



# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

**Order of Service**  
**22 October 2023**

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**GIVING TO GOD  
WHILE LIVING IN  
CAESAR'S WORLD**

## 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, COUNTERING HOSTILE QUESTIONS WITH DEEP INSIGHT;**

**JESUS, PLAYING WITH OUR LOYALTY GAMES;**

**JESUS, CALLING US TO OFFER OUR HEARTS AND VOICES IN PRAISE.**

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

**MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.**

### Hymn:

Guiting Power

John Barnard (b. 1948)



1. Christ triumphant, ever reigning,  
you of whom we sing,  
child of promise, life sustaining,  
hear the praise we bring:  
Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, the eternal name.
2. Word incarnate, truth revealing,  
taking flesh on earth!  
Power and majesty concealing  
by your humble birth:  
Yours the glory. . .
3. Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated,  
victim crucified!  
Death is through the cross defeated,  
we are justified:  
Yours the glory. . .
4. Priestly Jesus, 'throned for ever  
high in heaven above!  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
stifle hymns of love:  
Yours the glory. . .
5. So, our hearts and voices raising  
through the ages long,  
ceaselessly upon you gazing,  
this shall be our song:  
Yours the glory. . .

*Michael Seward (1932 -2015), alt.*

### **Prayer of Approach**

The quite well-concealed glory of God  
yet shone through the child of promise  
whose heart was set on God,  
whose mind was illumined by God,  
whose course was opened by God -  
**CHRIST TRIUMPHANT, EVER REIGNING.**

So the people came to see him,  
to hear what he had to say.  
They came for crumbs of wisdom,  
for sparks of insight,  
for the possibility of offering to God  
the praise that belongs to God.

**HIS THE GLORY AND THE CROWN,  
THE HIGH RENOWN, THE ETERNAL NAME.**

Some came, though, with malice and hypocrisy,  
with traps and tricky questions:

**"IS IT RIGHT TO PAY TAXES TO CAESAR?"**

For humanity's insincerity,  
our inclination to cover and dissemble,  
for our casualness with truth,  
and our desire to crucify what is holy, innocent and good  
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:**

Drawing from your deep appreciation, O Christ,  
of our being first and foremost people of God's image,  
you turned a hostile question into a teaching moment  
a moment of judgment and grace.

**GIVE US THE PRESENCE OF MIND AND SPIRIT  
TO UNCOVER HUMBUG,  
AND TO GIVE TO GOD WHAT BELONGS TO GOD,  
EVEN OUR LOVE AND WORSHIP.**

For we pray it in your name,  
using the words you taught 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 96: 1-9

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

### **Hymn:**

Liebster Jesu Later form of melody by Johann Rodolph Ahle (1625-1673)



1. Blessèd Jesus, at your word  
we are gathered all to hear you;  
let our hearts and minds be stirred  
now to seek and love and fear you;  
by your gospel pure and holy  
teach us, Lord, to love you solely.
2. All our knowledge, sense and sight  
lie in deepest darkness shrouded,  
till your Spirit breaks our night  
with your beams of truth unclouded;  
you alone to God can win us,  
you must work all good within us.



2. Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;  
ever within me, my soul is assured;  
Mother and Father, you are both to me;  
now and forever your child I will be.
3. Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,  
you my inheritance, now and always:  
you and you only are first in my heart,  
great God, my treasure, may we never part.
4. Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

*Irish hymn dating from c. 8th cent*

*Translated: Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931)*

*Versified: Eleanor Henrietta Hull (1860-1935), adapt.*

## **Prayers for Others and Ourselves**

*led by Lesley Hunt*

### **The Offering and Dedication**

*We stand for the dedication of the Offering*

We who easily make our offering to Caesar,  
in faith now would offer to God  
only what belongs to God.

**MAY GOD DWELL IN OUR THINKING,  
PROMPTING US TOWARDS THE PERFECT OFFERING,**

that we might not be stunned and go away,  
**BUT RATHER MIGHT PRAISE THE ONE  
IN WHOSE IMAGE WE ARE MADE.**

We pray this in the name of Jesus.

**AMEN.**

## **Notices**

## Hymn:

Laast Uns Erfreuen

from Geistliche Kirchengesäng 1623



1. From all who dwell below the skies,  
let the Creator's praise arise;  
Hallelujah!  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung,  
through every land, by every tongue.  
Hallelujah!
2. Eternal are your mercies, God,  
eternal truth attends your word:  
Hallelujah!  
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore,  
till suns shall rise and set no more.  
Hallelujah!

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

## Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Prelude and Fugue in G, BWV 550  
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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

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**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](mailto:office@knoxchurch.co.nz) Ph: 379 2456.



## NOTICES

**This Week:**            **22 October – 28 October**  
Sunday                10.00am    Morning Worship  
Wednesday          10.00am    Bible Study

**Next Week:**           **29 October – 4 November**  
Sunday                10.00am    Morning Worship  
Wednesday          10.00am    Bible Study

**Christmas Baking 2023** - Thank you to those who have sent in their order forms already. If you need additional order forms, they can be found at both entrances.  
**Reminder** - all orders to be in by 5 November.

**PILLARS 2023** - Council has approved that for the first three Sundays in November, instead of our food donations going to Te Whare Roimata, they will be going to PILLARS. PILLARS is a group that looks after families who have family members in prison. Food, especially Christmas type food, toiletries, gifts suitable for children and teenagers etc. all welcome and will be well used. This is the thirteenth year Knox has donated goods to PILLARS.

**Film Group:** Our November film is **Goodbye Lenin** on **Sunday 5 November at 5pm**, to mark the anniversary of the opening of the Berlin Wall on 9 November 1989. How did the jubilant revolution affect the daily lives of ordinary citizens in the former East Berlin? This film shows a family over several months, beginning with the weekly demonstrations before, where the mother receives blows that put her into a coma in hospital. While she lies there for several months, the regime changes, and as a result, so does daily life. When this previously fanatical supporter of the DDR finally regains consciousness, the doctor fears that the shock of the new life could kill her. So, her son and his friend 'reconstruct' their former life. The film is comedic, but also poignant and informative and has won many awards. In German with English subtitles.

**Book Table in the old foyer** - Have you had a look lately? There is a wide variety of books for you to buy: \$3 each or two for \$5. The book sales are one of our ongoing Knox fundraisers - and we usually raise about \$800 - \$1000 per year! Any additions are always welcome. I also have connections with the Slightly Foxed Bookshop in Oamaru which specialises in New Zealand books. So, if you are having a clear out of your book collection, do let me know because we may be able to raise some Knox funds from them! In the meantime, happy reading.  
Bronwyn Wiltshire

## Iona Community Gathering



Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 7pm  
Christchurch Transitional Cathedral

**‘Moving between contemplation and action  
on the journey to justice and peace.’**

You are warmly invited to join us at this informal meeting to discuss, to explore, to celebrate and to pray. We will be facilitated by the Leader of the Iona Community, The Rev. Ruth Harvey.

The Iona Community is an international, ecumenical Christian movement working for justice and peace, the rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship.  
<https://iona.org.uk/>

Please contact Fiona Taylor if you require any further information  
[meteorsfawt@gmail.com](mailto:meteorsfawt@gmail.com)



## **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) will be diagnosed with some form of breast cancer.

It is the third 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 does not receive any government funding and does an amazing job to advocate, educate and support women and their family/whanau/fono.

In the near future, the Cancer Society will be starting a new 'park and ride' service from their Papanui office to Christchurch Hospital and St George's Hospital.

Friday 27 October 2023 and Saturday 28 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 helps 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 two hours of time to help with the collection.



Luna, a Ukrainian cat who belongs to Kate, sent her photo just a wee bit late for inclusion in last week's "Blessing of the Animals" slide show.



**Nathaniel Herz-Edinger, Ōtautahi Christchurch's local Living Wage coordinator writes:** Election results show how vital cross-party support is to Living Wage policies. At last month's Living Wage Forum, NZ First's Andy Foster committed to retain the Living Wage in the core public service, and to make this a priority of coalition negotiations. Those negotiations

have now begun with NZ First holding the balance of power, and we will be doing everything we can to hold them to their word. **You can help us do this.** Please [flick Andy Foster a quick email](mailto:andy.foster@nzfirsrt.nz) thanking him for his support, and communicating a clear expectation that his party will follow through - [andy.foster@nzfirsrt.nz](mailto:andy.foster@nzfirsrt.nz)

## Fritz Wendt

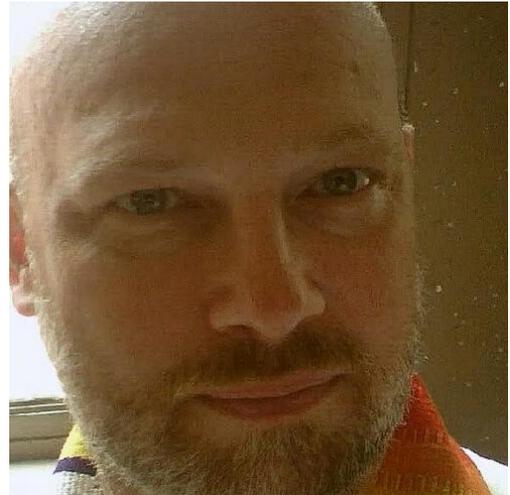
*Later in his essay "The politics of taking a knee", quoted in today's sermon, Fritz Wendt, writes:*

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of sociologist Robert Bellah's seminal essay "Civil Religion in America." American Civil Religion describes the complicated faith Americans have in their nation. It is composed of sacred symbols like the flag and the anthem. It is enshrined in texts like the Constitution and Declaration of Independence and celebrated on national holidays. It appears in phrases like "In God We Trust" on money and "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kaepernick's dissent and the public flare-up that followed display two expressions of American Civil Religion, the prophetic and the priestly. The former resists the status quo, while the latter defends it. Using the phenomenology of Émile Durkheim, the American flag can be seen as the totemic symbol of America, as it represents the nation state as a sacred entity. The typical function of civil religion is to operate in the priestly mode, with the nation's president as the high priest of the American version of the cult. The hysterical tone used when attacking the players and attempting to stamp out dissent as unpatriotic suggests that the deification of national symbols has intensified.

More than ever, the priestly mode must be complemented by the prophetic one. Martin Luther King Jr. proved that provoking exaggerated responses to rather minimal protests (sit-ins, marches, and bus rides) was useful in subverting self-righteousness and willful ignorance; Colin Kaepernick fits into that noble tradition. By kneeling, he forever changed the way Americans experience the moment when the anthem is played. What once was a "feel-good" element used to provide cohesion for a diverse crowd is now a tool that reveals the demons this nation must face: white supremacy and racism, both interpersonal and systemic.

As the President is trying to reshape American Civil Religion in a way that "inextricably connects American exceptionalism with white, Christian communities committed to the expulsion of immigrants" ([Benjamin P. Marcus and Murali Balaji](#)), the People of God must dissent and resist. All of us should "take a knee", at least symbolically, to "mark a tragedy", as Eric Reid said. We are all one, and if only one person is excluded, that is a tragedy for all of us.





## John England Memorial Activist Award

This is an annual award for an individual or group that is involved in a significant activist activity of benefit to the community or a particular organisation.

The award commemorates the long standing activism of the Rev Dr John England who died in 2021.

John was a founding member of EcuAction, an interfaith Canterbury based action group, and despite his declining health, John consistently pushed EcuAction into considering and working on cutting edge priorities such as climate change and taxation reform.

This annual award will consist of a framed EcuAction certificate presented at a publicly arranged event at which the award winner will be invited to speak.

Nominations should be sent to EcuAction at [ecuactioncanterbury@gmail.com](mailto:ecuactioncanterbury@gmail.com), or ring Brian, by 31 October 2023.

Narrative to include information on work done and why you have nominated them plus details of nominee & nominator

Further information is available from Brian Turner, phone 021 1294305

*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.*

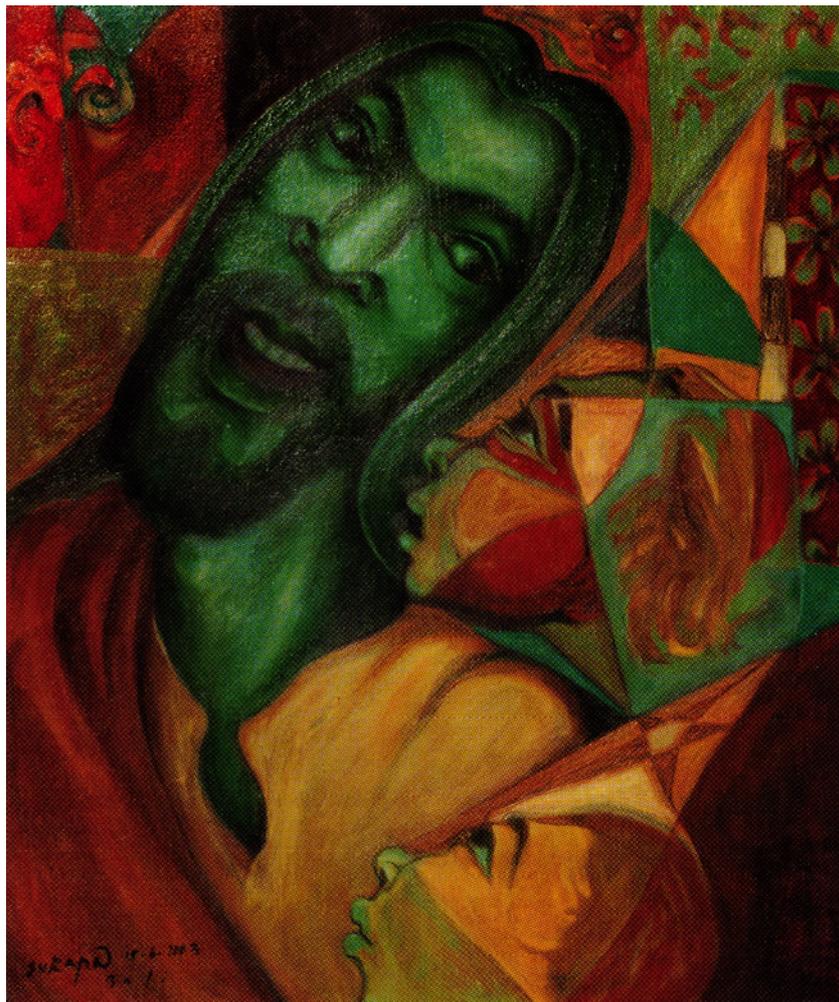
## **NUMBER NINE OF THIRTY FIVE**

"Laughing Jesus", by I Gede Sukana Kariana, Den Pasar, Bali, Indonesia.

In the Bible, there is no mention about smiling of Jesus explicitly. This is a mystery for me, so I must find out by more carefully searching in the Bible.

Laughing is a natural expression of human being, to express their joy from the bottom of the heart. Jesus as a human being must also have emotions like other humans. He live his life as a normal human being. Although there is no explicitly in the Bible about how Jesus smile and laugh, but when he met with many children, I convinced that Jesus smile and make a joke with the children.

He hug them and take closely with himself. And put his hand upon their head to bless them. Maybe Jesus did not have time to play with children because of his short ministry in the earth (3.5 years). But the joy of Jesus is mentioned when said: "I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.





## The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Isaiah 50: 1-9a
- Ephesians 2: 11-22

## 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