

KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service 25 April 2021



Two Auckland school boys, coming home from football practice, help an elderly man across the street near the New Lynn bus station

THE SELFLESS DEED

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.

CANDLES, THE CELEBRATION OF GOOD DEEDS, AND ANZAC REMEMBRANCE

In today's service, we explore the theme of God's love being expressed through self-sacrificial deeds of goodness. We do this on ANZAC Day, a day of national remembrance. You are invited to bring to mind any person who at any time blessed you with a good deed that was offered not for the benefit of the "giver", but entirely for your own good. At any time during the service (but it may be easier during the hymns), you are invited to light a candle in thanksgiving for the selfless person. You may wish to light a candle for someone who acted during a time of war, or someone who self-gave in some other theatre of human activity.

The Call to Worship:

We light a candle in the name of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. JESUS, LIVING A LIFE OF SELF-SACRIFICAL LOVE; JESUS, CRUCIFIED BY THOSE NERVOUS ABOUT POWER; JESUS, RAISED AND VINDICATED BY HIS GOD.

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

Hymn:



- The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glory now; a royal diadem adorns the mighty Victor's brow.
- The highest place that heav'n affords is his, is his by right, the Name of names and risen One, and heav'n's eternal Light:
- 3. The joy of all who dwell above, the joy of all below, to whom he manifests his love, and grants his name to know.
- 4. To them the cross, with all its shame, with all its grace, is giv'n; their name an everlasting name, their joy the joy of heav'n.
- 5. They suffer with the Lord below, they reign with him above; their profit and their joy to know the myst'ry of his love.
- 6. The cross he bore is life and health, though shame and death to him; his people's hope, his people's wealth, their everlasting theme.

Thomas Kelly (1769-1855)

Prayer of Approach

The head once crowned with thorns now is crowned with glory.

THE GIFT OF LIFE IS GIVEN.

The wee family of believers, once fragile and frightened, now becomes a community in which courage and service are grown.

THE GIFT OF LIFE IS GIVEN.

People on the edges, are caught in the blessing; they sing and dance and celebrate a brand new wholeness. **THE GIFT OF LIFE IS GIVEN.**

And saboteurs of the good, critics of compassion, find themselves without anything to say before the simple self-giving deeds of the followers of Jesus.

THE GIFT OF LIFE IS GIVEN.

The cross he bore is life and health, though shame and death to him; HIS PEOPLE'S HOPE, HIS PEOPLE'S WEALTH, THEIR EVERLASTING THEME.

The powerful gift of life is given.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Silence

While we may have seen life and grace in the life of Jesus, good deeds healing and blessing the world, we see also, in our lives, other sorts of deeds.

We hurt and harm, demean and destroy.

We pile thorns, rather than glory, onto the human head.

And so we say:

Lord have mercy.

CHRIST HAVE MERCY.

Lord have mercy.

Assurance and Response

You are forgiven and you are free.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Prayer of Supplication:

You called Peter and John, O God, to respond well to the needs of a sick person by doing a good deed.
Religious authorities then called them to account for what they had done.
AS YOU MOVED THEM TO GIVE A GOOD ACCOUNT, TO UNMASK A MEANNESS OF SPIRIT, AND TO SPREAD THE TRUTH, SO MOVE US.

May we be agents of healing and truth telling, **TO YOUR GLORY AND PRAISE.**

We pray this in the name of Jesus, and use the words he taught 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 next Sunday School day is 2 May (next week). 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.

The First Lesson: Acts 4: 5-12

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

The Gospel Lesson: 1 John 3: 16-24

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

Hymn:



- 1. Fold to your heart your sister and your brother: where pity dwells, the peace of God is there; to worship rightly is to love each other, each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer. For he whom Jesus loved has truly spoken: the holier worship, which he deigns to bless restores the lost, and binds the spirit broken, and feeds the widow and the fatherless.
- 2. Follow with reverent steps the great example of him whose holy work was doing good:

so shall the wide earth seem our Father's temple, each loving life a psalm of gratitude.

Then shall all shackles fall: the stormy clangour of wild war music o'er the earth shall cease; love shall tread out the baleful fire of anger, and in its ashes plant the tree of peace.

John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892), alt.

Sermon: Beyond the enquiry, what really matters?

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/TKkF3u9HzA8 The script is available at: http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/sermons.html, and hard copies are available in the church foyer.

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Jennifer McKinnon

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

Standing to make our offering, we ask God to move our hearts, that we might make an offering of good deeds also.

MAY CHRIST BE KNOWN,

MAY GOD'S LOVE BE SHOWN,

AND THE SPIRIT GROWN
IN OUR SERVICE OF OTHERS.

We pray this in the name and spirit of Jesus. **AMEN**.

Notices



Hymn:

Nun Danket

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



- 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 blessèd 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

An ANZAC Day Litany

A Narrative

Anthem: In Flanders Fields

Patrick Shepherd (b. 1963)

We stand for

The ANZAC Ode:

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

We sit for the

Postlude: Prelude

Gabriel Pierné (1863-1937)

Since the postlude is part of the ANZAC Litany, we ask for no applause today

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

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This Week: 25 April – 1 May 2021 Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship

Monday 7.30pm Knox Fireside Group – **See Below**

Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: 2 May – 8 May 2021

Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship

11.15am Knox Book Group - See Below

Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Knitted ANZAC Poppies available this morning.

Donations would be appreciated and will be forwarded to the RSA.

Sunday 25 April: 11.15 Book: Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albon, "an old man, a young man, and life's greatest lesson". The prize-winning author recalls a series of visits he made to his former sociology professor Morrie Schwartz, as Schwartz gradually dies of ALS. This is a moving and beautiful book in which the wonderful professor gives out anecdotes of life as he walks towards his inevitable disease and succumbs to it.

Sunday 9 May: 4pm Film: Goodbye Mr. Chips. This 2002 version of the well-loved book by James Hilton stars Martin Clunes as Latin master Mr. Chipping. Set in the later years of the nineteenth century, the kindly and beloved Mr. Chips is the mainstay of Brookfields boys boarding school. He is considered to be married to the job, but on a walking holiday, he meets and marries the vivacious Kathie. Just before World War One the insensitive new headmaster Ralston tries to edge Chipping out but the boys rally and . . .

CHEESE ROLLS FUNDRAISER \$10 a dozen

Delicious Cheese Rolls made by Barbara and Rochelle Howley will be available to be ordered with pick up spread out over four Sundays –

9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th May. Order forms at each door.

Payment prior to pick up to Jennifer McKinnon or Office. Cash or Internet Banking to 01-0902-0073153-00.

Orders must be in by 2nd May

Knox Singers concert: save the date!! Our first concert with Gabriel Baird is planned for Saturday 26 June 7.30pm and Sunday 27 June 2.30pm. Details later.

Knox church values the support of all who are involved in our community's life. Knox Church is a charity. All charitable donations are eligible for a tax rebate of 33%. Bank account 03 1705 0029641 00. Put your name in the reference field and email your contact details to the office or donations secretary. For further information or options contact: office@knoxchurch.co.nz Ph 3792456 or Janet Wilson, Donations Secretary jannwil507@gmail.com Ph 338 7203.

In Asia's Half of the World
Collaboration, History, Reflection & Study

Forum & book launch to prepare for '
Asia Sunday' 23rd May

VENUE: Knox Centre, 28 Bealey Ave

DATE: 22 May, 2pm

Our partners in Asia

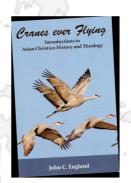
Panel discussion and book-launch

Hear our partners in frontline work in Asia as they work to "rescue, restore, organize & heal", including panel speakers:

- Christian World Service: Pauline McKay
- Caritas: Amanda Gregan

Book launch for *Cranes Ever Flying** (ISPCK, 2020)

- John England's introduction offers a fresh perspective to Asian Christian History and Theology with panel speakers:
- Dr Kathleen Rushton
- Prof. Michael Grimshaw
- Reverend Brian Turner
- Reverend Dr Matthew Jack



*Cranes ever Flying offers an important survey of largely unknown sources covering the history, arts, ecumenism and indigenous theologies of Asian Christianity. This work an ideal introductory text for any study of Asian Christianity and is a unique academic source book. Since the second century, there has been no other volume which introduces the full range of these resources covering more than half the non-Western world.

Copies available at this event on May 22 (\$30), or via ISPCK and online book-sellers.



The Bible reading for next week will be:

Acts 8: 26-40

Knox Directory

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Wed, Friday - 10:00am - noon

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website

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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