



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service **25 December 2020**

Statistics
New Zealand



The census is busted!

a simple celebration
for Christmas Day

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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.

This morning the Bible already has been placed on the lectern, so will not be processed in. At 10 o'clock, with the congregation remaining seated, the minister approaches the Advent Wreath. Once he has read the Nativity Passage from Luke's Gospel, the Christ Candle is lit. The service proceeds from there.

The Nativity: Luke 2: 1-14

The Christmas Proclamation:

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light,
**FOR A CHILD HAS BEEN BORN FOR US,
A SON GIVEN TO US.**

Authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
"Wonderful Counselor
MIGHTY GOD,
everlasting Father,
PRINCE OF PEACE".

Without announcement, we stand to sing

Hymn:

Mendelssohn

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)



Hark! the he-rald an-gels sing glo-ry to the new-born king.

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 sits for
The Prayers of Approach:

To a couple who were on the road
because the State required them to register,
dear God,
to a couple doing their civic duty,
a baby was born.

UNTO US A CHILD IS GIVEN.

Not in any reserved motel,
but in a make-do stable,
brand new parents
throw together a way of coping.

**HEATH ROBINSON-LIKE,
ON THE HOOF,
UNTO US IS BORN A SON.**

He'll keep his own hours,
as wee ones do,
and he'll cry when he wants to.
When he learns to speak,
he'll ask innocent questions,

**REQUIRING US
TO ANSWER OURSELVES DIFFERENTLY.**

Is it something of a foreshadowing,
a setting of a leitmotif,
that the incarnate deity,
enters our order
through the muck and smell of a cow stall.

**GOD'S SPIRITING PRESENCE,
IS INCONVENIENT
AND PLAYFUL AS A CHILD.**

As we watch him grow,
over the years of his life,
and of our years since him,
maybe we'll see that the wonderful Counselor,
seems not to stand in straight lines,
but dances his mystery and wonder
through the rising and falling of many,
**THE CASTING DOWN OF THE MIGHTY,
THE LIFTING UP OF THE LITTLE.**

Because you have come to us, O God,
through the person of a child,
in need and genuine personality,
in someone who grows and develops,
our journey in spirit
is going to be anything but a straight line -
**BUT IT WILL BE BEAUTIFUL, AND MESSY,
AND IT WILL CALL US TO BE THE SAME.**

This Christmas, O God,
we are willing to hear you speak to us
of law written not on tablets of stone,
**BUT OF SPIRIT
WRITTEN ON THE MESSY HUMAN HEART.**

Bless us this day, O God, to hear the Christmas story,
and to rejoice in the holy birth, through Jesus, born in Bethlehem.
AMEN.

If there are younger ones present
A Conversation with the Younger Ones

Baptism: Harriet Alice Bills-Strange

Introduction

Baptismal vows

Minister: (to parents) Do you promise, as far as you are able to, to
build your family life on the love and truth that
the church has taught us?

Parents: Yes, we do.

Minister: And do you promise to go on giving expression
to that love and truth, for the sake of your own
child, all the children among us and every
human being?

Parents: Yes, we do.

Minister: (to congregation) And all of you, relatives and friends, do you
receive this child in the name of Christ?

Congregation: **YES, WE DO.**

Minister: Will you endeavour to support her and her
parents through life with Christian love and
understanding?

Congregation: **YES, WE WILL.**

The Congregation stands for
The Prayer of Consecration

The elder pours water into the font.
The minister says:

May God be with you.
AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Lift up your hearts.
WE LIFT THEM TO OUR GOD.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.

Eternal God,
we thank you for the gift of water . . .

The Baptism

The people remain standing for the act of baptism.

In the name of God, our Father;
in the name of Christ our Lord;
in the name of the Holy Spirit
we baptise you.

The people respond: **AMEN.**

The Presentation of Baptismal Gifts

A gift from the congregation is given.

Hymn:

Puer Nobis

Piae Cantiones, 1582



1. Unto us a boy is born!
King of all creation,
came he to a world forlorn,
The Lord of every nation.

2. Cradled in a stall was he
with sleepy cows and asses;
and the very beasts could see
that he all folk surpasses.

3. Now may Mary's son, who came
so long ago to love us,
lead us all with hearts aflame
unto the joys above us.

4. Omega and Alpha he!
Let the organ thunder,
while we sing our songs with glee
and rend the air asunder.

Latin, 15th Century
translated Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)

The Bible Lesson: Luke 1: 46-55

This is the gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

The Christmas Reflection: Form a nice straight line, please!

Hymn:

Quem Pastores

Melody from a German manuscript of 1410



1. Jesus, good above all other,
gentle child of gentle mother,
in a stable born our brother,
give us grace to persevere.

3. Jesus, witness to our dying,
risen Master, death defying,
Lord in heaven, your grace supplying,
keep us to your presence near.

2. Jesus, cradled in a manger,
for us facing every danger,
living as a homeless stranger,
we make you our king most dear.

4. Jesus, all our sorrows bearing,
you our thoughts and hopes are sharing,
while to us the truth declaring;
help us all that truth to hear.

5. Lord, in all our doings guide us;
let not pride and hate divide us;
we'll go on with you beside us
and with joy we'll persevere.

Percy Dearmer (1867-1936), alt.

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

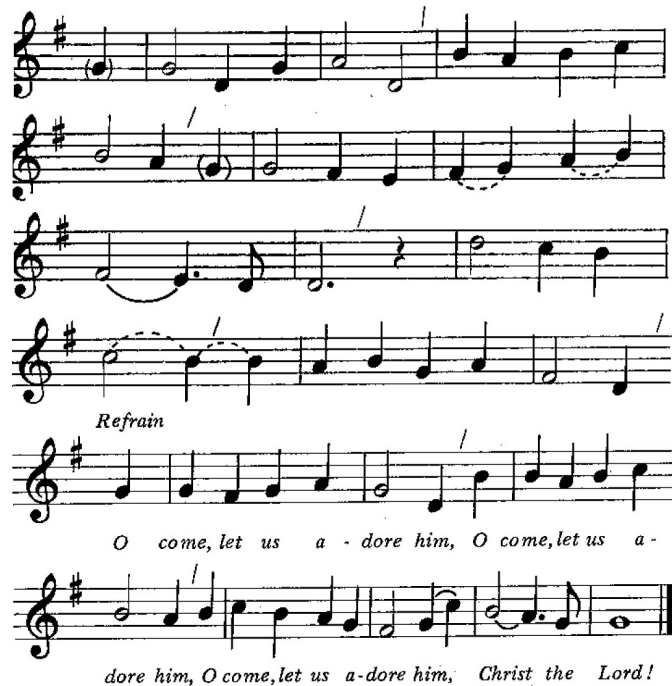
To the minister's words "The spirit of the census is busted",
you are invited to respond "**AMEN, SO MAY IT BE**".

... **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.**

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: Sleigh Ride
Leroy Anderson (1908-1975)

Retiring Offering

A retiring offering is taken for the Christian World Service Christmas Appeal. Regular offering envelopes may also be placed in the offering baskets and find their way into the regular offering system.



When I was hungry

Support the 2020 Christmas Appeal to give hungry families good food and the basics of a sustainable life.

 **Christian World Service**

donate now

christmasappeal.org.nz



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.

For the Young Ones



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