



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service 6 December 2020



**THE BEGINNING
OF THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST,
THE SON OF GOD
(AND WHY NOT?)**

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 Call to Worship:

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

JESUS, PROCLAIMED BY JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS;

JESUS, COMING WITH SPIRIT AND HOPE;

JESUS, WHOSE GOSPEL FOREVER CHANGES THE WORLD.

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Winchester New

William Henry Havergal (1793-1870)



1. The Baptist shouts on Jordan's shore,
the earth shakes with the mighty roar,
awake, let lazy sleep now flee:
behold, the voice of prophecy!
2. The earth and sky and sea now feel
that which their Author will reveal:
the Child now leaping in the womb
as God does human form assume.
3. Clean up your hearts, lay down the way,
for God approaches day by day;
prepare for such a worthy heir,
for such a guest your house prepare.
4. Through you, O Jesus, you alone
salvation, solace, strength are known;
without your love we fade like grass,
like wilted flowers our lives will pass.
5. O One who comes to set us free,
O Child, to you our song will be,
with Father, Spirit mothering,
to you shall praise for ever ring!

Charles Coffin (1676-1749)

tr. John Chandler (1806-1876) and others, alt.

Prayer of Approach

An almost forgotten vision
finds a home in the mind and heart
of a man called John,
AND THE GOSPEL OF JESUS BEGINS.

The vision plays with his imagination,
gives him a sense of pending moment.
He has thoughts about
making the rough places smooth,
and straightening the road,
AND THE ADVENT COMES NEAR.

There he is -
baptizing and proclaiming,

pointing to the coming of the Christ,
WHICH WILL FOREVER CHANGE HIS WORLD.

It will be a world of comfort for the people,
forgiveness for the sins,
hope for the coming of the Spirit.
WHY SHOULD THIS NOT BE OUR WORLD?

We confess, O God,
that this is not our world,
for we have not entertained the vision,
have not come into action,
have not, to the coming of Christ, said "Amen".
A HARVEST OF NOTHING.

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:

You have promised, O God,
to comfort the people
and to carry them gently
back into wholeness.
Captivating the imagination of John the Baptist,
you called him to be part of that comforting.
**CALL US ALSO
TO SPEAK WITH TENDERNESS,
TO BEAR ONE ANOTHER UP,
AND TO STRAIGHTEN THE TWISTED ROADS.**

For the sake of the people,
we make this prayer,
using the words Jesus 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.

The Advent Wreath

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

The second candle: the candle of "new beginnings"

What kind of announcement marks the beginning of the ministry of the Son of God? A royal proclamation in the city centre? A fanfare of trumpets and cymbals? No; God moves a hair-shirted prophet to cry out in the wilderness. God speaks through an encourager of repentance washing a dusty-footed people.

We light this candle, rejoicing in the God of John the Baptist.

**WE OFFER OURSELVES TO BE GOD'S CRYING OUT,
GOD'S WASHING CLEAN,
GOD'S NEW BEGINNING.**

The candle is lit

We wait for your loving kindness, O God.

**AMEN.
COME, LORD JESUS.**

To end the Sunday School year,
A Conversation with the Younger Ones
with a video presentation and other things

Knox Singers: The Lord will soon appear
 J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Young People's Blessing:

Young ones, go to your worship with our blessing.

**TAKE OUR FAITH AND HOPE;
MAKE NEW THINGS WITH WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN.
MAY GOD BLESS AND GROW YOU.
AMEN.**

The Young ones reply:

E te Atua
Homai to aroha ki nga Kaiako
me ngā tamariki.
Homai to aroha ki ngā whānau
me tēnei hāhi
Āmine

*O Lord,
we give thanks for our teachers
and the children.
We give thanks for our families
and the (Knox) congregation
Amen.*

*The young ones move to the Sunday School space upstairs in the Knox Centre.
Parents are encouraged to accompany their children.*

The First Lesson: Isaiah 40: 1-11

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

The Gospel Lesson: Mark 1: 1-8

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

Sermon: Comfort and mud

*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.*

Hymn:

Kelvingrove

Scottish Traditional Tune



1. Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?
2. Will you leave your self behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare,
will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?
3. Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?
4. Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

John Bell (b. 1949)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

To the minister's words, "May vision, O God, translate into action",
you are invited to respond **"FOR THE COMFORT AND HEALING OF THE
WORLD"**.

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

When crying out is required,
MAY WE OFFER OUR VOICES.

When comforting is needed,
MAY WE OFFER OUR HEARTS.

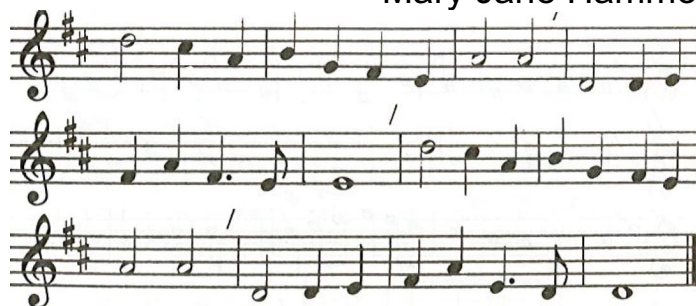
May God bless what we offer,
including this money and food,
**IN THE NAME OF JESUS,
AMEN.**

Notices

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 wind of God, come bend us, break us,
till humbly we confess our need;
then in your tenderness remake us,
revive, restore: for this we plead.
3. 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.

4. 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: Nun Komm' der Heiden Heiland, BWV599
from Orgelbüchlein
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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

Music printed in this order of service is covered
under a music copyright licence agreement: Licensing #604802



NOTICES

Next Week: 6 December - 12 December 2020
Sunday 10.00am Morning service
Wednesday 11.00am Bible Study

Next Week: 13 December - 19 December 2020
Sunday 10.00am Morning service

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

SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER - Nine Lessons and Carols, followed by Special Morning Tea. After the service we will host St Mark's, Avonhead and St George's Iona. Knox people are asked to please bring a plate. If you can help – please contact Jennifer McKinnon.

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.

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, TODAY, 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.



CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Partner Story:



Jenty and her children have seen too much violence. She has planted a new garden and prays for their protection.

I lost my husband and my home due to conflict. Jenty knows what it is like to be hungry and afraid. Conflict has rippled through her home in South Sudan since it was founded in 2011. This time she fled on foot with her children to Maridi a fast-growing town on one of the new country's few roads. They arrived with nothing but the community always welcomes people displaced by the conflict. She is proud of her garden and the maize she has planted. Food grows well here. Let us pray that peace will take root in South Sudan. We are hungry for peace.

You may like to add a small hoe or other garden to remember displaced people.



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11
- John 1: 6-8, 19-28

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

Visit our website
www.knoxchurch.co.nz



website

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,
daniel.organist@gmail.com

Pastoral Assistant: Jan Harland
ph. 0273560215



facebook



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