



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service 28 June 2020



THE EUTHANASIA QUESTION

The Knox Church Council agreed to hold a couple of events, prior to the General Election in September, to explore issues around the two referendum questions: legalisation of cannabis for recreational use, and euthanasia.

Today's service is dedicated to thinking theologically around the issue of euthanasia. No attempt is made to argue any particular position. It is hoped the service will help you begin to think about the topic.

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.

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning have been provided in memory of Angie.

The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, COMING THAT WE MIGHT HAVE ABUNDANT LIFE;
JESUS, SHARING IN THE JOY AND PAIN OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE;
JESUS, CALLING US TO LOVE GOD AND ONE ANOTHER.**

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

If love lies at the heart of the universe,
then that is a beautiful thing.

THANKS AND PRAISE TO THE GOD OF LOVE.

If love is the image in which we are made,
then that explains why we love one another,
care for one another,
feel for one another.

THANKS AND PRAISE TO THE GOD OF LOVE.

As Jesus lives his life among those who gather around him,
and as they come to care for him,
to seek his good,
to let their hearts ache when his heart aches
we see the harvest of the heart of God.

THANKS AND PRAISE TO THE GOD OF LOVE.

For life and health and daily food,
for fellowship and all things good,

THANKS AND PRAISE TO THE GOD OF LOVE.

Silence

Like a serpent entering a garden,
so enter into our experience
sickness and pain.
We don't know how to respond.
Sometimes we fail one another,
making things worse, rather than better.
And sometimes, we just don't care.

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 was made real in Christ,
a living person who negotiated pain and death,
and left his people with peace and hope,
GUIDE AND BLESS US,
AS WE SEEK TO LIVE IN CHRIST-LIKE WAYS.

Help us to love you
and our neighbours,
**THAT, WITH GOOD CONSCIENCE,
WE MAY DO THE GODLY THING.**

We pray this in the name of Jesus,
and use 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 16 August. Today, young ones are welcome to
enjoy toys and activity sheets in the play area at the rear of the church.*

A series of readings, reflections and hymns on life, death and doing well for one another

The "End of Life Choice" bill, was passed by parliament on 13 November, 2019, but was not applied, pending a binding referendum by the general electorate. The bill can be found at:

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/member/2017/0269/latest/DLM7285905.html>

On 19 September, the referendum question, to which you can answer only with either a "yes" or a "no", will be:

"Do you support the End of Life Choice Act 2019 coming into force?"

Some time ago the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church supported a document produced by the Inter-Church Bioethics Council, which you can find at:

https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/sites/default/files/ICBC_Health_Select_Committee_18_Jan_2016_Final.pdf

Preamble

The First Lesson: Psalm 104: 27-30

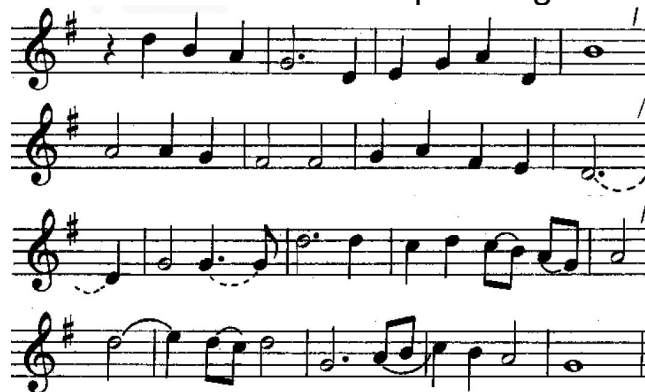
A Reflection: The grand plan: breath given, and taken

We remain seated to sing

Hymn:

Sine Nomine

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Give thanks for life,
the measure of our days,
mortal, we pass through
beauty that decays,
yet sing to God our hope,
our love, our praise,
Alleluia! | 2. And for our own, our living
and our dead,
thanks for the love by
which our life is fed,
a love not changed by time
or death or dread,
Alleluia! |
|---|--|

Shirley Murray (1931-2020)

The Second Lesson: Deuteronomy 34: 1-12

A Reflection: How it *should* work

We remain seated to sing

Hymn:

Bunessan

Gaelic melody



1. This day God gives me
strength of high heaven,
sun and moon shining,
flame in my hearth,
flashing of lightning,
wind in its swiftness,
deeps of the ocean,
firmness of earth.
2. This day God sends me
strength to sustain me,
might to uphold me,
wisdom as guide.
Your eyes are watchful,
your ears are listening,
your lips are speaking,
friend at my side.
3. God's way is my way,
God's shield is round me,
God's host defends me,
saving from ill.
Angels of heaven,
drive from me always
all that would harm me,
stand by me still.

James Quinn (1919-2010), alt.

The Third Lesson: John 19: 25b-30

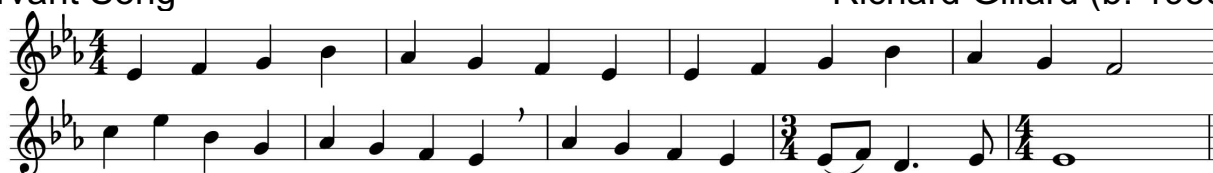
A Reflection: Gathering around the cross

We remain seated to sing

Hymn:

Servant Song

Richard Gillard (b. 1953)



1. Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace to
let you be my servant too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey,
we are trav'lers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christ light for you
in the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
'till we've seen this journey through.

Richard Gillard (b. 1953)

The Fourth Lesson: Micah 6: 6-8

A Reflection: Conscience: loving mercy and walking humbly with God

Music for Reflection: Improvisation
Daniel Cooper (b. 1997)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Jennifer McKinnon

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

For food upon the table,

AND WARMTH AMONG THE PEOPLE,

for protection from the cold,
AND KNOWING THAT OTHERS CARE,

thanks be to God,
THANKS BE TO GOD.

May this offering find God's blessing,
THROUGH JESUS, THE CHRIST,
AMEN.

Notices

Hymn:

Hyfrydol

Rowland Huw Prichard (1811-1887)



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart. | 2. Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be,
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise. |
|--|---|

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Improvisation
Daniel Cooper (b. 1997)

Following the service, morning tea and coffee are served in the church

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NOTICES

This Week: 28 June – 4 July 2020

Sunday	10.00am	Morning Worship
	11.15am	Knox Book Group – see below
Wednesday	10.00am	Bible Study

Next Week: 5 July – 11 July 2020

Sunday	10.00am	Morning Worship
	11.15am	Mission Discernment Meeting – see below
Wednesday	10.00am	Bible Study

Knox Book Table – Has now been transformed into a bookcase in the old foyer. We have added CDs and DVDs. \$3 each or 2 for \$5. Come and have a look!!

Knox Book Group – Sunday 28 June at 11.15am in the Church. **Year of Wonders** by Geraldine Brooks. Based on the true story of the village of Eyam, who quarantined themselves when the Great Plague reached them in 1665.

Mission Discernment Meetings - Sunday 5th July and 2nd August after Church. It is intended to have soup and bread after the Mission Discernment meeting. If you can assist by providing Soup please contact: Jennifer McKinnon, 3308333, jennifer.mckinnon@xtra.co.nz

Methodist and Presbyterian Women's Special Project - Sunday 12th July. This year, the special project is – *Chosen people called to proclaim: Life and hope for the women and children in Palestine, with the New Zealand component - the St John Shuttle*. Instead of a retiring offering there will be bowls at both entrances prior to and after the service for your gift for this year's special project.

POSTAGE STAMPS - Postage stamps are rather rare these days, but the Presbyterian Women organisation still collects and sells them, so if you have any used stamps lurking at home do bring them along to church and put them in the labelled box in the new foyer.

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 Ph 3792456 or Janet Wilson, Donations Secretary janmwil507@gmail.com Ph 338 7203.

I found this somewhere inside my computer. I think it probably came from the **"Humans of New York"** blog - but I'm not sure. Apologies!



“My wife passed away last January. We’d been married for 62 years. You caught me at a time when I’ve been thinking a lot about love because I’m reading Shakespeare’s sonnets. The definition of love is elusive, which is why we write about it endlessly. Even Shakespeare couldn’t touch it. All the greatest love stories just seem to be about physical attraction. Romeo and Juliet didn’t know if they liked the same books or movies. It was just physical. After 62 years, it becomes something different entirely. My wife used to say: ‘We are one.’ And believe me, she was not the type of person to overstate something. Now that she’s gone, I realize how right she was. So much of our lives were linked. We were very physical and affectionate. But we also shared every ritual of our life. I miss her every time I leave a movie and can’t ask for her opinion. Or every time I go to a restaurant and can’t give her a taste of my chicken. I miss her most at night. We got in bed together at the same time every night.”

An interesting link:

The Human Rights Commission has released a paper called “Prism”, exploring six human rights issues relating to members of the SOGIESC community (people of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression). A link to an introduction, with a further link to the whole report is:

<https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO2006/S00211/human-rights-commission-issues-report-on-rainbow-human-rights-in-aotearoa-new-zealand.htm>



The Bible reading for next week will be:

- Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

Knox Directory

28 Bealey Ave, Christchurch 8013
Secretary: Jane Ellis,
ph. (03) 379 2456,
office@knoxchurch.co.nz
Office hours: Mon-Fri 9.00am-noon

Minister: Rev. Dr Matthew Jack
minister@knoxchurch.co.nz
for emergencies, (03) 3570 111

Church Council Clerk: Janet Wilson,
ph. (03) 338 7203

Director of Music: Daniel Cooper,
organist@knoxchurch.co.nz

Pastoral Assistant: Jan Harland
ph. 0273560215

Visit our website
www.knoxchurch.co.nz



website



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Keeping in Touch

Please help us get acquainted with you by filling in this form
and putting it in the offering bag.

Name:

Contact details