

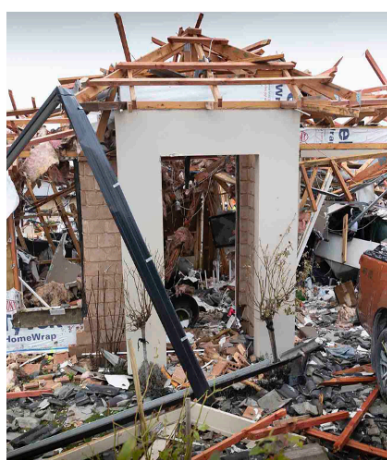
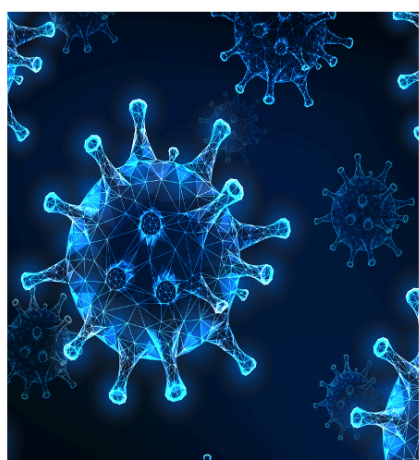


# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service 27 December 2020

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## A CHRISTIAN FAREWELL TO 2020

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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.

### The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, WHOSE GOD GIVES THE GIFT OF TIME AND LIFE;**

**JESUS, WHO KNOWS THAT TIMES CAN BRING CHALLENGE;**

**JESUS, CALLING US TO OFFER OUR BURDENS TO HIS CARRYING.**

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

**MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.**

### Hymn:

Lord of the Years

Timothy Dudley Smith (b. 1926)





1. Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:  
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.
2. Lord, for that Word, the Word of life which fires us,  
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,  
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:  
Lord of the Word, receive your people's praise.
3. Lord, for our land in this our generation,  
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:  
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,  
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.
4. Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,  
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,  
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:  
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.
5. Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -  
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,  
past put behind us, for the future take us:  
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)*

### **Prayer of Approach**

As the year comes to its end,  
**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD.**

We keep, before God,  
a worshipful silence.

*Silence*

We affirm that our days are lived in God's hands,  
that all time,  
and every day,  
**IS A GIFT FROM GOD.**

We acknowledge the presence in our times  
of the gentle Christ,  
carrying burdens,  
**OFFERING REST.**

We acknowledge that he has met us  
in the people who have loved and cared,  
challenged and grown us.  
**WE HAVE SEEN YOUR FACE  
IN THE FACES OF OTHERS.**

We acknowledge that,  
in many ways,  
this has been a challenging year;  
**SOME OF THE DAYS WERE NOTHING BUT HARD.**

Confessing, O God,  
we acknowledge that sometimes we fell at the hurdles,  
**FAILING TO LOVE GOD AND NEIGHBOUR,**  
failing to treat life as a gift,  
**FAILING TO MAKE TIME FOR THE "OTHER".**

Considering our contribution to the year,  
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:**

An ancient poet, O God,  
observed that for everything  
there was a season,  
and a time for every purpose under heaven.  
**GIVE US DISCERNMENT, WE PRAY,  
TO READ THE TIMES WELL,  
AND TO DETERMINE EACH DAY  
WHAT WE FIRST SHOULD SEEK AND DO,**

**TO THE GOOD OF THE WORLD,  
AND THE GLORY OF YOUR NAME.**

We pray this in the name of Jesus,  
using the words he has given 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.*

*Our first Sunday School day for 2021 will be some time in February. Today the young ones are welcome to enjoy the play area at the back of the church.*

**The First Lesson:** Ecclesiastes 3: 1-15

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

**The Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 11: 25-29

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

**Hymn:**

London New

from Scottish Psalter, 1635



1. God moves in a mysterious way  
great wonders to perform;  
God plants firm footsteps in the sea  
and rides upon the storm.
2. Deep in unfathomable mines  
of never-failing skill  
God floods the earth with bright designs,  
guards with a sovereign will.
3. O fearful saints, fresh courage take,  
the clouds you so much dread  
are big with mercy, and shall break  
in blessings on your head.
4. Judge not God's ways through human sense,  
but trust unfailing grace:  
behind a frowning providence  
there shines a smiling face.
5. God's purposes will ripen fast,  
unfolding every hour;  
the bud may have a bitter taste,  
but sweet will be the flower.
6. Our unbelief is sure to err,  
and scan God's work in vain;  
God is God's own interpreter,  
whose truth shall be made plain.

*William Cowper (1731-1800)*

## **Sermon:**

The quiet One, and every matter under heaven

*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**

### **Hymn:**

Miniver

Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991)



1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,  
be there at our waking and give us, we pray,  
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
be there at our labours and give us, we pray,  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
3. Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,  
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,  
be there at our homing and give us, we pray,  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,  
be there at our sleeping and give us, we pray,  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

*Joyce Placzek ('Jan Struther') (1901-1953)*



## **Prayers for Others and Ourselves**

*led by Jennifer McKinnon*

### **The Offering and Dedication**

*We stand for the dedication of the Offering*

If it be a season of hunger,  
**MAY THIS FOOD MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

If it be a season where the church is needed,  
**MAY THIS MONEY PROVIDE.**

If it be a season of loneliness,  
**MAY OUR COMPANY BE AVAILABLE.**

Bless what we offer in the here and now,  
**THAT THE CHRIST MAY BE PRESENT TO THE WORLD,  
AMEN.**

### **Notices**

*We stand for the*

#### **Act of Letting go of the year just past:**

For it was you, O God, who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb . . . In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

*[Psalm 139: 13, 16b-17]*

The quiet One of God  
has companioned us through our days.  
**INVITING US TO SURRENDER OUR BURDENS,  
HE CARRIES US THROUGH TIMES OF TRIAL.**

Making his home in our days,  
**HE MAKES OF OUR LIFE A GIFT.**

Every hour of every day,  
**EVERY DAY OF EVERY YEAR,**

year by year, to all eternity,  
**GOD IS WITH US.**

We surrender to God the year just ending.  
With its seasons for everything,



its blessings and its challenges,  
**WE LIVED IT IN THE GRACE OF GOD,**  
unto whom we offer our worship, singing:

**Hymn:**

Nun Danket

*Later form of melody by Johann Crüger (1598-1662)*



1. Now thank we all our God,  
with hearts and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom the world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms  
has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.
2. O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us.  
God, keep us in your grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all harm  
in this world and the next.
3. All praise and thanks to God  
our Maker now be given,  
to Christ and Spirit too,  
our help in highest heaven:  
the one eternal God,  
whom heaven and earth adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be ever more.

*Martin Rinkart (1586-1649),  
tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt*

**Benediction and Sung Amen**

**Postlude**

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



## **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, though, contact him at his home phone number, 3570 111.

## **SERMON PRACTICE**

During the Covid-19 lockdown of 2020, when we couldn't meet physically in the church, we went online with home-produced video services.

Since we came out of lockdown, some people (particularly those not living in Otautahi / Christchurch) have said they miss the online services. In response, Knox is offering "Sermon Practice".

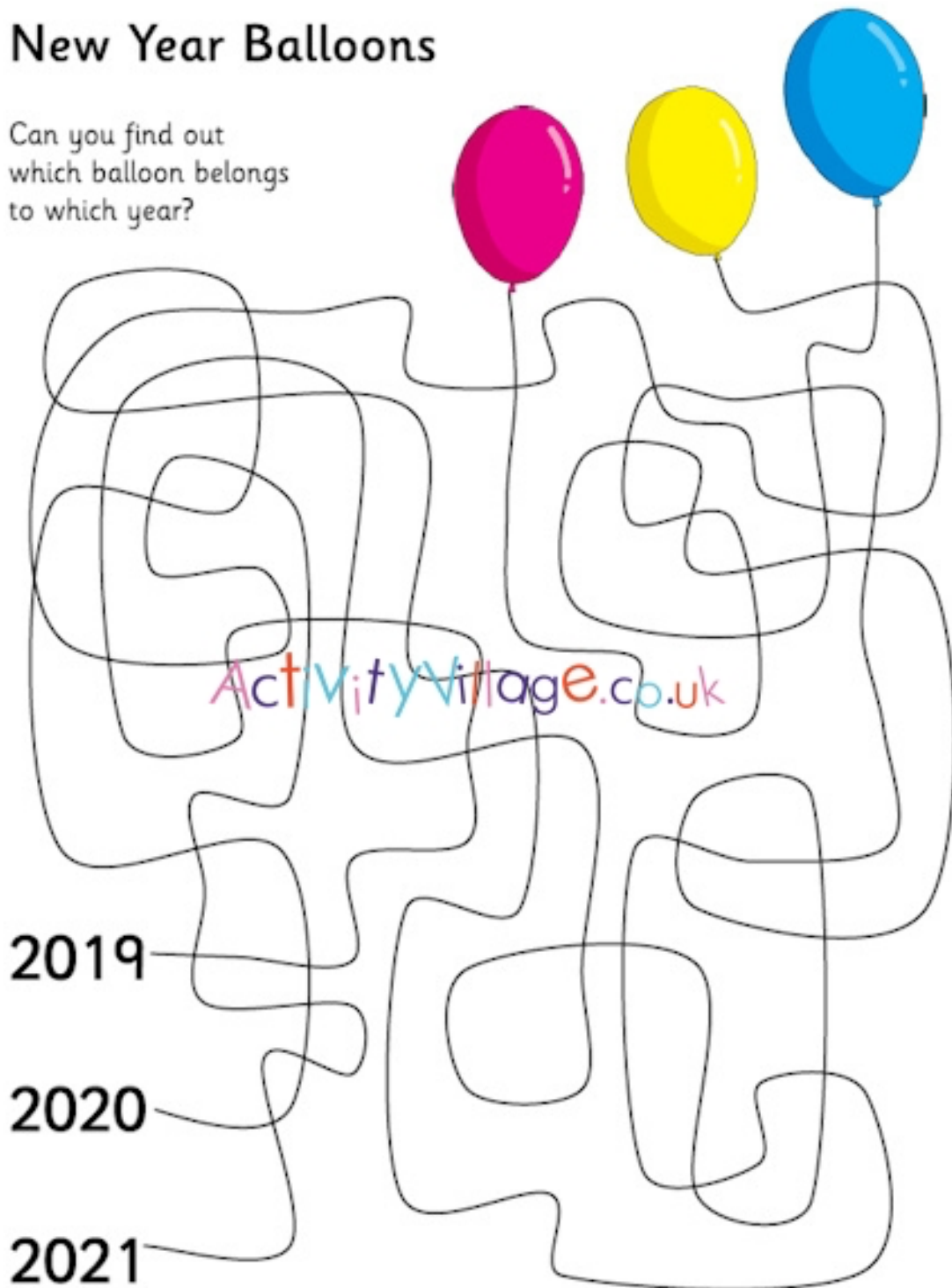
Generally, when I've written a sermon for a Sunday service, I have a "read through" some time on Friday or Saturday. It's "sermon practice". I do this at home, without any of the sanctuary props that featured in the lockdown services. (Those props are back at church, where they're needed for Sunday morning.) I've decided to video-record these sermon-only events and post them, in the usual place, on Youtube. The recordings are very low-tech, and the delivery isn't perfect. They are, after all, practice runs. I'll post the link on the Knox website each week, and we'll review this all some time after Easter.

Within the constraints of time, "Sermon Practice" is offered with love, to those who are missing Knox.

# For the young ones

## New Year Balloons

Can you find out  
which balloon belongs  
to which year?





## The Bible readings for next week will be:

- posted on the Knox website during the week

## Knox Directory

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Secretary: Jane Ellis,  
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Office hours: Mon-Fri 9.00am-noon

Visit our website  
[www.knoxchurch.co.nz](http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz)



website

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[minister@knoxchurch.co.nz](mailto:minister@knoxchurch.co.nz)  
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Church Council Clerk: Janet Wilson,  
ph. (03) 338 7203

Director of Music: Daniel Cooper,  
[daniel.organist@gmail.com](mailto: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