



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service 18 February 2024



THE RAINBOW COVENANT LENT 1

The first of six services exploring the theme of covenant, "covenant" being the binding promise of God to humanity, renewed at different times in different ways, the ultimate being the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

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, WHOSE LIFE WAS FOUNDED ON THE LOVE OF GOD;
JESUS, WHOSE EVERY STEP WAS SOLID IN FAITHFULNESS;
JESUS, IN WHOSE LENTEN JOURNEY NOW WE JOIN.

Kia noho a Ihowa ki a koutou. God be with you.
MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Ode to Joy

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)



1. Rainbow, rainbow, we can see you
teasing faith, and making friends;
Noah's rainbow, you are stretching
oe'r the world, no start, no end.
Speaking boldly of commitment,
floods, disaster, put aside,
God of rainbow, florid beauty,
ever in our hearts abide!

2. Angels in temptation's desert,
you are said to comfort Christ;
you are said to keep him safely,
keep him close to Canaan's side.
Though we seldom see you winging
o'er the heav'ns of skies above,
still we claim the joy you bring us -
God's own strength and Jesus' love.

3. So we walk the road now given,
in the days unfolding now:
Covid, global warming, houses,
pains to bear we know not how.
Christ, you are our inspiration,
light in darkness, dread's release;
lead us on in faith and loving,
make of us your house of peace.

Matthew Jack (b. 1963)

Prayer of Approach - *structured around the photo on the order of service*

Wake up, young man with your big balloon and rainbow wings!
Leave your phone alone for just a minute,
and realise the meaning of your wings.

**RAINBOWS HAVE STRETCHED OVER OUR LIFE;
GOD IS DECLARING A LOVE THAT IS GIVEN FOREVER.**

Wake up young man; with big balloon and rainbow wings.
Where might they carry you?
To floods and the washing clean of the world?
To a God who's angry but then thinks again?
To a remnant floating in an ark while wrath fades from the frame?

**RAINBOWS PUT COLOURS INTO YOUR WINGS.
TO WHERE MIGHT YOU FLY?**

Wake up, the whole earth!
To you God has said "I am for you".
I live for you.
I die for you.
I shall rise for you.
Wake up, and take your rainbow wings.
**FLY TO WHEREVER PROMISE LIVES,
FLY THROUGH THIS WONDERFUL SEASON OF THE COVENANT.**

While the young man prizes himself from his phone,
and the rainbow wings ready him to take flight,
WE WORSHIP OUR GOD IN THE SILENCE.

Silence

God, while the young man wakes up,
and some of the world with him,
we long have known the story of your covenant,
a "long ago" pledge forever of love.
"Love abides" someone later will say.
**IN RESPONSE,
WE WONDER ABOUT OUR CAPACITY
TO BE ABIDING AND TRUE.**

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:

God of the universe,
your first work was to command creation to be.
Soon, though, you needed to find a new language,
to deal with a creation that did not cooperate.
After a sad, disastrous flood,
you took upon yourself a commitment only to love,
never to destroy.
**AS WE BEGIN OUR LENTEN JOURNEY,
ENABLE US ALSO TO TURN FROM DESTRUCTION,
TO EMBRACE COVENANT LOVE.**

Never again will the world be destroyed.

**NEVER AGAIN,
IN THE NAME OF LOVE!**

Such is our prayer,
even as we pray it, in the name of Jesus,
using the words he gave us,
as together we say

**E TO MATOU MATUA I TE RANGI,
KIA TAPU TOU INGOA.
KIA TAE MAI TOU RANGATIRATANGA.
KIA MEATIA TAU E PAI AI
KI RUNGA TE WHENUA
KIA RITE ANO KI TO TE RANGI.
HOMAI KI A MATOU AIANEI
HE TARO MA MATOU MO TENEI RA.
MURUA A MATOU HARA,
ME MATOU HOKI E MURU NEI
I O TE HUNGA E HARA ANA KI A MATOU.
AUA HOKI MATOU E KAWEA KIA WHAKAWAIA;
ENGARI WHAKAORANGIA MATOU I TE KINO:
NOU HOKI TE RANGATIRATANGA,
TE KAHA, ME TE KORORIA,
AKE AKE AKE.
AMINE.**

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: Genesis 9: 8-17

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

Reflection: Learning from the flood

Knox Singers: I give to you a new commandment
Text: John 13: 34-35
Peter Nardone (b. 1965)

The Gospel Lesson: Mark 1: 9-15

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

Reflection: Jesus lives the "never again"

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/p5SAyBMuhW4>

Hymn:

Heinlein

Nürnbergisches Gesangbuch, 1677, alt.

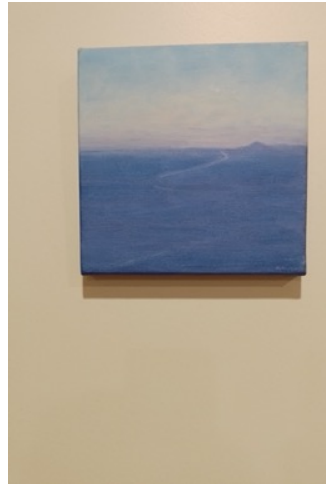


1. Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.
2. Sunbeams scorching day by day;
chilly dewdrops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about thy way;
stones thy pillow; earth thy bed.
3. Shall not we thy sorrows share,
learn thy discipline of will,
and, like thee, by fast and prayer
wrestle with the powers of ill?
4. If the tempter, vexing sore,
flesh and spirit should assail,
thou, our truth, our way, our life,
will not suffer us to fail.

5. Watching, praying, struggling thus,
victory ours at last shall be;
angels minister to us
as they ministered to thee.

*George Smyttan (1822-1870)
and Francis Pott (1832-1909), alt.*

Meditation: a challenge to see colour in your life
(this could be tried at home)



Hymn:

Lucerna Laudoniae

David Evans (1874-1948)



1. For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
*Christ our God, to you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*
2. For the beauty of each hour,
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,
Christ our God . . .
3. For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight,
Christ our God . . .
4. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
pleasures pure and undefiled,
Christ our God . . .
5. For each perfect gift divine
to our race so freely given,
joys bestowed by love's design,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
Christ our God . . .

Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917), alt.

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Len Pierce

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

God of covenant love,
we offer the colours in our life,
the bright bits,
the shadowed bits,
the gawdy and refined bits.

**YOU WILL MAKE OF THEM
A RAINBOW WONDER.**

We offer the food and the money that we have gathered,
HOPING IT WILL SERVE YOUR PLAYFUL, COLOURFUL WILL.

Will you use all that is offered
to assure all people
**THAT HEAVEN IS FRIENDLY
AND RAINBOW PROMISE IS REAL.
AMEN.**

Notices

The Lenten Litany:

O Christ,
your response to the temptations in the desert
set you free to be true to God
in whose covenant love we always are held.
Along the Lenten path,
LEAD US LORD JESUS.

O Christ,
your life made new again
our connection to the ancient promise
that our being held in God's arms
was never going to be taken away.
Covenant is covenant;
heart is heart.
Along the Lenten path,
LEAD US LORD JESUS.

God of love,
as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us,
so may we give ourselves to you,
living according to your will.

**KEEP OUR FEET FIRMLY IN THE WAY WHERE CHRIST LEADS US,
THIS LENT, AND ALL OUR DAYS.**

AMEN.

Hymn:

Crucifer

Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947)



*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
'Till all the world adore his glorious name!*

1. Come Christian people, sing your praises, shout!
If we are silent, even stones cry out . . .
2. Jesus, you wept to see our human strife,
Teach us compassion for each human life . . .
3. Peace was your plea and peace your loving theme
Let peace be our passport, peace a living dream . . .
4. Great is the cost of walking on this road,
To follow and suffer with the Son of God . . .
5. Worlds to be born and children yet to be
Come, take up this song into eternity . . .

Shirley Murray (1931-2020)

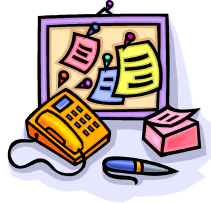
based on George William Kitchin (1827-1912) alt.

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Praeludium in A minor
Georg Bohm (1661-1733)

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

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NOTICES

This Week: 18 February – 24 February
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
12.00pm Lunch at Black & White Cafe
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: 25 February – 2 March
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
11.30am Len's Study Group in Committee Room
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Len's Study Group – Quest for the Sacred Feminine - Meeting in the Committee Room at 11.30am on Sunday 25 February.

Items for Te Whare Roimata: A reminder of useful items that Te Whare Roimata love to receive: Porridge sachets, coffee sachets, canned food, hygiene products, cereal and non-perishable goods. Many thanks.

Knox Life: It's that time again! Knox Life is due out next month and we would love any contribution you feel you can make – photos / stories or both. Send to Lynda in the office. Looking forward to hearing from you.

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.

SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY, 2024, 4PM
KNOX CHURCH, BEALEY AVENUE

Hugh Morris, Director of the RSCM
Dr Matthew Jack, Minister Knox Church

An opportunity to sing hymns from all ages
Hear of the wide range of resources available
from the RSCM for all situations.

The Canterbury branch of the
Royal School of Church Music
presents

Past, Present and Future

free entry

FLOWERS DURING LENT

Assisted by some wonderful others, Rochelle and Barbara organise flowers every Sunday for Knox. Their small but wonderfully cleverly managed garden provides many of the flowers we enjoy week by week. The other day, Rochelle found a short article with some Lenten suggestions in it. It's pasted below. See if you can see how the suggested principles are being worked out at Knox.

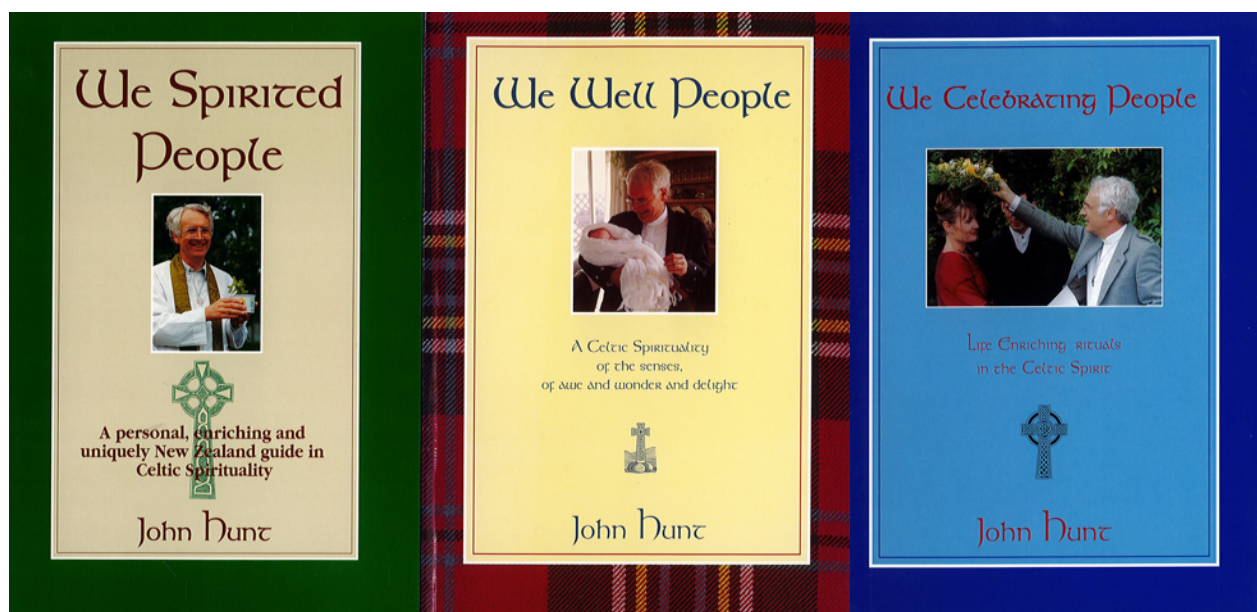
"Lent is a time of repentance, sacrifice and self-denial. During Lent, the physical appearance of the church reflects these aspects of the Lenten season. Decorations are minimal and the few that are used are spiritually significant. Whatever decorations are selected for the Lenten season will be used from Ash Wednesday until Holy Thursday. Decorations are changed on Good Friday, when the death of Jesus Christ is solemnly remembered and observed by the church. On Easter Sunday, decorations will change to reflect the joy of the resurrection.

Use dried arrangements instead of fresh flowers during Lent to signify the austerity of the season. Place rocks, bare tree branches and other symbols associated with the Scripture readings of the Lenten season throughout the altar.

John Hunt books

Retiring from his work at Caxton Press, someone found a forgotten supply of John Hunt's three books on Celtic spirituality, and returned them to Lesley. If you would like one (or three or more), please feel free to take one from the little Pasifika table at the front of the church.

They come to you with Lesley's love.





Tena koutou katoa

The season of Lent emerged out of the practice of preparing new converts for Baptism on Easter Eve or Easter Day. By the middle of the fourth-century, a 40-day preparation period had been established. Later, Lent became a time for all Christians to prepare for Easter. It remains a 40-day long period, not counting Sundays; Sundays are considered 'little Easters', celebrating the Resurrection.

While Lent is no longer seen as a time to enter into a period of excessive gloom and self-denial, it remains a season that invites people into a more reflective mood.

We hear of people 'giving something up for Lent'. Some give up particular foods for the season. Others give up things like television, Facebook, obsessive use of mobile phones and so on. All of this is designed to help reflect on what is important in life, to focus on the needs of the spirit, to think of one's faith commitment, to identify with the majority of the world's population who have so little.

Others prefer to 'take up' something new instead, something that will make a difference. Taking time each day to read and reflect on Scripture, to reconcile themselves to someone they have fallen out with or don't like, to volunteer for a worthy project, to be in contact with people they have neglected, to pick up rubbish in the neighbourhood, and so on. Again, this is about being intentional in looking at one's life and contributing something positive to the community.

'Giving up' something can carry with it the sense of it being a grind, doing it through clenched teeth! However, often when we give up something we gain something valuable.

I recall a recovering alcoholic telling me of the experience of giving up drinking. For years his family had told him he had a problem, but he didn't see it. One night a television programme on alcoholism spoke powerfully to him and he started his journey of sobriety. He reflected on how much he had 'gained' through this. A whole new world opened up - the world looked, smelt and tasted different. He observed colours he hadn't seen for a long time. Relationships with his family and friends improved. Giving up can lead to freedom.

The season of Lent can be used as an opportunity to slow down, take stock, and reflect upon the direction of our own lives. We contemplate Jesus' journey to the cross and what that means for us.

Giving up. Taking up. Reflecting on Jesus's journey to the cross. Let this Lenten season be a time of growing deeper into our faith and seeing the fruits of this play out in our lives and the communities in which we live.

Kia tau te Rangimarie
Rose

Right Rev Rose Luxford
Moderator

Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand
moderator@presbyterian.org.nz

Lent 2024 - Season of the Covenant

25 February

Lent 2

Covenant in the Stars



Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 - God makes a covenant with Abraham and Sarah, promising them that they will be ancestors of a multitude of nations.

Romans 4: 13-25 - Looking back and noting that Abraham's future was secured by faith in the promise of God, Paul rejoices that faith in the resurrection of Jesus is the basis for our future.

3 March

Lent 3 - Communion

Covenant in Commandment



Exodus 20:1-17 - God calls the people to express their commitment to the covenant by living a peculiar form of life.

Jesus puts an end to any suggestion that our peculiar form of life means anything other than love and joy (which sum up the commandments).

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 TWENTY FOUR OF THIRTY FIVE

"Loving the Children", by Joe Meck, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

When Jesus was on earth teaching men, women and children about the Kingdom of God, he also spoke to them about going back to his Father to prepare a place for them. He prayed for his Father's protection and blessing upon them, particularly the children.





The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16
- Romans 4: 13-25

Knox Directory

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Ōtautahi Christchurch 8013

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Office hours:
Monday - Friday, 9.00am-noon

Visit our website

<http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/>



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voicemail at home (03) 3570 111

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jeremy.woodside89@gmail.com

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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