



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service 25 December 2021



Following the season of letters,
it's a parcel

a simple celebration for Christmas Day

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.

This morning the Bible already has been placed on the lectern, so will not be processed in. At 10 o'clock, with the congregation remaining seated, the minister approaches the Advent Wreath. Once the Nativity Passage from Luke's Gospel has been read, the Christ Candle is lit. The service proceeds from there.

The Nativity: Luke 2: 1-14

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Christmas Proclamation:

For God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but may have eternal life.
Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**THE WORD BECAME FLESH
AND LIVED AMONG US;**

AND WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY,
FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.

Without announcement, we stand to sing

Hymn:

Mendelssohn

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)



Hark! the he-rald an-gels sing glo-ry to the new-born king.

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 sits for
The Prayers of Approach:

To the One
in whom we live,
move, and have our being,
WE OFFER OUR CHRISTMAS PRAYER.

To the One who was of old,
who glanced into our view as the prophets spoke,
WE OFFER OUR CHRISTMAS PRAYER.

To the One in whom in so many ways
we found a way
of saying "I miss you,
I love you,
I will not be complete until I am with you",
WE OFFER OUR CHRISTMAS PRAYER.

Gracious God of life's ordinary stuff,
born to us in a borrowed stable,
WE OFFER OUR CHRISTMAS PRAYER.

Who would have thought, O God,
that your being "one with us"
would have been like Christmas?
An ivory tower philosopher
might have imagined some other way -
a word, a letter,
a clean and simple communication
of thought or fact.

But no;
you came to us in Christ,
a little baby,
a person who would become entangled in human life.
In his humility and humanity,
WE OFFER OUR CHRISTMAS PRAYER.

This Christmas "delivery of self"
comes to our season of letters, O God.
Leading up to this day
we have explored letters
written by your faithful ones:
those who loved and missed those who were dear to them,
those who had experienced the early fruits of faith,
then wondered what would last;
those who feared they were too small to join in your story of blessing.
Longing with them,
WE OFFER OUR CHRISTMAS PRAYER.

Your response to all words of longing
have been words of love.
And now, on Christmas day,
you become more than Word.
You become Word that is born and that lives among us,
moving and changing who we are.
To you, O God,
WE OFFER OUR CHRISTMAS PRAYER.

This is our prayer,
through Jesus, the Word made flesh,
the author and perfecter of our life,
AMEN.



Hymn:

The First Nowell

English traditional carol



1. The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel!
2. They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell . . .
3. And by the light of that same star,
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell . . .
4. This star drew nigh to the north-west;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell . . .
5. So let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
that hath made heav'n and earth of naught,

and with his love our service hath bought:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell . . .

English traditional carol

The Bible Lesson: John 1: 1-14

This is the gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

The Christmas Reflection: More than words

Hymn:

Corde Natus

Piae Cantiones Theoderici, 1582



1. Of our God's own heart begotten
when the worlds were yet to be,
one there was with no beginning,
one who is eternally,
source and ending of all things that have been,
and all things that are to be
evermore and evermore.
2. By this word was all created
by this word were all things done:
land and air and deepest ocean,
harmony of three in one
and all growing in the luminance
shed forth from the moon and sun,
evermore and evermore.
3. This is One whom seers and sages
sang of old with one accord,

whom the voices of the prophets
promised in their faithful word;
now Christ shines, the long-expected:
let creation praise its Lord
evermore and evermore.

4. In the heights of heaven adore him,
angel hosts his praises sing,
all dominions bow before him
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert sing
evermore and evermore.

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348 - c.413)
tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)
Henry Williams Baker (1827-1877) and others

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*To the minister's words "The Word is made flesh among us",
you are invited to respond "FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH".*

. . . **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.**

If there are young ones present

Rochelle shares a Christmas Story with the Young Ones

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: Sleigh Ride
Leroy Anderson (1908-1975)

Retiring Offering

A retiring offering is taken for the Christian World Service Christmas Appeal. Regular offering envelopes may also be placed in the offering baskets and find their way into the regular offering system.

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Possibilities for Boxing Day

Hearing that Knox was not having a service on Boxing Day, 26 December, Rev. Anne Stewart assures us that any Knox person is welcome to join her at the Village Church, 365A Ilam Road, at 10:00am.

There is also a Boxing Day service at 10:00am
at Cashmere Presbyterian Church, 2 Macmillan Avenue, Cashmere.



Christian World Service Christmas Appeal

Leila lives with her husband and five children in Qalqilya a West Bank town surrounded by Israel. It is famous for its oranges but the Israeli military presence and the impact of occupation make life difficult.

When her husband became too ill and the logistics too hard, he gave up his work as an agricultural labourer in one of the Israeli settlements. With high unemployment on the West Bank, Leila decided to make Kharoub or carob

paste for sale. It is a popular drink that settles the stomach and on hot days served with ice.

Five years ago she started her business by collecting the carob pods and grinding them into a paste to sell to her neighbours. Sales were good and DSPR helped her by providing the equipment she needed to grind the pods, improving the quality of her paste. She increased her income by 40% and is planning to buy a second grinding machine to produce tomato paste.

“I am in for the business,” says Leila, with a broad smile.

On this Christmas Day we look to the Holy Land and we pray for its people. Jesus was born in Palestine under

occupation. The people were taxed and denied justice. With his disciples, he wandered its roads, speaking truth to the people. In his life and ministry, he spoke words of healing and gave practical help.

Living in the same land, the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees keeps alive his message of love and always the hope of change. For more than seventy years, they have been a voice for refugees and their deep desire for a just peace for their neighbours and community.





The Bible readings for next week will be:

- There is no service at Knox on Sunday 26 December

Knox Directory

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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