that made the stone roll away.

Shirley Murray (1931-2020)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Postlude on Lobe den Herren
Healey Willian (1880-1968)

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