



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service 24 May 2020



HEAVEN AND EARTH

A home-made video of this service will go live
at 12 noon on Saturday 23 May, 2020, at: <https://youtu.be/TLfXhzrcb3g>

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 Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, BRINGING HEAVEN TO EARTH, AND EARTH TO HEAVEN;
JESUS, WHOSE ASCENSION GUIDES OUR EYES AND OUR SPIRITS;
JESUS, PRESENT WHEREVER TWO OR THREE GATHER IN HIS NAME.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Hanover

William Croft (1678-1727)



1. O worship the King all-glorious above,
O gratefully sing his power and his love,
our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendour, and girded with praise.

2. Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills; it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.
3. O measureless Might! ineffable love!
While angels delight to hymn thee above,
the humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to thy praise.

Robert Grant (1779-1838)

Prayer of Approach

The king is glorious above,
with clouds and stars
AND SUN AND MOON,

yet also with kitchen tidies
**AND THE SMALLNESS
OF THE DETAILS
OF OUR "DAY BY DAY".**

The king is glorious above,
where perspective is broad,
AND ALL MAKES SENSE.

Yet he reigns also in the dust
and in the haircut,
**IN THE FORGOTTEN OBJECTS AND APPOINTMENTS,
AND THINGS WE JUST DON'T GET.**

Jesus Christ,
as Lord of heaven and earth,
you live this tremendous, stretching life for us,
between what we see and cannot see,
BETWEEN WHAT WE KNOW AND DO NOT KNOW,

between what we hear and cannot hear,
**BETWEEN WHERE WE ARE
AND WHERE WE CANNOT GO.**

Liminal, world-stretching Jesus,
through all that you reveal,
you show us the God who loves,
and who keeps a place for us.
SO, RECEIVE OUR PRAISE.

Now our confession:
sometimes we are too heavenly minded
TO BE OF EARTHLY USE.

Sometimes we are so bound up in earth,
THAT WE ARE NEVER INSPIRED BY THE STARS.

We struggle to integrate our citizenship of heaven
WITH OUR CONDUCT ON EARTH.

And so 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:

Jesus Christ, risen and ascended,
you opened the scriptures to your disciples,
so that they could comprehend who you are
and what, now, their life was for.
You continue to love and bless them.

**ASSURE US, ALSO, ASCENDED CHRIST,
OF GOD'S LOVE FOR US,
AND OF OUR LIFE BEING
THE RECEPTION OF YOUR ON-GOING BLESSING,**

that we, having been blessed,
MAY BLESS THOSE AROUND US.

We pray this in your name,
using the words you gave us, together 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.

The First Lesson:

Ephesians 1: 15-23
Read by Tyler Neumann

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

The Gospel Lesson:

Luke 24: 44-53
Read by Rev. Stephanie Robson

This is the gospel of Christ.
PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Knox Singers:

Jesu, Rex admirabilis
Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594)

Since the anthem is sung in Latin, an English translation is provided:

Jesu, Rex admirabilis!
Et triumphator nobilis!
Dulcedo ineffabilis,
Totus desiderabilis!

*O Jesus, king most wonderful!
You, conqueror renowned!
You, sweetness most ineffable!
in whom all joys are found!*

Mane nobiscum Domine
Et nos illustra lumine
Pulsa mentis caligine
Mundum reple dulcedine.

*When once you visit the heart,
then truth begins to shine;
then earthly vanities depart;
then kindles love divine.*

Sermon: Being there and not there, and getting interrupted mid-blessing

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

Music for Reflection: Short Voluntary
John Worgan (1724-1790)

Hymn:

Llanfair

Robert Williams (1781-1821)



1. Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!
to his throne above the skies: Alleluia!
Christ, a while to mortals given, Alleluia!
enters now the highest heaven: Alleluia!
2. See! the heaven its Lord receives, Alleluia!
yet the loves the earth he leaves, Alleluia;
though returning to his throne, Alleluia!
still he calls his folk his own. Alleluia!
3. Lord, though parted from our sight, Alleluia!
far beyond the starry height, Alleluia!
lift our hearts that we may rise, Alleluia!
one with you beyond the skies: Alleluia!
4. There with you we shall remain, Alleluia!
share the glory of your reign, Alleluia!
there your face unclouded view, Alleluia!
find our heaven of heavens in you. Alleluia!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788), Thomas Cotterill (1799-1823)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*To the minister's words "Ascended Jesus",
you are invited to respond **"HEAR OUR PRAYER"**.*

The Offering and Dedication

Christ, who is only part way through his task of blessing the world,
prepared his people to be his hands and feet.

**MAY WE TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE
OF ENACTING HIS BLESSING.**

And may the money and food we give
be a demonstration of our greater giving,

**TO THE BENEFIT OF THE WORLD
AND THE GLORY OF GOD.
AMEN.**

Hymn:

Guiting Power

John Barnard (b. 1948)



1. Christ triumphant, ever reigning,
Saviour, Master, King!
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,
hear us as we sing:
Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name.
2. Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated,
victim crucified!
Death is through the cross defeated,
hope is vivified:
Yours the glory. . .
3. Priestly One, enthroned for ever
high in heaven above!
Sin and death and hell shall never
stifle hymns of love:
Yours the glory. . .
4. So, our hearts and voices raising
through the ages long,
ceaselessly upon you gazing,
this shall be our song:
Yours the glory. . .

Michael Seward (1932-2015)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Postlude No. 4 in B flat
Caleb Simper (1856-1942)

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