



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service 17 September 2023



FORGIVENESS

“Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?”

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.

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, you are welcome to use the language that is most natural to you.

Since Jeremy is away this week, we are very pleased to welcome Nicholas Sutcliffe back to the organ bench. Thank you, Nick.

The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, SHOWING THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS THROUGH HIS LIFE;
JESUS, CHALLENGING US TO FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER;
JESUS, IN WHOSE KEEPING, THE WORLD IS LOVED AND SAFE.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Ode to Joy

adapted from Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)



1. Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.
2. All your works with joy surround you,
Earth and heav'n reflect your rays,
Stars and angels sing around you,
Centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain,
Call to praise you joyfully.
3. You are giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
You our Father, Christ our brother,
All are yours who live in love;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to your joy above.

Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933) alt.

Prayer of Approach

If joy were our culture, O God,
and our currency,
if it were what we lavishly shared
and treasured in our hearts,
as Jesus lavishly shared and treasured in his heart,
THEN WE WOULD BE BEARING YOUR IMAGE.

If the doing of good,
as Jesus did good
were our work,
if healing and hoping
and blessing and caring,
and loving and serving
were our pleasure,
THEN WE WOULD BE NURTURING THE NEW CREATION.

If giving and forgiving were our way,
the way they were for Jesus,
the debts would be wiped,
and despair would be gone,
AND PEACE WOULD COME

and peace would come,
AND PEACE WOULD COME.

Silence

We are captivated by the life of Jesus,
by the freedom and grace he was able to give to others
as he lived out the forgiving love of his God.
**WE ARE INSPIRED BY THE STRENGTH OF HIS LOVE,
THAT OVERCAME THE CULTURE OF HATE.**

We are in awe of the vision he shared,
through the actual living of his life,
of sins being taken as far from us
as the East is from the West.

**AND YET WE ARE INTIMIDATED BY HIS WORDS:
"YOU TOO MUST FORGIVE
FROM YOUR VERY HEART
THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST YOU."**

In sad awareness of the lack of love in our world,
and of the crimes we commit against one another,
in acknowledgement of our own contribution to the culture of hatred,
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.

The Theme Prayer:

The Prince of Peace, O God,
confronted Peter
with the challenge not to forgive seven times,
but to aim for seventy seven times.

It was a high and holy challenge.

**WE DARE TO BELIEVE
THAT WE TOO ARE SO CONFRONTED.**

Give us courage to respond well,

**PUTTING ASIDE ALL THOUGHTS OF REVENGE
AND RETIRBUTION,
THAT THE NEW CREATION MIGHT BE NURTURED
AND PEACE BE THE PRIZE.**

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

The First Lesson: Psalm 103: 8-13

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

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 18: 21-35

This is the gospel of Christ.
PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Hymn:

Belmont

W. Gardiner (1770-1853)



1. "Forgive our sins as we forgive"
you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.
2. How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let
old bitterness depart?
3. In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew,
what trivial debts are owed to us,
how great our debt to you.
4. Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
and bid resentment cease;
that, with our inner selves renewed,
our lives may spread your peace.

Rosamund E. Herklots (1905-1987), alt.

Sermon: A new culture for the city

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. A video of this sermon being practised is available from 10:00am today:

<https://youtu.be/2WwWf8uEkiA>

Music for Reflection

Hymn:

Corvedale

Maurice Bevan (1921-2006)



1. There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than in God's heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.
2. For the love of God is broader
than the grasp of mortal mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make God's love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify God's strictness
with a zeal too greatly grown.
3. There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.
If our love were but more simple,
we would take him at his word;
and our lives would be all gladness
in the joy of Christ our Lord.

Frederick William Faber (1814-63), alt.

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Linda Wilkins

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

Dwarfed both by the wisdom and challenge
of Jesus' call to forgive those who wrong us,
we commit ourselves to be people of grace.

**MAY THE OFFERING WE DEDICATE HERE AND HOW
BE A SIGN OF OUR FURTHER GIVING
TO NAURTURE THE WORLD TOWARDS THE NEW CREATION.**

For we pray this in the name 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.

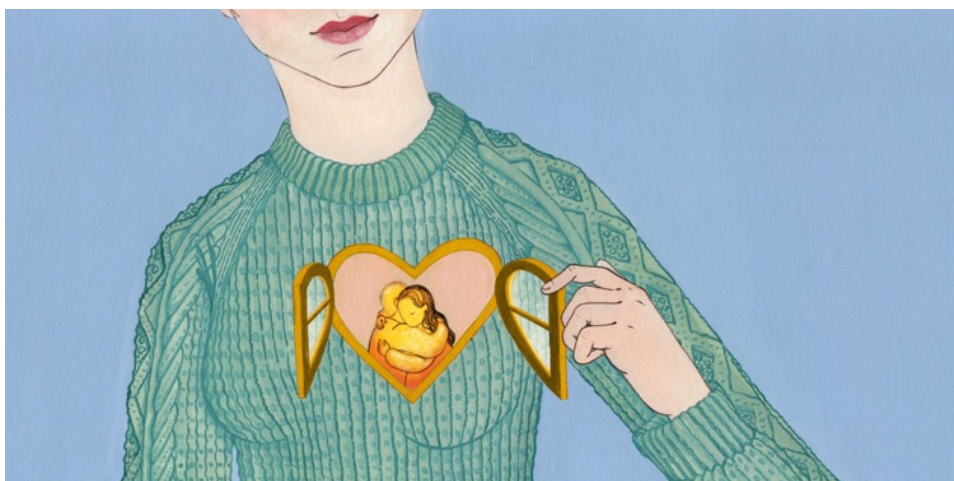
Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

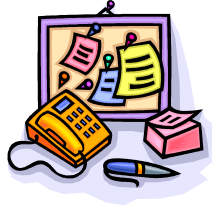
Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude

Following the service, morning tea and coffee are served in the church

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NOTICES

This Week: 17 September – 23 September
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
12.00pm Lunch at Black and White Café
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: 24 September – 30 September
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
11.00am Annual General Meeting
11.30am Winter Book Study with Len Pierce
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Annual General Meeting - The Annual General Meeting of Knox Church will be held on Sunday 24 September immediately following the morning service. Copies of the Annual Report and Financial Performance Report are available at the entrances to the Church. **N.B. Daylight Saving begins on 24 September.**

Winter Book Study-The Heart of Christianity – 2nd and 4th Sundays of July through September with Len Pierce at 11.30am til 1pm in the Lounge.

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. For further information or options contact:

office@knoxchurch.co.nz Ph: 379 2456.



The "Jesus laughing and loving" project was created by the Church of Scotland in 2004. By way of envelope, filing cabinet, and lost shuffled paper, the material came to Matthew, who's releasing the paintings and reflections one by one until the papers run out.

NUMBER SIX OF THIRTY FIVE

"The First Supper", by Alphonso Doss, Bangalore, South India.

The idea first came to my mind when I saw a very inreresting painting of El Greco['s] where Christ was driving away the business people who occupied the Temple. In this Christ was shown with anger.

I then got the idea about a happy Christ.

Secondly, when I saw the Last Supper by Leonardo, I thought about the first supper and imagined how the situation would have been. I was sure that as Christ was human and divine he must have had the quality of humour and wit in him and would have shared this with his followers when he discussed certain things with them.

I am sure that he must have had many times meeting with ordinary people where he shared his happiness with them.





The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Psalm 145: 1-8
- Matthew 20: 1-16

Knox Directory

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website



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