



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service 24 September 2023



TOO GENEROUS?

"Friend, take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?"

Matthew 20:13-15

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

The Call to Worship:

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

JESUS, TELLING YET ANOTHER PARABLE OF GRACE;

JESUS, CALLING US TO BE PEOPLE OF HIS GENEROUS HEART;

JESUS, IN WHOM WE FIND GOD'S NEW AND BETTER WAY.

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Thaxted

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)



1. O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and act upon your word,
we honour and adore you, our great and mighty God.
2. Then hear, O gracious Saviour, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favour may serve you as our king;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

Michael Perry (1942-1996)

Prayer of Approach - *reflecting on the picture on the front page*

We behold a picture, O God:
two of your people are at a table in a vineyard.
She is smiling
and looking at him.

He also maybe is smiling a bit,
maybe more on the inside -
frightened to be too direct -
mind on her, but eyes on the soup.
It obviously is an idyllic moment.

BUT DO THEY DESERVE IT?

We see bread on the board,
soup in the bowl,
wine in the glass -
maybe wine from the very vines that frame their company
and give them privacy.

**BUT DID THEY PICK THE GRAPES
AND PRESS THE WINE?
DID THEY WORK HARD ENOUGH
TO WARRANT THIS BLESSING?**

God, hush our questions just now!
Let us be happy for their happiness.
**MOVE US, INSTEAD,
TO SING OF GENEROUS LOVE
THAT CANNOT BE REPAID.**

Let us sing of silent wondering
about every gift that has been given.

**GIVE US SONGS TO SING
OF HEARTS FULL
AND LIFTED BEFORE THE GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING.**

Silence

We confess that some of our questions perplex us -
WE KNOW NOT FROM WHERE THEY COME.

So also with the resentments we bear
and the jealousies we keep.
**PERHAPS WE PICKED THEM UP
AS WE WALKED THROUGH THE CITY OF ANGELS.**

Wherever they came from,
we would release them for the moment,
praying maybe that the God of unsearchable greatness
will cast them as far as West is from East,
that we might glimpse in God's forgiving Christ
a new and better way.

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:

Were we to enter the world of Jesus' parables, O God,
perhaps we would find there
people mightily blessed,
and yet unable to enjoy their blessing
because they'd been abducted by jealousy.

**GIVE US GRACE, WE PRAY,
TO SEE THEIR FOLLY,
AND TO ALLOW OURSELVES
TO FOLLOW JESUS
INTO HIS NEW AND BETTER WAY.**

We pray this in his name,
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 145: 1-8

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

Knox Singers:

Lead me, Lord
Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

The Gospel Lesson:

Matthew 20: 1-16

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

Hymn:

Normandy

Basque Carol



1. The great love of God is revealed in the Son,
who came to this earth to redeem everyone.
That love, like a stream flowing clear to the sea,
makes clean every heart that from sin would be free.
2. It binds the whole world, every barrier it breaks,
the hills it lays low, and the mountains it shakes.
It's yours, it is ours, O how lavishly given!
the pearl of great price, and the treasure of heaven.

Daniel Thambyrajah Niles (1908-1970)

Sermon: A new practice in Parable Land?

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/dxXdVIJVq7E>

Hymn:

Pachelbel

adapted from a melody in Nürnberg Gesagbuch, 1690



1. We share a new day's dawn with Christ,
our lives refreshed and hopes restored:
this is the day to serve our Lord!
and with this new day's dawn we rise
and lift our hearts up to the skies.

2. For heaven's grace we turn to prayer,
for truth and strength we read Christ's word:
here is the grace to serve our Lord!
And so by heaven's grade this day
we'll learn to walk in Jesus' way.
3. Our song shall be of perfect love -
of Christ's redemption, faith's reward:
this is love's service to our Lord!
And perfect love shall be our song
till all our days to Christ belong.

Michael Perry (1942-1996)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Norman Wilkins

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

From God's generosity
we have begun to gather
some building blocks for Parable Land.

**WE HAVE MONEY AND FOOD;
WE HAVE HOPE AND IMAGINATION.**

We have a vision
of the world freed from jealousy and judgment.

**WE HAVE THE DESIRE
TO LIVE AS GOD INTENDED US TO LIVE.**

In offering all of this,
**WE SEEK THE BLESSING OF GOD,
THROUGH JESUS, THE CHRIST,
AMEN.**

Notices

Hymn:

Diademata

George Job Elvey (1816-1893)



1. Deep in the human heart
the fire of justice burns;
a vision of a world renewed
through radical concern.
As Christians we are called
to set the captives free,
to overthrow the evil powers
and end hypocrisy.
2. This is our task today –
to build a world of peace;
a world of justice, freedom, truth,
where kindness will increase;
a world from hunger free,
a world where people share,
where every person is of worth
and no one lives in fear.
3. Taking the step of faith,
we leave the past behind
and move into the future's world
with open heart and mind.
By grace we work with Christ
as one community,
to bring new hope and fuller life
to all humanity.

Bill Wallace (b. 1933)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Gigue Fugue, BWV 577
J.S. Bach (1685 - 1750)

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

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NOTICES

This 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

Next Week: 1 October – 7 October

Sunday	10.00am	Morning Worship
	5.00pm	Film Group – Operation Mincemeat
Wednesday	10.00am	Bible Study

Annual General Meeting - The Annual General Meeting of Knox Church will be held today immediately following the morning service. Copies of the Annual Report and Financial Performance Report are available at the entrances to the Church.

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.

CHANGE OUR POLITICS, NOT THE CLIMATE - Free Public Lecture by Bronwyn Hayward; 7-8pm, Wednesday 27 September @ University of Canterbury or online. “Even though the cost of living and clickbait election policies have dominated public debate, the decisions we make now will impact communities for thousands of years,” Bronwyn points out. Professor Bronwyn Hayward, known to many of us at Knox, is an award- winning expert on sustainability and climate change. She is a lively and knowledgeable speaker, yet also delightfully down-to-earth and practical. In this talk she will discuss why climate issues matter now more than ever. Go to the university website canterbury.ac.nz and search for UC Connect to find further information or to register for the livestream.

Sunday 1 October 5pm in the lounge - Film: Operation Mincemeat - Set in World War 2, this film tells the incredible true story of how, in 1943, as the Allies were planning the invasion of Europe, an unlikely plan to conceal the place for the Allied landing was concocted and successfully carried out! Ian Fleming (yes, the later author of James Bond!), working in the basement of the British Ministry of Defence, dreamed up the plan to plant a decoy body on the coast of Spain. This is not a "war film" but rather explores the relationship of the co-workers, the family of the deceased's body to be used as a decoy, and the task of convincing the higher powers that the improbable could work. It did! The film stars Colin Firth as Ian Fleming's boss.

Living Wage Election Forum - The Living Wage movement will be asking our candidates: **"Will you keep paying the Living Wage to workers in public service?"**

In 2018 the Government committed to paying workers in the core public service at least the Living Wage. In 2021, this was extended to include contracted staff, who are often the lowest paid.

The forum will be held at Aldersgate Centre, 309 Durham Street on Friday 29 September. The doors will open at 6pm and the forum will run from 6.30 to 7.30pm. We have been asked to register to attend, so please tell Norman if you plan to come and he will register you.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month - Approximately 3,500 women annually are diagnosed with breast cancer, that means every 7 days 9-10 women (approximately 1 in every 13 women) will be diagnosed with some form of breast cancer. It is the 3rd highest rating cancer in Aotearoa New Zealand and is no respecter of age. Each year 25 men are diagnosed with breast cancer. The likelihood of having breast cancer for women in their 40s is 1 in 50 women and increases to 1 in 36 for those in their 70s.

Whilst we currently lag behind Australia in offering more free medications, Christchurch is really fortunate to have Canterbury Breastcare to walk women through the diagnostic stages of their journey. The Cancer Society do not receive any government funding and do an amazing job to advocate, educate and support women and their family/ whanau/fono.

On 9 October 2023 the Cancer Society is starting a new 'park and ride' service from their Papanui office to Christchurch Hospital and St George Hospital.

Friday, 28 October 2023 and Saturday 29 October 2023 are 'Pink Ribbon Day' during which members of the public have the opportunity to donate to the Cancer Society and receive a pink ribbon. Every few cents help so please consider if you are to contribute should you see a donation box/ person in a supermarket, mall or on a street. Perhaps you could volunteer 2 hours to help with the collection or if really energetic sign up for the 5 or 10 km walk on Sunday 01 October 2023.

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:

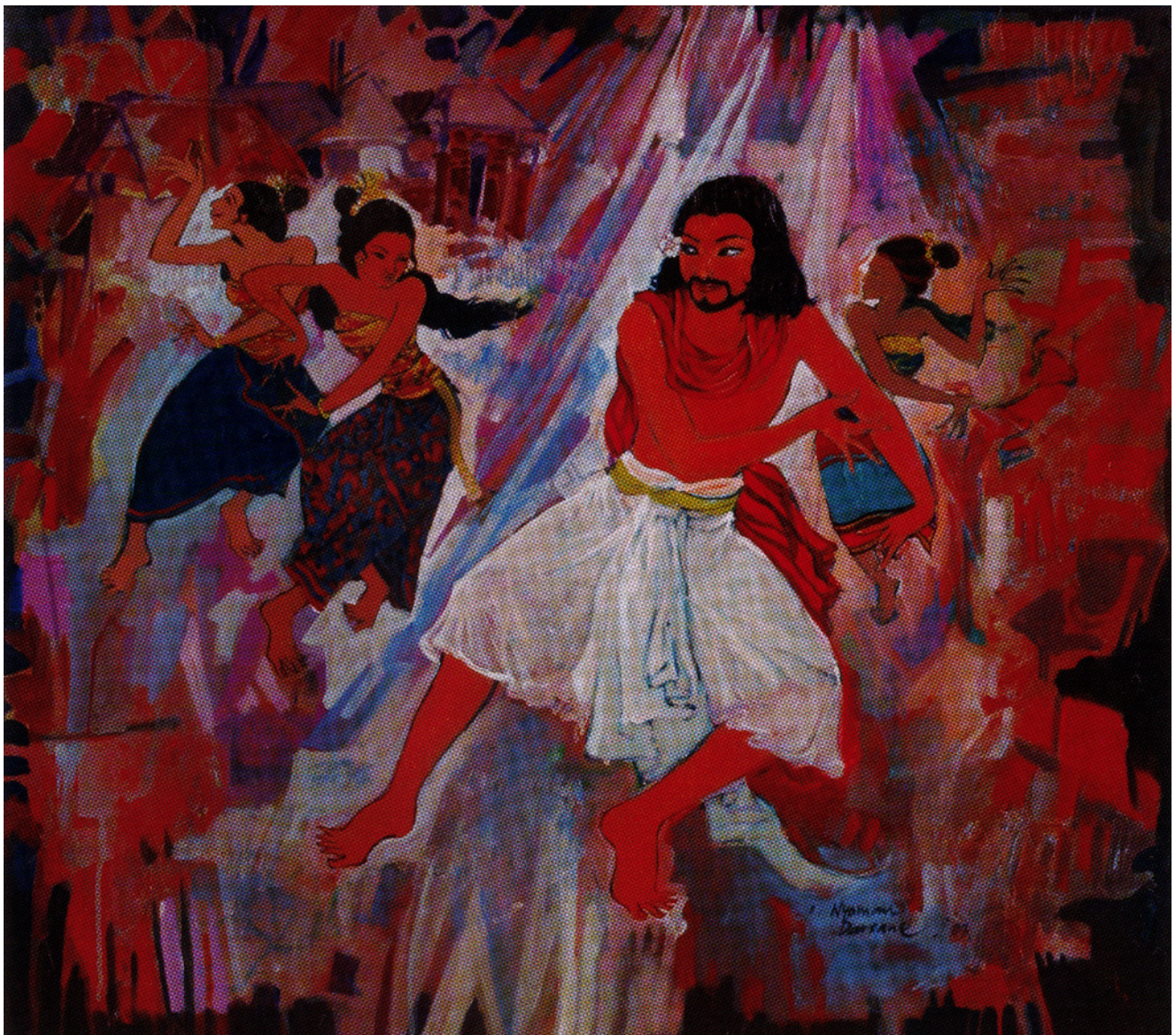
office@knoxchurch.co.nz Ph: 379 2456.

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 SEVEN OF THIRTY FIVE

"The Radiance of God's Glory", by I Nyoman Darsane, Den Pasar, Bali, Indonesia.

The radiance of God's glory was embodied by Jesus Christ for the whole Community of Man [sic]. Jesus Christ was God's messenger but at the same time was God Himself [sic], present among us to renew the Life of Man [sic]. In this painting, the spreading rays symbolise the divine radiance which Martha and Mary were able to discern from the vibrancy, joy and love of Jesus. This phenomenon could also be witnessed and felt by others around them. The dark and muted background expresses the darkness of the world at that time into which he brought light.





The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Exodus 17: 1-7
- Matthew 21: 23-32

Knox Directory

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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