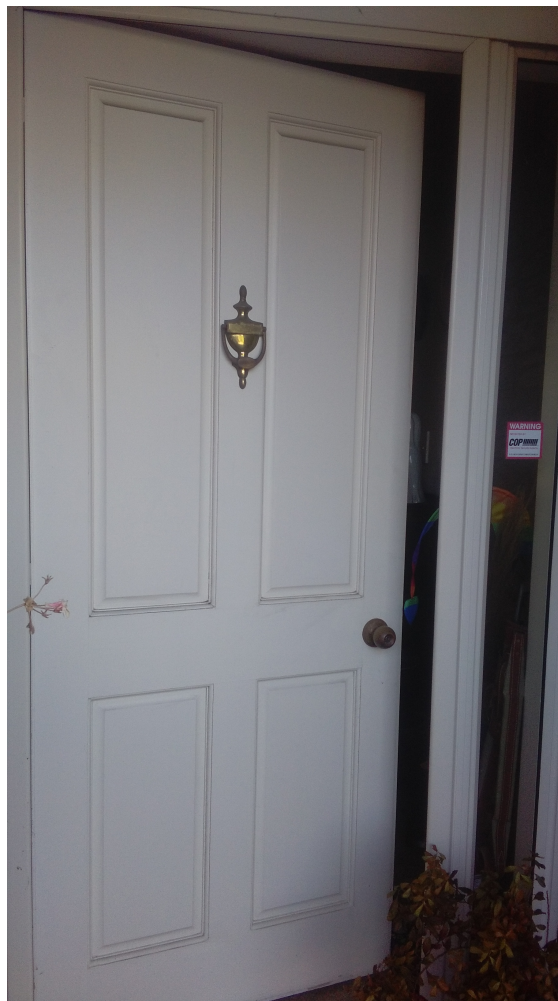




KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service 19 April 2020



ISOLATED THOMAS, WELCOME HOME!

a link to a home-made video of this service will go "public"
at noon on Saturday 18 April, at

<https://youtu.be/jrtPmno90WU>

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 Welcome and Explanation

The Introit: Christ arose

Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

Words provided not for you to sing along, but for your reflection

Low in the grave he lay —
Jesus my Saviour!
Waiting the coming day —
Jesus my Lord!

Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er his foes.
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And he lives forever with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Vainly they watch his bed —
Jesus, my Saviour!
Vainly they seal the dead —
Jesus my Lord!

Up from the grave He arose . . .

Death cannot keep his prey —
Jesus, my Saviour!
He tore the bars away —
Jesus my Lord!

Up from the grave He arose . . .

The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, THE MYSTERIOUS RISEN ONE, COME IN FROM THE GRACE;
JESUS, CONTINUING TO GATHER THOSE WHO WERE SCATTERED;
JESUS, IN A SECOND WAVE, DESTROYING THE ISOLATION.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Laast Uns Erfreuen

from Geistliche Kirchengesäng 1623



1. All creatures of our God and king,
lift up your voice and with us sing:
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
2. Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, Alleluia!
Thou rising morn in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening find a voice
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
3. Let all things their Creator bless
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one.
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*William Henry Draper (1855-1933)
based on Canticum of the Sun,
Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)*

Prayer of Approach

All creatures,
from sun and moon,
and wind and clouds,
and animals
and people,
praise our God.

ALLELUIA!

All people,
from Mary in the garden,
and the disciples in the upper room,
and the soldiers on tomb watch,
they all see an empty tomb
and are drawn into resurrection.

ALLELUIA!

One person, though, falls through the cracks:
circumstances place Thomas
outside the circle of the empty-tombed people.
For him, it sounds like a story -
unlikely,

IMPOSSIBLE,

fever-minded,

TOO MUCH FOR WHICH TO HOPE.

But because God is good,
and Christ is full of love,
Thomas too will be drawn into the mystery,
and all creatures will sing to God:

ALLELUIA!

Hear the praises of your people,
O God:

ALLELUIA!

Hear also, though, our confession.

For the way we let people fall through the cracks,
for our indifference to the faith of others,
for our world-hurting thoughts, words and deeds,
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:

In your on-going campaign
against the forces of isolation, O God,
you sent your wounded risen One
to bring Thomas to faith.

**MAY HE ALSO COME TO US,
IN ALL OUR ISOLATION AND NEED,
THAT WE TOO MAY REJOICE
IN HIS PRESENCE
AND PROCLAIM "MY LORD AND MY GOD ".**

We pray this in Jesus' name,
using the words he gave 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.

The Gospel Lesson: John 20: 24-31

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Sermon:

But this is written, so that you, too, may come to believe

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

Music for Reflection: Largo No. 5

Caleb Simper (1856-1942)

Hymn:

Christ, be our light

Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)



1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Chorus:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church
gathered today.

2. When Jesus came, Thomas was absent,
casting him far from family bonds.
Jesus returned, wounds with him sharing,
called him into the one.

Chorus

3. We find ourselves joining the story,
finding our place in Jesus' vine;
knowing in truth, Easter will claim us,
making us live in him.

Chorus

v. 1, Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)

vv. 2 & 3, Matthew Jack (b. 1963)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

To the minister's words, "God, hear us",
you are invited to respond "**GOD, HEAR OUR PRAYER**".

The Offering and Dedication

God transforms isolation
INTO COMMUNITY.

God transforms fear
INTO CONFIDENCE.

God turns wounds
INTO A MINISTRY OF HEALING.

So, may God transform what we offer
now,
**IN JESUS' NAME,
AMEN.**

An Acknowledgement of an Absence

The Baptismal Blessing:

Clare Benediction
John Rutter (b. 1945)

*sung for
Kalolaine
and
Ahomana,
by Jeni and Francine
on behalf of the Knox community*



Hymn:
Moscow

Felice Giardini (1716-1796)



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Lord your almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight,
hear us we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light! | 2. Saviour who came to give
those who in darkness live
healing and sight,
help to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly-blind
now to human-kind,
let there be light!, |
| 3. Holy and blessed three,
glorious Trinity,
wisdom, love, might;
boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth far and wide,
let there be light! | |

John Marriott (1780-1825) alt.

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: March No. 2 in C Major
Caleb Simper (1856-1942)

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The Bible reading for next week will be:

- Luke 24: 13-35

For contact details of the Knox crew, please visit our website:
www.knoxchurch.co.nz