



# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service 12 September 2021

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## SPRING FLOWER SUNDAY

While Ōtautahi Christchurch has moved to Covid-19 Alert Level Two, so physical gathering is permitted, the new cap of 50 people at any single gathering means that we need to organise a way of accommodating overflow somewhere else in the Knox complex. It's a complication that is not insurmountable, but it's going to take us a while to organise the logistics. We'll have that all in place by Sunday 19 September, but today we are worshipping online. We appreciate your patience.

A home-made video of the service has been posted online. Becoming active at 10:00am on Sunday 12 September 2021, the link is:

<https://youtu.be/4iZHmuE-BDo>

## 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.

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.

### The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, GROWING LIFE BEYOND OUR DOING AND SEEING;**

**JESUS, OPENING OUR EYES TO THE CREATIVITY OF GOD;**

**JESUS, RESURRECTION AND SUNLIGHT IN OUR WORLD!**

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

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

### Hymn:

Bunessan

Gaelic traditional melody



1. Morning has broken like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird:  
praise for the singing, praise for the morning,  
praise for them springing fresh from the world!

2. Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dew fall on the first grass:  
praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where his feet pass.
3. Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning  
born of the one light Eden saw play:  
praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's re-creation of the new day!
4. Morning has broken like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird:  
praise for the singing, praise for the morning,  
praise for them springing fresh from the world!

*Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)*

### **Prayer of Approach**

Good and gracious God,  
your creation is wonderfully naive and natural.  
While we've been anxious  
careful and angry,  
and all the other things we've been in this latest Covid time,  
the blackbirds have been digging, splashing in the bird bath,  
and throwing bark all around the garden.  
**YOU ARE THE GOD OF SPRING.**

While we have been fretting and worrying,  
suspecting and accusing,  
your flowers have been pushing their heads above the soil,  
presenting only beauty.  
**YOU ARE THE GOD OF SPRING.**

At Springtime, we're surrounded by so many other creatures  
formed by your hand,  
who have this great capacity to live in the moment,  
to be real,  
and to make us envy those who are creatures of peace.  
**YOU ARE THE GOD OF SPRING.**

And in this time of Spring,  
our imagination is drawn to the season of resurrection,  
where, beyond planning or expectation,  
life came forth boldly from death.  
**YOU ARE THE GOD OF SPRING.**

So, longing for peace and resurrection life,  
we offer our silent Springtime praise.

*Silence*

We offer also, O God, our confession;  
for while the world carries on its work of renewing itself,  
creating beauty and hope,  
we put chemicals into the seas, rivers and skies.  
We chop down the trees and frack the crust.  
We meet the people's need for life with offers of death.

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:**

God, you know our impatience,  
our dull-sightedness,  
and our neglect of the beauty that you place around us.  
Yet you persist in loving us,  
and send us signs through creation to remind us of your love.

**AWAKEN US TO YOUR LOVE AND BEAUTY,  
THAT WE MIGHT RISE TO BEING PEOPLE OF GRACE IN THE WORLD,**

for we pray this in the name of Jesus  
using the words we believe he has given us, saying;

**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.*

**A Prayer of Blessing for the Flowers:**

O God, your goodness is stamped on creation.  
Its beauty echoes yours.

**WE THANK YOU FOR SPRINGTIME FLOWERS.**

O Christ, you spoke of the flowers of the fields.  
You said if God clothed them, who neither toiled nor worried,  
then how much more would God clothe us.

**WE THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR FAITH IN GOD'S GOODNESS.**

O Spirit of God,  
while this year no flowers will be sent,  
still your love persists,  
and we pray that we will embody it in  
community;  
we pray that the cards we send  
instead of flowers  
will bring joy and peace  
to all who receive them.  
Brighten the homes to which they will go,  
**AND FILL ALL OUR HOMES  
WITH PEACE.**

We pray this in Jesus' name.  
**AMEN.**



*Our next Sunday School day is 3 October.*

## Following a reading, a Series of Reflections and Pieces

the musical responses to the reflections are all improvisations by Daniel Cooper

A Reading: Mark 4:26–29

read by Rev. Fr Simon Eccleton,  
Cathedral of the Blessed  
Sacrament

A Reflection: Impatience

A Musical Response: Grrrr



A Reflection:

Patience and Vigilance - sensing the first signs

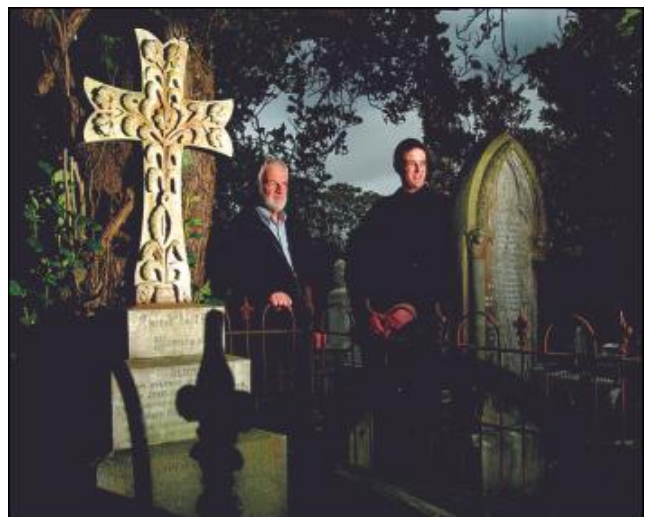
A Musical Response: A song of faith and hope

A Reflection:

The folly of waiting for what  
actually is dead

A Musical Response:

aaaaaaand, no



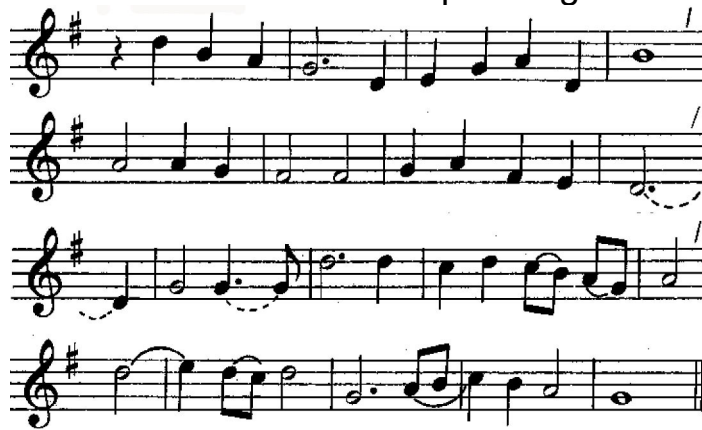
A Reflection:    God's Springtime



Hymn:

Sine Nomine

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)



1. Give thanks for life,  
the measure of our days,  
mortal, we pass through  
beauty that decays,  
yet sing to God our hope,  
our love, our praise,  
Alleluia!
2. Give thanks for those  
who made their life a light  
caught from the Christ-flame,  
bursting through the night,  
who touched the truth, who  
burned for what is right,  
Alleluia!

3. And for our own, our living  
and our dead,  
thanks for the love by  
which our life is fed,  
a love not changed by time  
or death or dread,  
Alleluia!
4. Give thanks for hope,  
that like the wheat, the grain  
lying in darkness  
does its life retain,  
in resurrection  
to grow green again.  
Alleluia!

*Shirley Murray (1931-2020)*

### **Prayers for Others and Ourselves**

*To the minister's words,*

"In the Springtime, O God, thanking you for beauty and for life",  
*you are invited to respond " **WE OFFER OURSELVES TO SERVE YOU.**"*

### **The Offering and Dedication**

Moving, as we are, O God,  
into new and slightly more free opportunities  
for community and service,  
we pray that we will be enabled to work  
with grace, wisdom and sensitivity.

**ENABLE US TO OPERATE AS SPRINGTIME PEOPLE,  
WITH RESURRECTION WITHIN,  
LOVE WITHOUT,  
AND PEACE AS THE PRIZE.  
AMEN.**



## **Hymn:**

Ar Hyd Y Nos

Welsh traditional melody



1. For the fruits of all creation,  
thanks be to God;  
for these gifts to every nation,  
thanks be to God;  
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safe-keeping,  
thanks be to God.
2. In the just reward of labour,  
God's will is done;  
in the help we give our neighbour,  
God's will is done;  
in our worldwide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing,  
God's will is done.
3. For the harvests of the Spirit,  
thanks be to God;  
for the good we all inherit,  
thanks be to God;  
for the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all, that love has found us,  
thanks be to God.

*Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)*

## **Benediction and Sung Amen**

### **Postlude:** Postlude

Richard Henry Coleman (1888-1965)

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## MORNING TEA

Following the service, I will be having a cup of tea. Should you wish to join me, you could join a ZOOM meeting that I've set up.

Topic: Knox Church Morning Tea

Time: 12 September, 2021, 11:00 AM Auckland, Wellington

<https://zoom.us/j/92262301792?pwd=cUZyVyt2Tk9VaDc3a0dIT3pFKzBUZz09>

Meeting ID: 922 6230 1792, Passcode: 1YFWX



## NOTICES

**This Week:**                    **12 September – 18 September 2021**

Sunday                    10.00am    Morning Worship

Wednesday            10.00am    Bible Study

**Next Week:**                   **19 September – 25 September 2021**

Sunday                    10.00am    Morning Worship

Wednesday            10.00am    Bible Study

**Spring Sunday** – Usually on Spring Sunday, spring flowers are brought to Church, made into posies and distributed by members of the congregation. However, this year due to Covid-19 that will not be possible. Instead, cards with a message from Matthew will be posted out – timed hopefully, to arrive just before or just after the Spring Service on 12 September.

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](mailto:office@knoxchurch.co.nz) Ph 3792456 or Janet Wilson, Donations Secretary [janmwil507@gmail.com](mailto:janmwil507@gmail.com) Ph 338 7203.



### The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Proverbs 31: 10-31
- Mark 9: 3-37

## Knox Directory

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Office hours:

Mon, Tues, Thurs - 9.00am-noon

Wed, Friday - 10:00am - noon

Visit our website

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



website

Minister: Rev. Dr Matthew Jack

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Church Council Clerk: Janet Wilson,

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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