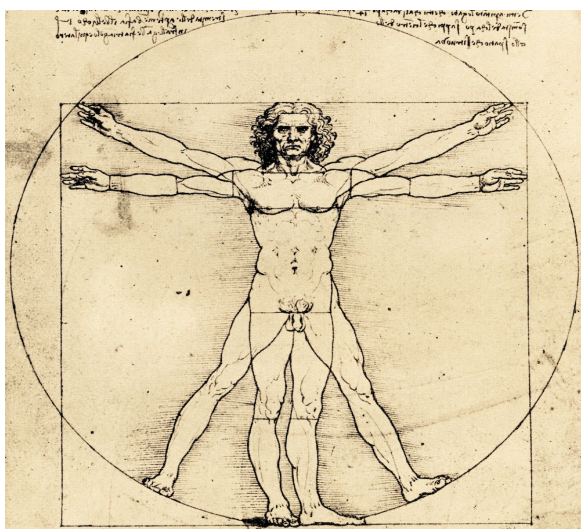




KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service Christmas Eve, 2021



This human race

a Christmas Eve service of carols and candle-light

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.

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.

COVID AND CANDLES

As you will be aware, Ōtautahi Christchurch is operating at the moment under the "public gatherings" restrictions required by the government's Traffic Light Orange setting. This means that QR code (or manual "signing in"), mask wearing, and appropriate physical distancing is all required. Also encourage the use of hand sanitizer at the doors. At the moment at Knox, we're not hand-shaking or greeting one another physically.

In order to comply with requirements for public gatherings including over fifty people, we are treating the main church space as a vaccination pass only area, but we have also set up a space in the Knox Centre Hall where anyone can gather to participate by audio link in the service. Some of our people who are vaccinated are choosing to worship in the Hall at the moment, as a sign of welcome and unity. Because vaccinated gatherings and unvaccinated gatherings are not meant to "intermingle", we ask that people in the Hall use the toilets in the Knox Centre, and people in the church use the toilets beyond the new foyer.

We have decided not to celebrate Holy Communion until we have moved into the Traffic Light Green mode - so there will be no communion at tonight's service. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we negotiate these difficult circumstances.

As you arrive tonight, you will be given a Christmas candle. During the singing of the opening hymn, candle bearers will move down the central aisles, lighting the candles of those adjacent to the aisle. Light your candle from those sitting next to you. Please be aware of where your flame is, paying particular attention to the person in front of you.

Before the service, as the congregation gathers,
the Knox Singers will sing a piece.
This is not part of the service, but courtesy is appreciated.

Magnificat in C Minor
George Dyson (1883-1964)

Welcome

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Opening Prayer

**. . . 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.**

We stand for
Hymn
Irby

H. J. Gauntlett (1805-1876)



Verse 1 is sung by a soloist.

Verse 2 is sung by the Knox Singers only.

The congregation starts singing at verse 3.

1. *Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle-shed
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.*

2. *He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.*

3. **And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.**

4. **Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
when, like stars, his children
crowned
all in white shall wait around.**

C. F. Alexander (1818-1895)

We sit for

The Bible Lessons: Psalm 8

Philippians 2: 5-11

In this is the Word of God.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

The Reflection: I would; I will; and that is Christmas

We remain seated to sing

Hymn:

Humility

John Goss (1800-1880)



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. See, in yonder manger low,
born for us on earth below;
see, the gentle Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years:
<i>Hail, O ever-blessed morn;
hail, redemption's happy dawn;
sing through all Jerusalem:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"</i> | 4. "As we watched at dead of night,
all around us shone a light;
angels singing Peace on earth
told us of a Saviour's birth."
<i>Hail, O ever-blessed morn . . .</i> |
| 2. Low within a manger lies
he who built the starry skies;
he who, throned in height
sublime,
reigns above the cherubim:
<i>Hail, O ever-blessed morn . . .</i> | 5. Sacred infant, king most dear,
what a tender love was here,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this!
<i>Hail, O ever-blessed morn . . .</i> |
| 3. Say, you humble shepherds, say
what's your joyful news today?
tell us why you left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep:
<i>Hail, O ever-blessed morn . . .</i> | 6. Holy Saviour, born on earth,
teach us by your lowly birth;
grant that we may ever be
taught by such humility.
<i>Hail, O ever-blessed morn . . .</i> |

Edward Caswall (1814-1878)

Prayers for the World

In our prayers, to the minister's words "And you reply",
you are invited to respond "**I WILL JOIN YOU**".

Anthem:

Fairest Lord Jesus
Silesian folk song (1842)
arr. Martin How (b. 1931)

The Watch Prayer

Silence until Midnight

The Reading of the Nativity: Luke 2:1-14

The Christmas Greeting

People of God,
Christ is born. God is with us.

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.**

*Please blow out your candles,
and greet one another, from a distance, with the peace of God.*

Without announcement, we stand to sing

Hymn:

Mendelssohn

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)



1. Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
joyful all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies,
with th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born king.*
2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the God-head see;
hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased on earth with us to dwell,

Jesus, our Emmanuel.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born king.*

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings;
mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us all from earth,
Born to give us second birth.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born king.*

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

The congregation remains standing for
The Christmas Litany:

Jesus, Son of the living God,
Splendour of heaven,
GLORY BE TO YOU.

Jesus, Child in a manger,
King of Creation,
GLORY BE TO YOU.

Jesus, wonderful Counsellor,
mighty God,
everlasting Lord,
GLORY BE TO YOU.

Jesus, inexhaustible Wisdom,
our Way,
our Truth,
our Life,
GLORY BE TO YOU.

The Word was made flesh
and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.
THANKS BE TO GOD, AMEN.

Without announcement, we sing

Hymn:

Adeste Fideles

John Francis Wade (c.1711-1786)



1. O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him
born the king of angels;
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

2. God of God,
Light of light,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore him . . .

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above.
'Glory to God,
glory in the highest':
O come, let us adore him . . .

4. Yea, Lord we greet thee,
born on Christmas morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:
O come let us adore Him . . .

John Francis Wade (c.1711-1786)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Toccata on "Joy to the world"
Martin Setchell