



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service 7 November 2021



**I want to go to a café;
I want to be able to go in there,
sit down and enjoy a cup of coffee,
and have a bit of cake.**

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.

Pre-service Music - the organ music before the service is an extended improvisation on the hymn tunes featured in the service.

The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, TAKING THE WORLD SERIOUSLY BY LIVING IN IT;
JESUS, RE-FORMING OUR IDEAS ABOUT LOVING THE NEIGHBOUR;
JESUS, BRINGING LIFE AND AUTHENTICITY TO OUR COMMUNITY.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Oasis

T. Brian Coleman (b. 1920)



1. As water to the thirsty,
as beauty to the eyes,
as strength that follows weakness,
as truth instead of lies,
as song-time and springtime
and summertime to be,
so is our God, the living God,
so is our God to me.
2. Like calm in place of clamour,
like peace that follows pain,
like meeting after parting,
like sunshine after rain,
like moonlight and starlight
and sunlight on the sea,
so is our God, the living God,
so is our God to me.
3. As sleep that follows fever,
as gold instead of grey,
as freedom after bondage,
as sunrise to the day;
as home to the traveller
and all we long to see,
so is our God, the living God,
so is our God to me.

Timothy Dudley Smith (b. 1926), alt.

Prayer of Approach

In a far-away land,
in a time long ago,
rain no longer fell
to green and water the earth.

**THE PEOPLE CALLED IT
"THE DROUGHT".**

They made of the situation
the best they could.
They stretched their wheat,
and caught their drips.
They dug deeper their wells.
And through the long dry nights
THEY DREAMED OF RAIN.

As water to the thirsty,
AS BEAUTY TO THE EYES,
as strength that follows weakness,
AS TRUTH INSTEAD OF LIES,
as song-time and springtime
AND SUMMER-TIME TO BE,
they grew and tended in their hearts
A FAITH IN THE GOD WHO PROVIDES.

In *this* house of hope, O God,
we tend to the faith that is growing in our hearts.
We come in from the drought,
not the physical drought,
but the drought of thought and hope,
the drought of patience and trust,
the drought of love and smiling,
TO WORSHIP THE ONE
WHO LOVES AND PROVIDES.

In the silence,
we offer our praise.

Silence

We offer also our confession -
for our contributions to the drying out
of the world's life and hope.
For the thoughts, words and actions
that have made life more brittle,
more difficult or desperate,
more sapping of the spirit,
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:

As we attend, O God of life,
to the story of Elijah
and the widow of Zarephath,
perhaps we will see
the evolution of the prophet's role
in a stressed and troubled community.

**PERHAPS WE WILL SEE ELIJAH
GROWING IN EMPATHY AND LOVE,
AND IN SO DOING,
BECOMING A BLESSING TO THE COMMUNITY.**

If indeed we do see this,
move us, we pray,
to a similar moment of growth,
FOR THE SAKE OF A COVID-CHALLENGED WORLD.

We pray this in the name of Jesus,
whose words and hope we echo, by 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.**

*In a suitably physically remote way,
we exchange a sign of peace with one another.*

Our next Sunday School day will happen once we're out of Alert Level Two, and will operate in way consistent with whatever constraints are recommended.

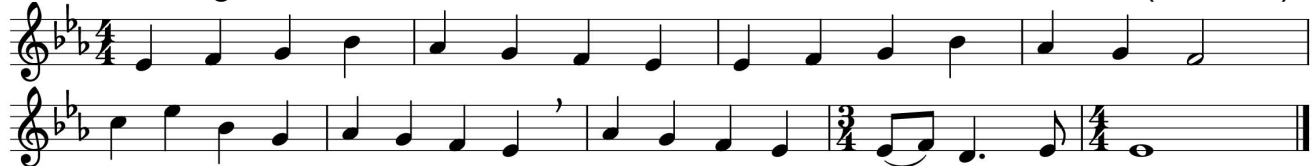
The First Lesson: 1 Kings 17: 8-24

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

Hymn:

Servant Song

Richard Gillard (b. 1953)



1. Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace to
let you be my servant too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey,
we are trav'lers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christ light for you
in the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
'till we've seen this journey through.
5. When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.
6. Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Richard Gillard (b. 1953)

Sermon: New wisdom, new sharing of life, new providing for one another . . .

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: Improvisation
Daniel Cooper (b. 1997)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*To the minister's words, "this needs to be a time"
you are invited to respond*

**"OF NEW WISDOM,
NEW SHARING OF LIFE,
NEW PROVIDING FOR ONE ANOTHER".**

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

In the mystery of God's providence,
the wheat and the oil kept the people in life.

**IN THE AWAKENING
OF THE HEART OF GOD'S PROPHET,
DEATH WAS EJECTED FROM THE HOUSE.**

Meagre provisions
made major difference.

**WE MAKE OUR OFFERING,
HOPING THAT IT ALSO
WILL FIND THE BREATH OF GOD,
BECOMING AN AUTHENTIC BLESSING
TO A DROUGHT-STRICKEN WORLD.
AMEN.**

Notices

Hymn:

Cwm Rhondda

John Hughes (1873-1932)



1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.
2. Open now the crystal fountain
whence the living waters flow;
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs and praises,
I will ever give to thee.

William Williams (1717-1791)

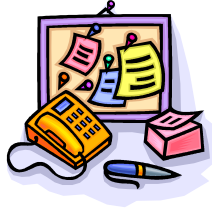
Tr. Peter Williams (1722-1796) and William Williams

Benediction

Postlude: Choral Prelude on "Jesus Christ has risen today"
Healey Willian (1880-1968)

During current Covid-19 containment conditions,
we are not meeting for morning tea after the service

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NOTICES

This Week: **7 November – 13 November 2021**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship

Next Week: **14 November – 20 November 2021**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship

PILLARS - Council has approved that for the first three Sundays in November instead of our food donations going to St Georges Iona they will be going to PILLARS. PILLARS is a group that looks after families who have family members in prison. Food especially Christmas type food, toiletries, gifts suitable for children and teenagers etc welcome and will be well used. This is the eleventh year Knox has donated goods to PILLARS.

SENIORS END OF YEAR PARTY - We know how well appreciated the End of Year Seniors function is. It is one of Knox's highlights! Unfortunately, due to uncertainty over the government's requirements for gatherings during Covid times – we feel it is better to postpone until such time as we can hold the event safely.

SUNDAY LUNCH 21 NOV - We are hoping we can get together again for lunch at the Oderings Barrington café (Urban Eatery) in November, at the usual time of 12pm. If you would like to join us, please put your name down for this event. Attendance lists are at the church entrance, but you can also send an email to jannekenyuysink@gmail.com preferably by Wednesday the 17th.

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 janmwil507@gmail.com Ph 338 7203.

Also on the TVNZ news on Monday night was Karen Nimmo, a clinical psychologist from Wellington. Being interviewed about Covid stress, Karen's answers covered similar ground to some material already posted on her website. Here's an extract.

It's a slow, anxious crawl to Christmas this year, especially for those living under tight [Covid-19](#) restrictions. Nearly two years of uncertainty, change and emotional turmoil and it's not over yet.

For Kiwis this year is tougher than 2020 because our infection rates are going up as our resilience goes down. As people in other parts of the world regain their freedoms, we're straining to see the finish line.

If you're struggling right now, you're normal. Increased anxiety and heightened emotional reactions are common during periods of prolonged stress. So are feelings of extreme fatigue – it's a sign you're in psychological overload, that your adrenal gland is wound up off the dial as it struggles to cope.

Typically a sign of depression has been when people say they're no longer getting pleasure from things they previously enjoyed. But that's hard to gauge when many of our "fun" activities have been ruled out of bounds. When everything's on hold, when it's impossible to plan anything.

Adding to the emotional load is the loss of many of the things that revive and refresh us: travel, weekend breaks, special celebrations, sports and leisure activities, barbecues, hanging out with our people. Fun.

That we now have a vaccination goal is psychologically helpful but the lofty target—90 per cent fully vaxxed for every DHB—leaves those already double jabbed feeling powerless over their short term futures and reliant on the vax-hesitant or rebellious rolling up their sleeves.

Goodbye kindness. Enter division, resentment and anger as opinions clash and emotions boil over. Hello discrimination.

The psychological impact of Covid is likely to have tentacles longer, and more unwieldy, than the disease. But, in the meantime, we have no choice other to dip into our somewhat dry resilience reserves—and keep trying.

So here are some tips for getting through to Christmas, with some festive spirit in the tank:



1.Create new expectations

Telling yourself to lower your expectations is depressing. So throw out the old expectations and reset the bar to suit the restrictions in your area, your people and your financial situation.

Focus on what you have and can do now—and help those around you to do the same. If you keep pining for what you don't have and can't do, you'll be unhappy. And angry. Give what's right in front of you your best.

2.Don't act on your feelings

Covid has stirred up lot of negative emotions—especially fear and anger. Punching a wall, screaming at your kids, being rude in supermarkets and tweeting vitriol are reactions to anger.

It helps to remember that while anger and fear are valid feelings – we don't have to react impulsively to them. And life is a lot less troubled when we don't.

3.Focus on the process—not the outcome

If you've had the jab, and are sticking to the restrictions, you've done – and are doing – what you can control. You can't control the actions of others so focus on your own health, routines and people. Don't dwell on the slow crawl to the vax target; just take things one day at a time. A good day can follow a bad one.

4. If you can't be kind, don't be mean

Kindness is a virtue, we all know that by now. But if being kind is beyond you, seal your lips, go sit by yourself for a while and stay off social media. Meanness is ugly and hard to recover from.

Especially be kind to your own people—relationships are at high risk during periods of chronic stress, often with a significant negative fallout. Do what you can to protect them.

5.Good things will still happen

Even in tough times, good things still happen. Fun comes from unexpected places. Even when life's hard, it's okay—and mentally healthy—to laugh. Grab every opportunity to do so.

6.Go outside

It's summer. Everything feels better and brighter when we can get outside. Just don't forget the sun block. Masks leave tan lines too.



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Psalm 16
- Hebrews 10: 11-25

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



website

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Pastoral Assistant: Jan Harland

ph. 0273560215



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