



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service 29 November 2020



GOD'S TURANGAWAEWAE

ADVENT SUNDAY
A COMMUNION SERVICE

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.

This is a communion service. The table at Knox is an open one.
Members of any church, as well as any who are seeking God sincerely,
are welcome to receive communion here.

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.

Communion during Covid-19 Alert Level One

Since we are in Covid-19 Alert Level One, and are being asked to take special care with respect to the sharing of food, we are serving communion today in a slightly different way. Bread will be served by servers who have washed their hands. In order to avoid many hands dipping bread in one cup, we are using the old individual glasses. The server will give you a glass. Once you have finished the non-alcoholic grape juice, place your empty glass in the holder, back in your pew. We will use the shared cup again once we are out of alert levels.

The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, PROMISED BY THE PROPHETS ACROSS THE AGES;
JESUS, GOD'S HEART MAKING A HOME IN THE HUMAN FAMILY;
JESUS, WHOSE FULLER COMING WE AWAIT.**

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 shortcomings weeps with loathing.
4. And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass 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)

For none can guess God's grace,
till **we** become the **place**
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.
Let us pray.

Prayer of Approach

Where would you dwell,
O eternal mystery, whose being we have sensed
in the deep and moving story of human longing?
WHERE WOULD YOU DWELL?

Where would you dwell,
O great One, in whose image we are said to have been made,
in whose loving guidance we are said to have travelled?
WHERE WOULD YOU DWELL?

Where would you dwell,
you for whom a king once offered to build a house,
a place in a place,
a solid statement of physical presence?
WHERE WOULD YOU DWELL?

Where would you dwell,
you who said you wanted not a house,
but a people?
WHERE WOULD YOU DWELL?

Where would you dwell,
you who knocked on the door of a young woman called Mary,
with the form of an angel
and news of Holy Spirit transforming?
WHERE WOULD YOU DWELL?

Ah me!
Dwell here, O God,
among this people
who have gathered to hear your Word
and to break your bread.
AMEN.
IN THESE HEARTS AND MINDS,
DWELL HERE.

Silence

We confess to God
and to one another,
that we have not made room
for God to dwell among us.
Too much space has been taken up
with saying "no",
with shutting doors,
and moving people along.
In light of our unhelpful 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:

God declares to an ancient prophet
that there is no need for a house,
when there is a people.
God declares to Mary
that she will be the home of God's presence.
**OPEN OUR EARS, O GOD,
TO WHAT THE SPIRIT IS SAYING,
THAT WE MAY OFFER OURSELVES
TO BE YOUR HOME
AND A BLESSING TO YOUR WAITING WORLD.
AMEN.**



The Advent Wreath

Approaching Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we light our Advent candles in hope.

The first candle: the candle of "home"

What kind of home does God want? A grand cathedral or a clearing in a forest? A soaring steeple or the cup of a lotus flower? As beautiful and magnificent as they are, God does not choose these. God chooses to make a home in human flesh and blood - God makes a home of the human family.

So Gabriel calls to Mary, announcing the miracle of God becoming flesh. Mary says "yes", and the mystery of the incarnation begins.

We light this candle, celebrating God's choice and wisdom.

WE OFFER OURSELVES TO BE GOD'S HOME.

MAY GOD DWELL AMONG US,

THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF CHRIST.

The candle is lit

We wait for your loving kindness, O God.

AMEN.

COME, LORD JESUS.

The Notices

Our next Sunday School day is 6 December (next week). Today the young ones are welcome to enjoy the play area at the back of the church, where they will find activity sheets.

The First Lesson: 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

In this is the Word of God

THANKS BE TO GOD.

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 1: 26-38

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Music for Reflection: "Libre", from 3 Pieces for Organ
Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

Sermon:

The manse comes with Murray

*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.*

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*To the minister's words, "In Advent hope, for a being at home",
you are invited to respond **"WE WORK AND PRAY"**.*

**. . . 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 Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering.

Blessed are you, O God of all creation.
Through your goodness, we bring what we have gathered,
using the talents that you have given us.
It will further the work of your kingdom.
BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER.

Blessed are you, O God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.
BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER.

Blessed are you, O God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us our spiritual drink.
**BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER,
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, 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.

Communion Hymn:

Two Oaks

Marty Haugen (b. 1950)



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*
2. Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as a symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

3. Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

Marty Haugen (b. 1950)

We sit for

The Invitation, Institution, and Setting Apart of the Elements

The Great Eucharistic Prayer:

May God be with you.

AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Lift up your hearts.

WE LIFT THEM TO GOD.

Let us give thanks to the world's creator.

IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.

It is right indeed . . .

The Breaking of the Bread

Lamb of God:

Jesus, Lamb of God,

HAVE MERCY ON US.

JESUS, BEARER OF OUR SINS,

HAVE MERCY ON US.

JESUS, REDEEMER OF THE WORLD,

GRANT US YOUR PEACE.

The Communion

*For the distribution, please come forward to the table,
receive some bread, and a glass of grape juice, and return to your seat.*

The Prayer After Communion

Eternal God,
we give you thanks and praise
that while we were still far off
you met us in your Son, and brought us home.

MAY WE WHO SHARE HIS BREAD

LIVE HIS RISEN LIFE;

WE WHO DRINK HIS CUP

BRING LIFE TO OTHERS;

WE WHOM THE SPIRIT LIGHTS

GIVE LIGHT TO THE WORLD,

THAT ALL YOUR CHILDREN SHALL BE FREE,

AND THE WHOLE EARTH LIVE TO PRAISE YOUR NAME.

AMEN.

Hymn:

Veni Emmanuel

from Fifteenth Century French Processional



1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Christ of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you,
O Israel!
2. O come, O Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh,
to us the path of knowledge show,
and help us in that way to go.
Rejoice . . .

3. O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
love stir within the womb of night,
and death's own shadows put to flight.
Rejoice . . .
4. O come, Desire of Nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
make envy, strife and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice . . .

*Based on antiphons from Advent Vespers,
trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and others, alt.*

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: "Postlude I", from Four Postludes for Organ
Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

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

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NOTICES

Next Week: 29 November – 5 December 2020

Sunday	10.00am	Morning
Wednesday	10.00am	Bible Study

Next Week: 6 December - 12 December 2020

Sunday	10.00am	Morning
Wednesday	10.00am	Bible Study

PACKING CHRISTMAS BAKING - Christmas baking will be packed on Saturday 5th December in the foyer commencing at 9 am. Once all the baking has been packed you will be able to take any orders you have made away with you.

CAROLS AT RICCARTON BUSH - 6.30pm, Sunday 13 December 2020.
Come and join us in singing Christmas Carols.

ST GEORGES IONA FOOD BASKET - Last year St Georges Iona gave out 50 Christmas hampers and are hoping to do so again. They would appreciate Christmassy food etc to enable them to do the same this year. St Georges Iona really appreciate all that Knox does for them so they can continue their work in Christchurch East.

ADVENT CANDLES - Each year, during the Sundays of Advent, we light candles on our Advent Wreath, doing a simple litany produced by the minister. It's good when people other than the minister participate. So, if you (either by yourself, or in the company of a friend or family member) would be willing to read the litany and light the candle, let Matthew know. At the moment we're looking for helpers on Sundays 13 and 20 December.

Election of new people to the Knox Church Council

Within the Presbyterian form of government, congregations elect to leadership people they believe have appropriate gifts and wisdom for the times and place. Having assessed the times into which Knox has come, the mission challenges associated with these times, and the committed ethos of our church, the Council of Knox Church has identified two people it believes can serve us well in leadership:

- John Laing - Elder
- Neil Lambie - Council member

With warmth, gratitude and encouragement, Council commends John and Neil to the congregation for appointment to the Council. Each has indicated a willingness to serve and indicated the capacity in which they feel called to serve. Should any Knox person have any objection to any of these nominations, please lodge them with the minister prior to the **congregational election meeting which will be held after morning worship, 6 December 2020**.

Brief biographies of the nominees are printed below.

*Janet Wilson,
Knox Church Council Clerk*

Biographies

John Laing

Early childhood was spent in the Pacific Islands namely Fiji, Samoa and Solomon Islands. I was born in Fiji and had a Methodist baptism. I moved to NZ for my high school years attending Waitaki Boys' High School as a boarder.

When I left school I spent a number of years in Christchurch then moved to Auckland where I spent 30 years, up until 2016. In the latter years in Auckland I was a member of the Somervell Presbyterian church and served on the church's administration committee. I have been and still am a student of the Bible through Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) a global organisation where everybody undertakes the same study over a 12 month period. I am retired, married and have 2 adult sons and multiple grandchildren. In 2016 I relocated back to Christchurch. I had attended a number of services at Knox before my move down and the "feel" of the church and the people convinced me that this should be my place of worship. I have prayerfully asked the Lord to show me opportunities to better serve Him. The offer to be an elder at Knox enables me to serve both Him and the church.

Neil Lambie

I grew up in Dunedin. In my adult life I have lived in various places, mainly Auckland, Christchurch and Sydney. I work as a pathologist at Christchurch Hospital, now half time (semi-retired). I live with Jose, my partner; we have been together for the past 24 years. My involvement with churches and Christianity has been intermittent over the years, with long periods of absence. While growing up in Dunedin it was irregular attendance at Maori Hill Presbyterian Church and Sunday School. Later there was a period of involvement with the Metropolitan Community Church in Auckland. Most recently it was with the Uniting Church of Australia, in Sydney. I started coming to Knox quite by chance, when we returned to Christchurch 3 years ago. We were living near the central city and Knox seemed to be the nearest church. I have found the community at Knox to be very welcoming, friendly and kind, and the theology is liberal. I would like to contribute in any way I can to Knox church and its outreach.

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.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT KNOX, 2020



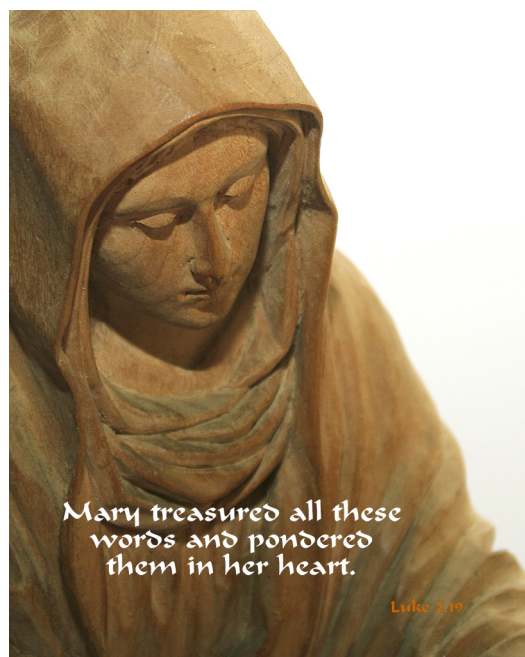
Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 20 December
10:00am

A service of candles, communion and carols
for Christmas Eve

24 December, 11:15pm

Mary ponders in her heart



A simple service
for Christmas Day

25 December, 10:00am

The Census is busted!



CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Partner Story:

I pick tea but cannot yet grow food



Rasu and her three children stand proudly outside their home on the tea plantation. They want to be treated fairly and to have what they need to live well.

Rasu picks tea in Sri Lanka. She climbs the steep hills, plucking a few leaves from each bush to put in the sack around her head. It is hard work and the pay is not good. She has to buy all the food for her family from the plantation store but she dreams of starting a small mushroom farm so she can improve their diet and earn money for school and medical costs. If only she could have a small patch of land to grow food and a living wage, her family would do better. We are hungry for hope.

MODERATOR'S ADVENT MESSAGE 2020



Prepare Yourself

Advent is the season of preparation; when Christians get ready, focus, and plan in anticipation for Christmas. This year may be very different from any other Christmas due to Covid-19. Preparation is the keyword.

Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, this year 29 November. We, the Church, recall our hopes and expectancy in the comings of Christ - past, present, and future. Christmas will always be Christmas. That magical day when we celebrate the Baby of Bethlehem.

Whether it be in the snow of the Northern Hemisphere or be in the warm summer of the Southern hemisphere, it is a wonderful season of hope, love, peace, and joy. Let's be prepared in mind, heart, and attitude. Let's be prepared for whatever coronavirus restrictions we may face.

This is a wonderful season for each one of us to strive to clear the deck. Remove any unnecessary baggage that has accumulated over the year. Prepare yourself for the baby of Christmas, Jesus.

Fakaofu

Right Rev Fakaofu Kaio

Moderator - Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand



Bible readings for next week will be:

- Isaiah 40: 1-11
- Mark 1: 1-8

Knox Directory

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Visit our website
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website

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Director of Music: Daniel Cooper,
daniel.organist@gmail.com
Pastoral Assistant: Jan Harland
ph. 0273560215



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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