



# KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service 3 December 2023

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### ADVENT 1

# Our Advent Longing - Useful and beautiful -

## A COMMUNION SERVICE

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## 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.

This is a communion service. The table at Knox is an open one.  
Members of any church, as well as any who are seeking God sincerely,  
are welcome to receive communion here.

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, BORN TO A WORLD SEEKING LIBERATION FROM FEAR;  
JESUS, MOULDED INTO MESSIANIC SERVICE BY THE LOVE OF GOD;  
JESUS, THE COMPLETION OF WHOSE WORK WE EAGERLY AWAIT.**

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

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

### Hymn:

Stuttgart

Melody attrib. Christian F. Witt (1660-1716)



1. Come, O long-expected Jesus,  
born to set all people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
grant us your true liberty.
2. Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope to all the earth impart;  
dear desire of every nation,  
enter every longing heart.
3. Born all people to deliver,  
born a child, you came to reign!  
Born to rule on earth for ever,  
come, be known to us again.
4. By your own eternal Spirit  
come to claim us as your own;  
by your all-sufficient merit  
let us share your cross and crown.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

### **Prayer of Approach**

"Come to set us free", Lord Jesus, we sang,  
free from sins and fears,  
free from that sense that we have lost something,  
or squandered something,  
or have not been able to find something.

**COME, O LONG-EXPECTED JESUS.**

Come, we sang, to be strength and consolation,  
and to impart hope to the world -  
as if we know, without protest,  
that weakness and despair,  
and death of hope  
is no way to live the gift of life.

**COME, O LONG-EXPECTED JESUS.**

Come, we sang, to be both child and ruler,  
the hidden God's revealer  
yet the enduring mystery of Word made flesh.  
Never will we subdue the mystery,  
but ever will we seek to manifest it as bread becomes body  
and believers become the presence of Christ.

**COME, O LONG-EXPECTED JESUS.**

Our Advent hope is that you **will** come,  
taking away the fear in which we live,  
and setting us free.

**COME, O LONG-EXPECTED JESUS.**

That we might follow you into your love and freedom,  
we would set aside what ails us:  
our anger and despair,  
our blaming and enemy-making,  
our judging and failing to judge.

Considering the ways in which we hurt one another  
and foster the hurt that we have suffered,  
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:**

Gracious and loving God,  
beset by many trials, the prophet Isaiah cried out  
for you to tear open the heavens  
and come down to fix the world.  
He expressed anger and despair.  
He also glimpsed a view of humanity being clay in your hands,  
people being made useful and beautiful for a new creation.

**MAY OUR MEDITATION ON HIS VISION  
GIVE US HOPE  
THAT WE MIGHT HELP BEND OUR WORLD  
TOWARDS HEALING AND GRACE.**

We pray this through Jesus Christ,  
**AMEN.**

### **The Advent Wreath**

Who is to be born this Christmas, to meet the longing of the world?

*We remain seated to sing*

**Hymn:**

Aye Carol

John Bell (b. 1949)



1. Who is the baby an hour or two old  
looked for by shepherds far strayed from their fold,  
lost in the world though more precious than gold?  
This is God with us in Jesus.

### **The first candle: the candle of hope**

"All our hope on God is founded".

Remembering that we were created in the image the God who made the heavens and the earth, we long to grow into the fullness of our creative destiny. Hoping for a Messiah who will nurture and fashion within us our capacities for beauty and loving service, we light a candle.

*The candle is lit*

O come to us, abide with us,  
**OUR LORD EMMANUEL.**

### **The Notices**

**The Bible Lesson:**      Isaiah 64: 1-9

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

**Knox Singers:**      The Lord will soon appear  
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

**Sermon:**              Saved from what we do when frightened

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/DUy5PhKRzQA>

### **Prayers for Others and Ourselves**

To the minister's words "We express our Advent longing",  
you are invited to respond "**COME, LORD JESUS**".

. . . **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 Offering and Dedication**

*We stand for the dedication of the Offering.*

Blessed are you, O God of all creation.  
Through your goodness, we bring what we have gathered,  
using the talents that you have given us.  
It will further the work of your kingdom.

**BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER.**

Blessed are you, O God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,  
which earth has given and human hands have made.  
It will become for us the bread of life.

**BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER.**

Blessed are you, O God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.  
It will become for us our spiritual drink.

**BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER,  
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, 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.*

### **Communion Hymn:**

Merton

William Henry Monk (1823-1889)



1. Hark! a herald voice is calling:  
"Christ is near," it seems to say,  
"cast away the dreams of darkness,  
waken, children of the day!"
2. Wakened by the solemn warning  
let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling,  
shines upon the morning skies.
3. Lo, the Lamb so long expected  
comes with pardon down from heaven;  
let us meet him with repentance,  
pray that we may be forgiven.
4. So when love comes forth in judgment,  
debts and doubts and wrongs to clear,  
faithful may he find his servants  
watching till the dawn appear.

*Words: Anon*

*We sit for*

**The Invitation, Institution, Setting Apart of the Elements**

**The Great Eucharistic Prayer:**

May God be with you.  
**AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**WE LIFT THEM TO GOD.**

Let us give thanks to the world's creator.  
**IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.**

It is right indeed . . .

**The Breaking of the Bread**

**Lamb of God:**

Jesus, Bread of Heaven,  
**HAVE MERCY ON US.**

Jesus, recreating your people where they stand,  
**HAVE MERCY ON US.**

Jesus, foretaste of the new creation,  
**GRANT US YOUR PEACE.**

**The Communion**

*For the distribution, please come forward to the table,  
receive some bread, dip it in the cup, and return to your seat. If you prefer  
gluten free bread, some is available on the plinth in front of the bread servers.  
Non-alcoholic grape juice can be taken from the trays held by the glass servers.*

## The Prayer After Communion

Eternal God,  
we give you thanks and praise  
that while we were still far off  
you met us in your Son, and brought us home.

**MAY WE WHO SHARE HIS BREAD**

**LIVE HIS RISEN LIFE;**

**WE WHO DRINK HIS CUP**

**BRING LIFE TO OTHERS;**

**WE WHOM THE SPIRIT LIGHTS**

**GIVE LIGHT TO THE WORLD,**

**THAT ALL YOUR CHILDREN SHALL BE FREE,**

**AND THE WHOLE EARTH LIVE TO PRAISE YOUR NAME.**

**AMEN.**

### Hymn:

Michael

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)



1. All our hope on God is founded:  
who else can our hope renew?  
Still through change and chance God guides us,  
only good and only true.  
God unknown, grace alone,  
calls our hearts to be God's own.
2. Well does the almighty Giver  
bounteous gifts on us bestow!  
With delight our souls are nourished;  
pleasure leads us where we go.  
At God's hand love does stand;  
joy awaits each new command.
3. Human pride and earthly glory,  
sword and crown betray God's trust;  
what with care and toil we're building,  
tower and temple, fall to dust.  
But God's power,  
hour by hour,  
is our temple and our tower.



4. In glad hymns to God eternal  
sacrifice of praise be done,  
high above all praises praising  
for the love in Christ made known.  
Hear Christ's call, one and all;  
you who follow shall not fall.

*Joachim Neander (1650-1680)*  
*tr. Robert Bridges (1844-1930), alt.*

### **Benediction and Sung Amen**

**Postlude:** Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645  
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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



## **NOTICES**

<b>This Week:</b>	<b>3 December – 9 December</b>
Sunday	10.00am Morning Worship 5.00pm Film Group – Miss Potter
Wednesday	11.00am Bible Study (Lunch at Vic's Café)
<b>Next Week:</b>	<b>10 December – 16 December</b>
Sunday	10.00am Morning Worship

**FILM GROUP - Sunday 3 December, 5pm** in the lounge: Film (Miss Potter) - Our last film for 2023 is **Miss Potter** (2007). This tells the story of Beatrix Potter, the events in her life and how she came to write Peter Rabbit and become one of the best children's writers. Her life had tragedy in it and fame was not instant. As well as showing her life with the family in London, we see the stunning countryside of her farm in the Lake District, which she bequeathed to the National Trust. You may have seen this film when it first came out but it is a classic and I am sure you will enjoy it just as much second time round.

**Sunday lunch 17 Dec** – Join us for lunch and a friendly chat at the **Black and White Café, 45 Merrin St, Avonhead**. Meet at around 12 pm. Please, make sure you add your name to the attendance list at the church entrance. Or send an email to [jannekenyuysink@gmail.com](mailto:jannekenyuysink@gmail.com) no later than Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**SHARED LUNCH IN KNOX LOUNGE** - I would like to start having a shared lunch in the Lounge, once a month, on the second Sunday of the month. It might work like this: Anyone is welcome to come. Bring a small plate of finger food to share, which could be sandwiches, muffins, biscuits or whatever you fancy. Leave food in the Lounge when you arrive for Church. After coffee/tea in the Church following the service, move to the Lounge for lunch. If you want to come, but haven't brought any food, just come along anyway, as it usually works like the 2 fish and 5 loaves in Luke's Gospel! The first event will be held on 14 January 2024.  
Yvonne Barnes

## Advent 2023

a series of four services on the theme:  
**"Our Advent Longing"**

Searching Israel's ancient wisdom for insights, we explore three aspects of the spiritual longing of those who waited for the coming of the Messiah, with the view of articulating our current hope for the world. On the third Sunday, we tell the Christmas story in our service of Nine Lessons and Carols.



Sunday 3 December  
**Useful and Beautiful**  
Clay fashioned in the hands of God



Sunday 10 December  
**Comforted and Uncluttered**  
Peace through clarity of vision



Sunday 17 December  
**Joyful in the Story**  
Nine Lessons and Carols



Sunday 24 December  
**Born into a Living Hope**  
Travelling light and with love

*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 FIFTEEN OF THIRTY FIVE**

"The cheerful excitement of Jesus", by Jae Im Kim, Seoul, Korea.

Korean characteristics of cheerful excitement, rhythm and motion are the most important elements in my work. I must live and feel and breathe Korean culture, and with my weekly immersion in the Bible I feel inspired to transcend God's words into works of art. I see brown as the colour of Korea. It is the colour of the earth and human beings are created out of earth. The Korean word for "cheerful excitement" is "sinmyoung". For me, Jesus is cheerful excitement, and I have tried to show him in the colours of Korea out of materials which came from the earth, that is, to show his humanity as a loving loveable Christ.



2003.1.5. Leviticus 26:4~6. "두다리 꼭 짚고 자라" 2010.





### Bible readings for next week will be:

- Isaiah 40: 1-11
- Mark 1: 1-8

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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