



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service 5 December 2021



ADVENT 2 IN THE SEASON OF LETTERS: A LETTER TO THE ONES OF "GOOD WORK BEGUN"

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, IN WHOSE LOVE PAUL AND THE PHILIPPIANS WERE ONE;
JESUS, SOURCE OF COMPASSION AND UNDERSTANDING;
JESUS, WHOSE GOOD WORK WE ARE CALLED TO COMPLETE.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Lucius

Probably from Templi Carmina, USA, 1829



1. All praise to our redeeming Lord,
who joins us by his grace,

and bids us, each to each restored,
together seek his face.

2. He bids us build each other up;
and, gathered into one,
to our high calling's glorious hope
we hand in hand go on.
3. The gift which he on one bestows,
we all delight to prove;
the grace through every vessel flows,
in purest streams of love.
4. Even now we think and speak the same,
and cordially agree;
concentred all, through Jesus' name,
in perfect harmony.
5. We all partake the joy of one,
the common peace we feel,
a peace to sensual minds unknown,
a joy unspeakable.
6. And if our fellowship below
in Jesus be so sweet,
what heights of rapture shall we know
when round his throne we meet.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Prayer of Approach

It is a good thing,
"all redeeming Lord",
to sing again,
to give voice to our praise.

**ALL PRAISE AND GLORY
TO JESUS CHRIST.**

It is a good thing,
to be united in a grace
that builds us up in love.

**ALL PRAISE AND GLORY
TO JESUS CHRIST.**

It is a good thing
to pray our thanks,
our hope,
our desires that all would be well for the human family
and the whole creation.

**ALL PRAISE AND GLORY
TO JESUS CHRIST.**

So from this moment of faith and goodness
we offer our silent praise:

**ALL PRAISE AND GLORY
TO JESUS CHRIST.**

Silence

As we tread our way, O God,
through this season of letters,
once again we will hear a reading of Paul.
Again he will express his love for those
from whom he has been parted.
Perhaps this will have a particular poignance today,
since some of us are worshipping in the Church
while others are worshipping in the Hall.

**WE MOURN ALL THAT SEPARATES US,
ONE FROM THE OTHER.
WE MOURN THE ANGER AND DISUNITY
THAT MARK OUR CURRENT DAYS.**

Praying that love will complete us,
that our hearts may hold one another,
with the compassion of Christ, 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:

Paul prayed, O God,
that those for whom he cared

might have their hearts enlightened,
so they would become more and more
a people of insight, knowledge and love,
producing a harvest of goodness.

**CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL NURTURE THE GOOD THINGS
WHICH YOU HAVE BEGUN IN US,
WE PRAY THAT SAME PRAYER.
MAY WE BE MADE WISE AND LOVING,
TO YOUR GLORY
AND FOR THE SAKE OF THE WHOLE HUMAN FAMILY.**

We pray this in the name of Jesus,
using the words he gave 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.**

*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 Orange status, and
will operate in way consistent with whatever constraints are recommended.*

The First Lesson: Philippians 1: 3-11

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

Hymn:

Gartan

Irish traditional melody



1. Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
star and angels gave the sign.
2. Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus:
but where is God's sacred sign?
3. Love shall be our token,
love be yours and love be mine,
love to God and neighbour,
love for plea and gift and sign.

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Sermon:

Early-peakers, non-starters and the completion of love

*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.*

The Advent Wreath

Within our season of letters,
today's candle is the candle of completion.

We suspect that when Paul
spoke about God's completion
of the good work begun in the people of Philippi,
he was not speaking about cessation of love.
We suspect he meant something more along the lines
of love's "perfection".

Paul wrote:

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Deeply aware of the centrality of love
in our faith,
and equally aware of God's desire
to nurture within us that which is good,
we pray that love may overflow more and more
with knowledge and full insight.

We await the coming of the Christmas Christ,
in whose love the world may be "complete".

The candle is lit.

In hope, we await the birth of Christ.

AMEN. COME, LORD JESUS.

Music for Reflection: Improvisation
Daniel Cooper (b. 1997)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Jennifer McKinnon

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

We offer some money
and some food.

**WE OFFER ALSO OUR CAPACITY
TO LOVE AND ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER.**

And this is our prayer:

**THAT KNOWLEDGE AND INSIGHT
AND COMPASSION AND PURITY
MIGHT FLOURISH IN THE WORLD.**

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

Notices

Hymn: Hyfrydol

Rowland Huw Prichard (1811-1887)



1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.
2. Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave:
thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.
3. Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be,
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Improvisation
Daniel Cooper (b. 1997)

During the current Covid containment level, we are not having our usual post-service morning tea. Should you wish to linger in the church for company and conversation, please do - just remember to maintain suitable physical distancing.

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NOTICES

This Week: **5 December – 11 December 2021**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
Wednesday 11.00am Final Bible Study for 2021, followed by lunch

Next Week: **12 December – 18 December 2021**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship

Christmas Baking Orders - Christmas baking orders can be picked up at the conclusion of the packing on Saturday. Remaining orders will be placed in the Chapel to be picked up on Sunday December 5th.

Sunday lunch 19 Dec – If you need a break from your Christmas preparations, you might like to meet for lunch and a friendly chat, at the Oderings Barrington café (Urban Eatery) at 12pm. Please put your name down for this event if you would like to join us. Attendance lists are at the church entrance but, if you prefer, you can send an email to jannekenuysink@gmail.com no later than **Wednesday** the 15th.

KNOX CHURCH AGM

After an unavoidable postponement the Knox AGM will now take place after the morning service on Sunday 19 December. The written reports have been distributed already and the audited Financial Performance Report is now available also. Both documents may be picked up from the new foyer.

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.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Day of Prayer

Sunday 5 December 2021



The Moderator, Right Rev Hamish Galloway, invites Presbyterians around the country to pray for our nation on Sunday 5 December.

In our churches, in our homes, let us pray:

- For our nation as we move to the 'traffic light' Covid-19 Protection Framework
- For those leading the national response to the pandemic
- For people on the front line of the response
- For churches as they work out how to operate in the new situation
- For compassion towards one another
- For those who have been, and will be, most affected
- For those who cannot be with friends and family
- For those who are anxious, sick or suffering at this time
- For courage, empathy, hope and grace

Right Rev Hamish Galloway
Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand
moderator@presbyterian.org.nz

Christian World Service Christmas Appeal



In the state of Tamil Nadu in South India, the Women Development Resource Centre is one of our [partners](#), standing up for the rights of Dalit and Tribal or indigenous people. Through its 317 *sangam* or associations, the women have been agents for change. By training women to access their legal rights, it has enabled women to improve their livelihoods and treatment. People once known as 'untouchable' can attend school and get better jobs.

Muneeswari is one Dalit woman who knows what it means to stand up for your rights. A year ago she stood up to her supervisor when he demanded she cleaned his muddy shoes after he slipped in the field where she was working. For fear of losing her job, she did what he asked.

When the working day was over, she sought out the leader of the local women's *sangam*, supported by the WDRC. The women marched to the police station and refused to leave until the supervisor made a public apology to Muneeswari.

Muneeswari joined the *sangam*. She now has a house registered in her name. Her pay has nearly tripled and her son has begun studying at college. When her daughters are older, she has promised to send them to higher education as well. Her confidence has grown and like Zechariah she has learnt to speak. The women successfully campaigned for one member in last year's local government elections. They support each other and advocate for the whole community.

Although discrimination based on caste is illegal under Indian law, it is common especially in rural communities. Used to a cheap and a ready pool of labour, landowners and brick manufacturers have exploited them. Dalits are also the sanitation workers and waste pickers. They are often trapped in a cycle of debt to their bosses. The very act of getting an identification or ration card gives Dalit and Tribal people access to basic rights to food, work and shelter under Indian law.

Without human rights, people cannot participate in their communities or in decisions that affect them. The world is not a safe place for people who lack food, water and justice. Like the women's *sangam*, we need to insist that no one is left behind.

Your gifts to the Christmas Appeal and prayers and action for people who face discrimination and injustice can bring joy and justice this Christmas.



The Bible reading for next week will be:

- Micah 5: 2-5a

Knox Directory

28 Bealey Ave,
Ōtautahi Christchurch 8013
Secretaries: Jane and Lynda,
ph. (03) 379 2456,
office@knoxchurch.co.nz

Office hours:
Mon, Tues, Thurs - 9.00am-noon
Wed, Friday - 10:00am - noon

Visit our website
www.knoxchurch.co.nz



website

Minister: Rev. Dr Matthew Jack
minister@knoxchurch.co.nz
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Church Council Clerk: Janet Wilson,
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Organist: Daniel Cooper,
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Director of the Knox Singers:
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gabrielbaird.nz@gmail.com

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