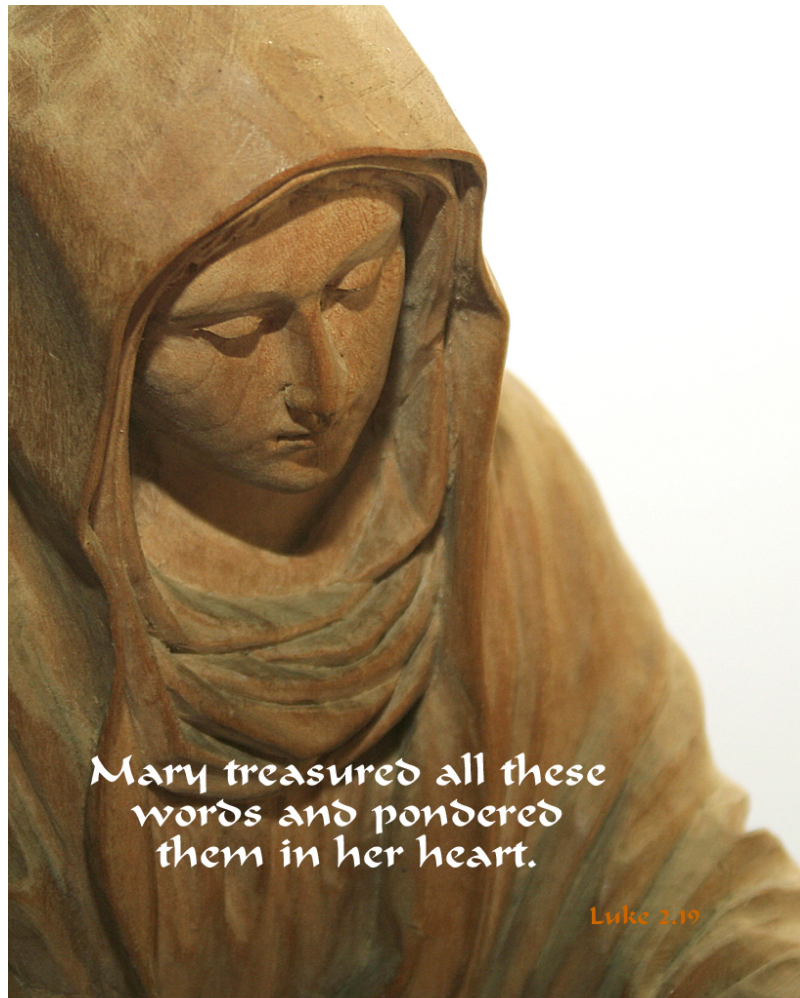




KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service Christmas Eve, 2020



Mary ponders in her heart

a Christmas Eve service
of carols, candle-light
and communion

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.

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.

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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.

COVID, CANDLES AND COMMUNION SERVING

As you arrive tonight, you will be given a Christmas candle. During the singing of the opening hymn, candle bearers will move down the central aisles, lighting the candles of those adjacent to the aisle. Light your candle from those sitting next to you. Please be aware of where your flame is, paying particular attention to the person in front of you.

At Knox, we come forward to receive communion. Because there has been no community transmission in Aotearoa New Zealand for some time now, we are serving communion in our regular way. Two lines form in the central aisle. Please join the line that has formed on your side of the aisle. Receive bread from the server, dip it in the communion cup, and return to your seat via the outer aisles. **If you feel nervous about the common cup, please take your grape juice from the separate glasses provided by those next to the cup bearers.** If, because of low light conditions or mobility issues, you feel reluctant

to come forward for communion in this way, please let one of our welcomers know. We will arrange for communion to be brought to you in your seat.

The wine in the large silver communion cups contains alcohol, and the bread offered by the central servers is glutenous. The servers with the small trays (to the outside of the church) have small glasses of non-alcoholic grape juice and trays of gluten free bread.

If you wish to receive communion in a way that requires two hands, please hand your candle to the person behind you in the line. Please retrieve your candle from that person before he or she needs to receive communion.

Please be assured that the table at Knox is an open one. Members of any denomination, as well as any of no denomination who are seeking God sincerely, are welcome to receive communion here.

And please, in keeping with Covid-19 best practice, if you are feeling unwell, please go straight home, and seek medical advice.

Before the service, as the congregation gathers,
the Knox Singers will sing a carol.
This is not part of the service, but courtesy is appreciated.

O come, O come, Emmanuel
plainsong melody with organ variations
John Mason Neale (1861),
translating a text from Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710

The Welcome

Kia noho a Ihowa ki a koutou. God be with you.
MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Opening Prayer

Plans were made, this year, O God,
then cancelled . . .

. . . We keep a time of prayerful quiet.

Silence

Take us, O God . . .

Prepare us to receive him,
even as now we pray, using the words he would grow to teach 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.**

We stand for

Hymn

Irby

H. J. Gauntlett (1805-1876)



Verse 1 is sung by a soloist.

Verse 2 is sung by the Knox Singers only.

The congregation starts singing at verse 3.

*1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle-shed
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.*

*2. He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.*

**3. And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.**

**4. Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
when, like stars, his children
crowned
all in white shall wait around.**

C. F. Alexander (1818-1895)

We sit for

The Bible Lesson:

Luke 2: 1-19

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Knox Singers:

Magnificat in C Minor

George Dyson (1883-1964)

The Reflection:

Ponder that which brings life

We remain seated to sing

Hymn:

Noel

traditional English tune adapted by Arthur Seymour Sullivan



1. It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to you,
from Heaven’s all gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
o’er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o’er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.
3. But with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel strain have rolled

two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not
the love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise and still the strife
to hear the angels sing.

4. And you, beneath life's crushing load
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing.
5. For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet-bards foretold,
when, with the ever-rolling years,
still dawns the Age of Gold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876), alt.



The Invitation

The Institution

The 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, eternal God . . .

. . . Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God,
upon us who wait for the celebration of his birth,
and upon these elements of bread and wine,
that they may become for us his body and blood.

**MAKE US ONE WITH HIM,
ONE WITH ONE ANOTHER,
AND ONE IN MINISTRY IN THE WORLD
UNTIL AT LAST WE FEAST WITH HIM IN THE KINGDOM.**

Through your Son, Jesus Christ,
all honour and glory is yours, eternal God,
now and for ever.

AMEN.

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

Anthem: Fairest Lord Jesus
 Silesian folk song (1842)
 arr. Martin How (b. 1931)

The Watch Prayer

We remain seated to sing

Hymn:

Bunessan

Gaelic traditional melody



1. Child in a manger,
infant of Mary;
outcast and stranger,
Lord of all!
Child who inherits
all our transgressions,
all our demerits
on him fall.
2. Once the most holy
child of salvation
gently and lowly
lived below;
now, as our glorious
mighty Redeemer,
see him victorious
o'er each foe.
3. Prophets foretold him,
infant of wonder;
angels behold him
on his throne;
worthy our Saviour
of all their praises;
happy forever
are his own.

*Mary Macdonald (1789-1872)
tr. Lachlan Macbean (1853-1931)*

Silence until midnight

St John proclaims the great mystery of the Incarnation: John 1: 1-14

The Christmas Greeting

People of God,
Christ is born. God is with us.

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.**

***Please blow out your candles,
and greet one another with the peace of God.***

Without announcement, we stand to sing

Hymn:

Mendelssohn

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)



1. Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
joyful all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies,
with th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born king.*
2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the God-head see;
hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased on earth with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born king.*
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,

risen with healing in his wings;
mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us all from earth,
Born to give us second birth.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born king.*

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

The congregation remains standing for
The Christmas Litany:

Jesus, Son of the living God,
Splendour of heaven,
GLORY BE TO YOU.

Jesus, Child in a manger,
King of Creation,
GLORY BE TO YOU.
Jesus, wonderful Counsellor,
mighty God,
everlasting Lord,
GLORY BE TO YOU.

Jesus, inexhaustible Wisdom,
our Way,
our Truth,
our Life,
GLORY BE TO YOU.

The Word was made flesh
and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.
THANKS BE TO GOD, AMEN.

Without announcement, we sing

Hymn:

Adeste Fideles

John Francis Wade (c.1711-1786)



1. O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him
born the king of angels;
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*
2. God of God,
Light of light,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore him . . .
3. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above.
'Glory to God,
glory in the highest':
O come, let us adore him . . .
4. Yea, Lord we greet thee,
born on Christmas morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:
O come let us adore Him . . .

John Francis Wade (c.1711-1786)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Toccata on "Joy to the world"
Martin Setchell



CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE CHRISTMAS APPEAL



*Local knowledge means
ACT Alliance members can
help when disaster strikes.
Ninety year old Karma and
her disabled son receive
hot meals three times a
week in their badly
damaged apartment.*

Partner Story:

In Lebanon, Elias and his young teams of refugees are cleaning up homes and comforting people struggling to recover months after the explosion at Beirut's port. Down on the ground local ACT Alliance members are organising cash vouchers and food and hygiene packs to distribute to families they know have none. Others are delivering hot meals to traumatised people like Karma and her son. They have no windows, electricity or food. It is care made possible by our work together. Christmas is the day we bring gifts for each other and those who are in need. We pray for all people recovering from disaster. We will share what we can so no one is hungry.



Services over New Year

Sunday 27 December
2020 in Review
10:00am

Sunday 3 January
Hopes for 2021
10:00am

THE CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER CLOSURE

Knox Church Office is now closed for the summer break. It will open again at 9:00am on Monday 13 January. Because the minister is not taking his annual leave until later in January, he will be clearing the office answerphone intermittently during the closure. For any urgent matters, feel free to contact him at his home phone number, 3570 111.