



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

4 April 2021



AN EMPTY CROSS

- LOVE PUTS THINGS RIGHT -

a communion service
for Easter Day

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.

This morning the Bible is already placed on the lectern, so will not be processed into the church. The service begins at 10:00am, with the congregation remaining seated, as the minister reads

The Easter Narrative: Matthew 28:1-8

The Easter Greeting:

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

The Lord is risen.

HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Hymn:

Easter Hymn

Melody from Lyra Davidica, 1708



1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!
2. Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won,
vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell:
3. Lives again our glorious king;
where, O Death, is now your sting?
Once he died, the Saviour brave;
where's your victory, O grave?

The Prayer of Adoration

. . . So honour and glory,
worship and wonder
are yours, Christ-raising God,
in whose celebration
joyfully we sing:

The Doxology:

4. Soar we now where Christ has led,
following our exalted Head;
made like Christ, like Christ we rise:
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

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 next Sunday School day is 2 May. Today the young ones, under the loving care of their significant adults, are welcome to enjoy the play area at the back of the church.

Scripture Lesson:

Acts 2: 22-28

In this is the Word of God.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

The Easter Sermon

Most years, the Easter sermon is a response to the Good Friday reflection.

On Good Friday this year, the reflection was about goodness abducted. A beautiful tree became an instrument of torture; a creative carpenter became a maker of weapons; the free and Spirited Jesus became a beast of burden. Today's Easter reflection looks at resurrection as a "finding and returning" of what was abducted - the risen Christ giving back to creation its beauty and hope. On Good Friday we confessed that "something was wrong". On Easter Day, everything is "made right". In this year's Easter sermon, reference also is made to some themes set earlier in Lent, which also find their resolution in resurrection.

A video of this sermon being practised has been uploaded to YouTube and the link will go live at 10:00am today. Go to: <https://youtu.be/oE8CqfvT-ek> The script is available at: <http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/sermons.html>, and hard copies can be uplifted from the church foyer.

The Good Friday reflection can be found at: <https://youtu.be/Cxr5bvAmvbs>

Music for Reflection: This joyful Eastertide
Charles Wood (1866-1926)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*To the minister's words, "What death put wrong",
you are invited to respond **"MAY LOVE PUT RIGHT"**.*

**... 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 Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering.

Blessed are you, O God of all creation.
Through your goodness, we bring what we have gathered,
using the talents that you have given us.
It will further the work of your kingdom.

BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER.

Blessed are you, O God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER.

Blessed are you, O God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us our spiritual drink.

**BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER,
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, AMEN.**

Communion Hymn:

Laast Uns Erfreuen

from Geistliche Kirchengesäng 1623



1. Light's glittering morn bedecks the sky;
heaven thunders forth its victory;
alleluia!
the glad earth shouts her triumph high
and groaning hell makes wild reply:
alleluia!
2. From every weapon death can wield
your own redeemed for ever shield:
O Lord of all, with us abide
in this our joyful Eastertide.

Anon, Latin, c. 7th Century

We sit for

The Invitation, Institution, 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 . . .

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

*For the distribution, please come forward to the table,
receive some bread, dip it in the cup, and return to your seat.*

*If you prefer non-alcoholic grape juice or gluten free bread
please take communion from the server with the communion tray.*

Closing Prayer

We stand for

The Easter Litany:

For early morning,

GOD'S NAME BE PRAISED.

For the giving of strength and song,

GOD'S NAME BE PRAISED.

For empty tombs,

GOD'S NAME BE PRAISED.

For glory and light,

GOD'S NAME BE PRAISED.

**FOR NEW BEGINNINGS,
FOR CHRIST ALIVE,
FOR EASTER LIFE
AND LIVING FAITH,
GOD'S NAME BE PRAISED.**

Hear the praises of your Easter people
this Easter morning,
and every morning,
THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD, AMEN.

Hymn:

Heartbeat

Shirley Murray (1931-2020)



1. Christ is alive, and the universe must celebrate,
and the stars and the suns shout on this Easter Day!
Christ is alive, and his family must celebrate
in a great Alleluia, a great Alleluia
to praise the power that made the stone roll away.
2. Christ Spirit, dance through the dullness of humanity
to the music of God, God who has set us free!
You are the pulse of the new creation's energy;
with a great Alleluia, a great Alleluia,
we praise the power that made the stone roll away.

Shirley Murray (1931-2020)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Sinfonia, from Cantata "Wir danken dir, Gott"
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Acts 4: 32-35
- 1 John 1:1 - 2:2

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