



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service 31 May 2020



A SERVICE FOR THE DAY OF PENTECOST

A home-made video of this service will go live
at 12 noon on Saturday 23 May, 2020, at: https://youtu.be/C_uj1667W4E

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, WHO BREATHED THE HOLY SPIRIT ON HIS PEOPLE;
JESUS, CALLING THEM TO MOVE FORWARD INTO THE WORLD;
JESUS, GIVING THEM POWER TO LOVE AND FORGIVE.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

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 short-comings weeps with loathing.
4. And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far out-pass 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)

Prayer of Approach

Spirit of God,
you hovered above the waters of chaos,
bringing order and life to the world.

COME, HOLY SPIRIT, COME!

You spoke to the prophets,
putting courage in their hearts
and ideas in their minds.

COME, HOLY SPIRIT, COME!

You alighted on the younger Jesus,
revealing to him who he was
and how he was loved.

COME, HOLY SPIRIT, COME!

You were breathed upon the frightened disciples,
turning them into forgivers,
proclaimers,
people who are ready!

COME, HOLY SPIRIT, COME!

And now, for us,
who will you be?
Will you be rushing wind,
or flaring flame?
**GIVER OF SPEECH,
OR REVEALER OF TRUTH?**

Quiet breath of peace,
OR CREATOR OF WORLDS?

Ah, be who you are;
COME, HOLY SPIRIT, COME!

Now our confession:
While called to move forward,
SOMETIMES WE LINGER BACK.

While called to forgive,
SOMETIMES WE NURTURE THE HURT.

While called to love,
SOMETIMES WE HATE.

So we say:

Lord have mercy.
CHRIST HAVE MERCY.
Lord have mercy.

Assurance and Response

. . . I say to you, in the name of Christ:
You are forgiven and you are free.
THANKS BE TO GOD.

Prayer of Supplication:

Come upon us all, Spirit of God,
in this unusual time.
**GIVE YOUR COURAGE AND GENTLENESS,
YOUR LOVE,
AND YOUR POWER TO FORGIVE,**

that we may be Christ's hands and feet,
PEOPLE OF THE NEW CREATION.

We pray this in the name of Jesus,
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.

**A KI A KOE ANO HOKI;
AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

The Gospel Lesson: John 20:19-23
Read by Most Rev. Paul Martin,
Catholic Bishop of Christchurch

Hymn:

St Columba

Irish traditional hymn melody



1. Come Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire;
let us thine influence prove,
source of the old prophetic fire,
fountain of life and love.

2. Expand thy wings, celestial Dove;
brood o'er our nature's night;
on our disordered spirits move,
and let there now be light.
3. God, through yourself we then shall know,
if thou within us shine,
and sound, with all thy saints below,
the depths of love divine.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Sermon: A quieter story of sins forgiven

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

Knox Singers: Like the murmur of the dove's song
Carl Daw (b.1944)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*To the minister's words "That the world might be forgiven and blessed",
you are invited to respond **"BREATHE YOUR HOLY SPIRIT"**.*

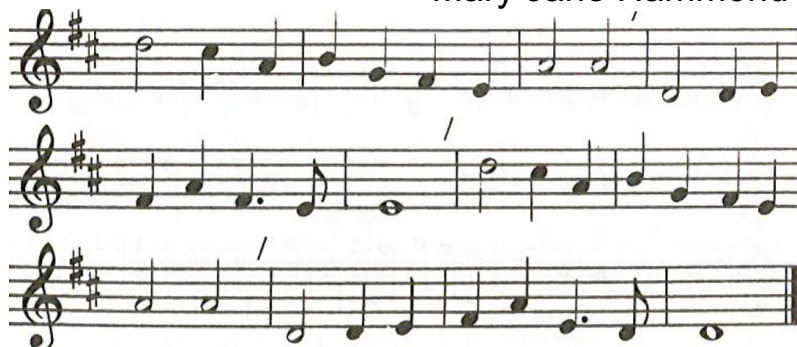
The Offering and Dedication

In homes dotted around the country and the world,
people have heard of the coming of the Spirit
who turns ordinary people into agents of love and forgiveness.

**WE OFFER WHO WE ARE,
AND WHAT WE HAVE,
TO THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT,
FOR THE BLESSING OF THE WORLD.
AMEN.**

Hymn:
Spiritus Vitae

Mary Jane Hammond (1878-1964)



1. O breath of life, come sweeping through us,
revive your church with life and power;
O breath of life, come cleanse, renew us,
and fit your church to meet this hour.
2. O breath of love, come breathe within us,
renewing thought and will and heart;
come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,
revive your church in every part.
3. Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating
while harvest fields are vast and white?
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting,
equip your church to spread the light.

Elizabeth Ann Porter Head (1850-1936)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Prelude No. 1, from "Four Little Preludes"
Johann Krebs (1713-1780)

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Plans for our first post-lockdown physical gathering

It is likely that on Sunday 7 June will be gathering at Knox Church for morning worship. Although physical gatherings are now possible again, we need to work within pandemic protocols. During the week, we'll email you confirmed notice of the special measures in place, and we'll post them on the website.

Among them, are likely to be:

- specific doors for entry and exit
- some pews blocked off, so as to keep physical distancing
- no sharing of food, hence no communion or morning tea
 - possible restrictions on singing
- you will be required to sign in - for contact tracing
 - please, if you are unwell, stay home

If we observe these sorts of things, we'll keep everyone safe and well



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13
- Matthew 28: 16-20

Please note, that while next week's service would normally have been a communion service (falling on the first Sunday of the month), communion (with its hand-to-hand sharing of bread and wine) is considered to be too high a risk activity in a time of continued concern about Covid-19 transmission. So, the service on 7 June will not include the sacrament of Holy Communion. We will, however, resume regular sacramental life when it seems responsible to do so.

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website

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