



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service 15 November 2020



LEARN FROM THE BIRDS

THIS YEAR'S SERVICE
FOR THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

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.

Please enjoy today's flowers, which have been provided, anonymously,
on the anniversary of a Knox person very well loved.

"Not even Solomon,
in all his glory,
was clothed like one of these"

Jesus

The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, INVITING US TO CONSIDER THE BIRDS OF THE AIR;
JESUS, ASSURING US OF THE LOVE AND GENEROSITY OF GOD;
JESUS, IN WHOSE SAFE EMBRACE WE REST.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

All Things Bright and Beautiful

William Henry Monk (1823-1889)



*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful -
the one God made them all.*

1. Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings -
God made their glowing colours,
and made their tiny wings.
All things bright and beautiful . . .
2. The purple headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky.
All things bright and beautiful . . .
3. God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God, Creator,
who has made all things well.
All things bright and beautiful . . .

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

Prayer of Approach

God of earth and air, and sky and sea,
God of mountains and plains,
God of rivers and beaches,
HEAR OUR PRAISE.

God of creatures that fly,
God of creatures that swim,
God of creatures that slither,
HEAR OUR PRAISE.

God of animals that lay eggs,
and animals the birth living young,
God of animals that care and cry,
HEAR OUR PRAISE.

God of human beings,
who walk and wonder,
who worry and plan,
who break their bones and heal again,
HEAR OUR PRAISE.

God of relationships between living things,
affection,
caring,
comfort and company,
HEAR OUR PRAISE.

You have set us among all things bright and beautiful,
given us eyes to see them,
and hearts capable of caring for them;
HEAR OUR PRAISE.

How great is God, the Creator,
who has made all things well.
**HEAR OUR PRAISE,
OUR SILENT PRAISE,
THROUGH JESUS, THE LORD.**

Silence

Hear also our confession:
for human activity that blights and saddens creation,
for animals neglected and hurt,
for the many ways in which we fail to love and care
for the living beings that surround us.

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 encouraged the people, O God,
to learn from the birds,
and to be less anxious.
He wished for them
hearts and minds at peace.

**OPEN OUR EARS TO HIS WORDS,
AND OUR EYES TO THE BIRDS,
THAT WE TOO MAY KNOW YOUR PEACE.**

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 all.

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

We exchange a sign of peace with one another.

Meeting the Animals

When the minister says “We give thanks for *N*”,
the people say “**AMEN**”.

*During the singing of the hymn, you are invited, if you would like to,
to light a candle in memory of a beloved pet.*

Hymn:

Ar Hyd Y Nos

Welsh traditional melody



1. For the pets whose love, O, blessed us,
thanks be to God;
for the way they've opened up us,
thanks be to God;
for the feeding, keeping, holding,
faithful love us all enfolding,
better humans they embolden;
thanks be to God.
2. For the way they know no lying,
thanks be to God;
for their calm when we are crying,
thanks be to God;
for their simple way of caring,
gentle company of sharing,
heaven's nature, yes, declaring;
thanks be to God.
3. For the ones who've worked in service,
thanks be to God;
serving human need and purpose,
thanks be to God;
lifting loads and bearing burdens,
giving help that's always certain,
faithful 'til the final curtain,
thanks be to God.

4. For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

Verses 1-3, Matthew Jack (b. 1963)

Verse 4, Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

The First Lesson: Isaiah 40: 28-31

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

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 6: 25-27

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

Sermon: Jesus and the blackbird

*Generally, sermons are posted on our website shortly after the service at: <http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/sermons.html>
Hard copies of the sermons are available before and after the service – ask the person at the door.*

Music for Reflection: Élégie
Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Graeme Downie



The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

Giving thanks for the animals of our world
and all that they have taught us,

WE MAKE OUR OFFERING IN FAITH.

Bless, O God, the food and the money,
AND BLESS US ALSO,

that we may be generous and humane guardians
of the world around us,

TO THE GLORY OF YOUR NAME, AMEN.

Notices

Hymn:

Kremser

Eduard Kremser (1838-1914)



1. Sing praise and thanksgiving, let all creatures living
now witness their maker with gladness and song;
all glory and honour we bring to God, singing:
O praise to the Almighty,
sing praise to our God!
2. God, frame our desiring to do your requiring,
that unto your glory be all that we do;
and here, now we've worshipped, give service and healing:
O praise to the Almighty,
sing praise to our God!

*Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676), tr. Margaret Barclay (b. 1923),
adapted by Colin Gibson, then again by Matthew Jack.*

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Jubilant Finale
Healey Willan (1880-1968)

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

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NOTICES

Next Week: 15 November – 21 November 2020
Sunday 10.00am Morning
Monday 7.30pm Knox Fireside – **see below**
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: 22 November – 28 November 2020
Sunday 10.00am Morning
11.15am Knox Book Group – **see below**
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

KNOX FIRESIDE GROUP - The next meeting of the Knox Fireside group will be on Monday 16th November at 7.30pm in the Church. You are asked to bring a Family Heirloom or Keepsake to show and tell. All welcome.

KNOX BOOK GROUP - Sunday 22 November, 11.15am Final book group for the year. Little Women by Louise May Alcott as well as March by Geraldine Brooks. Both books deal with the heavily autobiographical life of the March family, particularly during the American Civil War in the 1860's.

St GEORGES/IONA – As of next Sunday we resume our usual collection for St Georges/Iona. As well as the everyday items, Christmas goods and gifts will be gratefully received.

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.

Do you remember Rev. David Brown, from San Francisco?



REVEREND DAVID BROWN

David and his wife Linda spent a couple of weeks with us at Knox in February this year, preaching and taking a couple of seminars.

In a recent email, just after the results of the USA elections became clear, David said:

Matthew,

OK. I can finally breathe! I feel like I've been holding my breath for four years.

You might have the same sentiments as what the mayor of Paris tweeted out this morning: "Welcome back, America!"

Please greet the people of Knox Church for us. We just might make it here.

Francis preaches to the birds



**My little sisters, the birds,
much bounden are ye
unto God, your Creator,
and always in every place
ought ye to praise Him,
for that He hath given you
liberty to fly about
everywhere, and hath
also given you double and
triple rainment; moreover
He preserved your seed in
the ark of Noah, that your
race might not perish out
of the world;**

Paul, the Octopus

was a [common octopus](#) used to predict the results of association football matches. Accurate predictions in the [2010 World Cup](#) brought him worldwide attention as an [animal oracle](#).

During [divinations](#), Paul's keepers would present him with two boxes containing food. The boxes were identical except that they were decorated with the different team flags of the competitors in an upcoming [football](#) match. Whichever box Paul ate from first was considered his prediction for which team would win the match.



His keepers at the [Sea Life Centre](#) in [Oberhausen](#), Germany, mainly tasked him with predicting the outcomes of international matches in which the [Germany national football team](#) was playing. Paul correctly chose the winning team in four of Germany's six [Euro 2008](#) matches, and all seven of their matches in the 2010 World Cup — including Germany's third place play-off win over Uruguay on 10 July. He also correctly chose Spain as the winner of the [2010 FIFA World Cup final](#). In all, Paul amassed an overall record of 12 correct predictions out of 14: a success rate of approximately 85.7%.

Paul was hatched from an egg at the Sea Life Centre in [Weymouth](#), England, and was then moved to a tank at one of the chain's centres at [Oberhausen](#), Germany.

According to Sea Life's entertainment director, Daniel Fey, Paul demonstrated intelligence early in life: "There was something about the way he looked at our visitors when they came close to the tank. It was so unusual, so we tried to find out what his special talents were."^[5]

The animal rights organisation [PETA](#) commented that octopuses are some of the most intelligent of invertebrates, with complex thought processes, long- and short-term memories, and different personalities. They can use tools, learn through observation, and are particularly sensitive to pain, according to the group.

Paul was last checked by staff on 25 October 2010, and was in good health, but the following morning he was found dead. He was aged two-and-a-half, a normal lifespan for the species. His agent, Chris Davies, said "It's a sad day. Paul was rather special but we managed to film Paul before he left this mortal earth". Sea Life Centre manager Stefan Porwoll remembered Paul as an octopus who had "enthused people across every continent"



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Matthew 25: 31-40
- Matthew 25: 41-46

Knox Directory

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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