



# KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service 31 January 2021

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## Looking past the unclean spirit

service conducted today, with thanks from the minister,  
by Rev. Hugh Perry

## 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.

The peace of God be with you.

**AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

Jesus called his followers to a much harder way . . .

. . . Let us worship God.

Frederick A. Styles *Worship For An Easter People* 'Volume 2' (Ontario: enThusia Enterprises 1978) p. 1-9

### **Hymn:**

Dunedin

Vernon Griffiths (1894-1985)



1. Where mountains rise to open skies  
your name, O God, is echoed far,  
from island beach to kauri's reach,  
in water's light, in lake and star.
2. Your people's heart, your people's part  
be in our caring for this land  
for faith to flower, for aroha  
to let each other's mana stand.
3. From broken word, from conflict stirred,  
from lack of vision, set us free  
to see the line of your design,  
to feel creation's energy.
4. Your love be known, compassion shown,  
that every child have equal scope:  
in justice done, in trust begun  
shall be our heritage and hope.
5. Where mountains rise to open skies  
your way of peace distil the air,  
your spirit bind all humankind,  
one covenant of life to share!

*Shirley Murray (1931-2020)*

### **Prayer of Approach**

O God of exciting new possibilities we are in awe of your presence in the absolute wonder of creation even when we are shaken and frightened from time to time by creation's ongoing process.

**OUT OF NOTHING YOU CALLED WORLDS INTO BEING AND BROUGHT HUMANITY INTO EXISTENCE OUT OF ITS ELEMENTS, WEAVING THE PATTERNS OF OUR DNA AND SCATTERING OUR DIVERSITY ACROSS THE GLOBE.**

From the slavery we inflict upon each other you continue to call us to new creative freedoms that give us the strength of genetic diversity and the challenge of infinite possibilities.

**THE DIVINE SPIRIT CONTINUES TO CALL PROPHETS AND LEADERS TO GUIDE OUR COMMUNITIES, AND POETS, ARTISTS AND MUSICIANS TO SOOTHE AND INSPIRE OUR SOULS.**

When we struggled to connect with the mystery beyond our knowing you gave us an image of divinity in Jesus Christ in whose name we gather to worship this

morning and in whose memory we are sent out to live as Christ to our neighbourhood.

### **Lament**

But even as we lift our voices in praise, we realise how easy it is to become aware of humanity's shortcomings.

Aware of the moments when we have been less than the people we would hope we all could be.

### **MOMENTS WHEN FOLK HAVE FALLEN SHORT OF THE POSSIBILITIES LIFE AND GRACE OFFER US ALL.**

Communities divide into those who have and those who don't and vast fortunes are created by exploiting the most vulnerable.

### **THE MASSES ARE ENSLAVED FOR THE ENRICHMENT OF A FAVOURED FEW.**

Past grievances are passed from generation to generation as justice becomes confused with retribution and revenge is preferred to resolution through reconciliation.

### **PAST FAILURE IS ALLOWED TO LIMIT FUTURE POTENTIAL**

Self-doubt becomes confused with prudent practise as creativity is imprisoned in disappointment and regret.

### **WE PRAY THAT OUR HEARTS AND MINDS ARE OPENED TO THE FUTURE THAT STRETCHES AHEAD OF US.**

May people's souls be cleansed of the fears that so easily bind the human condition.

### **Words of Assurance**

Today is the last Sunday of the first month of a new year,  
and the first day of the rest of our lives.

The past is finished and gone  
and each moment is packed with hope and new possibilities

### **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

We conclude our opening prayers using the words tradition gives us as Jesus' words.

**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**

The peace of Christ be with you all.  
**AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

*We exchange a sign of peace with one another.*

**The First Lesson:** Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

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

**The Gospel Lesson:** Mark 1: 21-28

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

### **Hymn:**

Camberwell

John Michael Brierley (b. 1932)



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|--|--|
| 1. God gives us a future,<br>daring us to go<br>into dreams and dangers<br>on a path unknown.<br>We will face tomorrow<br>in the Spirit's power,<br>We will let God change us,<br>for new life starts now. | 2. We must leave behind us<br>sins of yesterday,<br>for God's new beginning<br>is a better way.<br>Fear and doubt and habit<br>must not hold us back:<br>God gives hope, and insight,<br>and the strength we lack. |
|--|--|

3. Holy Spirit, teach us  
how to read the signs,  
how to meet the challenge  
of our troubled times.  
Love us into action,  
stir us into prayer,  
till we choose God's life, and  
find our future there.

*Elizabeth J Smith (b. 1956)*

## **Sermon**

*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:**

Hymn to Joy

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)



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|---|---|
| 1. God has spoken by his prophets,<br>spoken his unchanging word,<br>each, from age to age proclaiming<br>God, the one, the righteous Lord.<br>In the world's despair and turmoil<br>one firm anchor holds us fast:<br>God is king, his throne eternal,<br>God the first, and God the last.         | 2. God has spoken by Christ Jesus,<br>Christ, the everlasting Son,<br>brightness of the Father's glory,<br>with the Father ever one;<br>spoken by the Word incarnate,<br>God from God, ere time began,<br>Light from Light, to earth descending,<br>God revealed as Son of Man. |
| 3. God is speaking by his Spirit,<br>speaking to our hearts again,<br>in the age-long word expounding<br>God's own message, now as then,<br>through the rise and fall of nations<br>one sure faith yet standing fast;<br>God still speaks, his word unchanging,<br>God the first, and God the last. |   |

*George Wallace Briggs (1875-1959), alt.*

## Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*led by Jennifer McKinnon*

### The Offering and Dedication

*We stand for the dedication of the Offering*

We bring this offering of money and food along with such money that has been given through direct credit asking that it be blessed for the sharing of love in this parish and in partnership with other agencies may bring transformation and new beginnings, both here and around the globe. **AMEN**

### Notices

#### Hymn:

Columbus

Colin Gibson (b. 1933)



1. Where the road runs out and the signposts end,  
where we come to the edge of today,  
be the God of Abraham for us;  
send us out upon our way.

*Lord, you were our beginning,  
the faith that gave us birth.  
We look to you, our ending,  
our hope for heaven and earth.*

2. When the coast is left and we journey on  
to the rim of the sky and the sea,  
be the sailor's friend, be the dolphin Christ;  
lead us on to eternity.
3. When the clouds are low and the wind is strong,  
when tomorrow's storm draws near,  
be the spirit bird hov'ring overhead  
who will take away our fear.

*Colin Gibson (b. 1933)*

## **Commissioning and Benediction with Sung Amen**

*Frederick A. Styles Worship For An Easter People 'Volume 3' (Ontario: enThusia Enterprises 1981) pIV-10*

## **Postlude**

Following the service, morning tea and coffee are served in the Knox Centre Lounge

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## **Knox Directory**

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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