



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service 25 February 2024



COVENANT IN THE STARS LENT 2

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.

Music printed in this order of service is covered
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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 Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem

The Order of St Lazarus was named after a character in one of Jesus' parables - Lazarus, a poor man with leprosy. The order chose him as the figure head, since it had a special concern to care for people with leprosy. These days, the order sponsors all manner of charitable causes, but still has a concern for matters related to physical health. The local branch appreciates the opportunity to visit congregations of diverse denominations and gently spreads the word about its work. We welcome members of the Canterbury branch today, including its co-commanders Rob Cope-Williams and Gareth Turner.

The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, INSPIRING MANY TO EMBARK ON A JOURNEY OF FAITH;
JESUS, OPENING OUR EYES TO SIGNS OF GRACE ON THE ROAD;
JESUS, JOURNEYING THROUGH THE CROSS TO RISEN LIFE.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Blaenwern

William Penfro Rowlands (1860-1937)



1. God who sets us on a journey
to discover, dream and grow,
lead us as you led your people
in the desert long ago;
journey inward, journey outward,
stir the spirit, stretch the mind,
love for God and self and neighbour
marks the way that Christ defined.
2. Exploration brings new insights,
changes, choices we must face;
give us wisdom in deciding,
mindful always of your grace;
should we stumble, lose our bearings,
find it hard to know what's right,
we regain our true direction
focused on the Jesus light.
3. End our longing for the old days,
grant the vision that we lack –
once we've started on this journey
there can be no turning back ;
let us travel light, discarding
excess baggage from our past,
cherish only what's essential,
choosing treasure that will last.

4. When we set up camp and settle
to avoid love's risk and pain,
you disturb complacent comfort,
pull the tent pegs up again;
keep us travelling in the knowledge
you are always at our side;
give us courage for the journey,
Christ our goal and Christ our guide.

Joy Dine (1937 – 2001)

Prayer of Approach

Abraham and Sarah are called onto a journey,
to leave their home behind,
striding out to find the coming true
of a fabulous promise.

Shall we join them?

**IN PRAISE,
WE SAY YES TO THE JOURNEY.**

The Exodus people
are set on a road to freedom,
or should that be "road *of* freedom"?
Forty years of travelling,
of finding out who they are,
of getting closer to the will of God.

Shall we join them?

**IN PRAISE,
WE SAY YES TO THE JOURNEY.**

Jesus sets out in search of the kingdom.

Will he grow into the Christ?

Will he need to carry a cross?

Will there be nails?

And shall we join him?

**IN PRAISE,
WE SAY YES TO THE JOURNEY.**

God, you have put us on a journey,
and we are learning,
beneath the wisdom of your covenant story,
to say "yes".

For the speaking of the promise,
the pledging of the covenant,
for the slow dawning glory

of the way of the Son of God,
we pray we might be able, with praise to say:
**YES,
INDEED YES
TO THE JOURNEY.**

Silence

We confess to God,
and to one another,
that sometimes we lack the courage
or the creativity
to be people of the covenant journey.
We prefer the status quo of the world not yet reformed:
the hurt, the war, the godless landscape -
and so we hurt the world
and the people around us.

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:

Covenanting God,
whose heart is pledged
not just for the preservation of the world,
but also for the flourishing of the people,
**GRANT THAT THE ECHOES OF THE COVENANT
MADE WITH ABRAHAM AND SARAH
MIGHT CAUSE US TO SET FORTH IN FAITH,
IN FIND THE FLOWING FORTH
OF ABUNDANT LIFE.**

We pray this in the name of Jesus,
with whom we walk road,
and who taught us to pray,
as together we say

. . . **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: Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-17

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

A Reflection: Stars and giggles

Generally, reflections are posted on our website shortly after the service at:
<http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/sermons.html> Hard copies are available before and after the service – ask the person at the door. A video of today's two reflections is available from 10:00am today: <https://youtu.be/buoBqqN1LgI>

Hymn:

Leoni

Hebrew Synagogue Melody



1. The God of Abraham praise
all praises to God's name,
who was and is and is to be,
fore'er the same!

The one eternal God,
before what now appears;
the First, the Last: beyond all thought
through timeless years!

2. The God of Sarah praise,
all praise the God of life,
who takes our fear and laughing scorn
who bears our doubt and strife,
whose promise, standing strong,
endures unto the end,
who calls our hope and worship now
to heav'n ascend.
3. God's spirit freely flows,
high surging where it will;
God spoke of old in prophets word;
that word speaks still.
Established is God's law,
and changeless it shall stand,
deep written on the human heart,
in every land.
4. God has eternal life
implanted in the soul;
God's love shall be our strength and stay,
while ages roll.
All praise the living God!
Extol that hallowed name,
who was and is, and ever shall
be still the same.

*Vv 1, 3 & 4, Thomas Olivers (1725-1799), alt.
V 2, Matthew Jack (b. 1963)*

The Second Lesson: Romans 4: 13-25

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

A Reflection: Moving beyond the laughter

Music for Reflection: O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig, BWV 618
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Janet Wilson

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

God grant us will this week
**TO EXPLORE THE WORLD
THROUGH THE EYES OF FAITH.**

May we see the opportunities
to nurture hope
**AND TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE
THROUGH DEEDS OF LOVE.**

And may God bless the offering we dedicate here,
**THAT THE MONEY, FOOD AND ATTITUDE
MIGHT SERVE WELL
THE PROGRESS OF THE LENTEN JOURNEY.
AMEN.**

Notices

The Lenten Litany:

O Christ,
whose life was an act of faith,
who walked boldly as if the covenant were true,
who inspired many to hope for things as yet unseen,
you are our Lenten Lord.
Along the Lenten path,
LEAD US LORD JESUS.

O Christ,
whose death and resurrection
stand on the far horizon of this Lenten journey,
you call us to nurture the promise
with openness and hope.
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:

Dunedin

Vernon Griffiths (1894-1985)



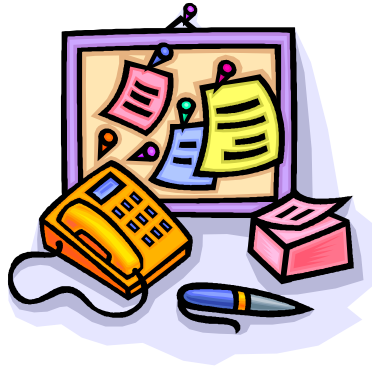
1. Forth in your name, O Lord, I go,
my daily labour to pursue;
you, only you, resolved to know,
in all I think, or speak, or do.
2. The task your wisdom has assigned
O let me cheerfully fulfil;
in all my works your presence find,
and prove your good and perfect will.
3. You may I set at my right hand,
whose eyes my inmost substance view,
and labour on at your command,
and offer all my works to you.
4. Give me to bear your easy yoke,
and every moment watch and pray,
and still on things eternal look
and hasten to your glorious day;
5. for you delightfully employ
whate'er your bounteous grace has given,
and run my course with even joy,
and closely walk with you to heaven.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Kyrie, Gott Vater in Ewigkeit, BWV 669
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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



NOTICES

This Week:	25 February – 2 March	
Sunday	10.00am	Morning Worship
	11.30am	Len's Study Group in Committee Room
Wednesday	10.00am	Bible Study
Next Week:	3 March – 9 March	
Sunday	10.00am	Morning Worship
	5.00pm	Film Group – Finding Neverland
Wednesday	10.00am	Bible Study

Sunday 3 March 5pm: Finding Neverland (2004) - Do you know the beloved story of Peter Pan? Written by the Scottish playwright J.M. Barrie, the play premiered in 1904 and was an instant success. But how did the author, a highly respected literary playwright in London, come upon the idea of a play for and about children, featuring the boy who never grew up? This film gives the answers. Superbly acted, with Johnny Depp as a convincing James Barrie, this film is a joy to watch. A special thanks to Rose Winn who will be our projectionist for March, April and May.

Easter Day Breakfast – 31 March 2024 - As we have done in other years, we will be celebrating Easter Day with breakfast on Sunday 31 March. Breakfast will be served from 8.30am – 9.15am in the Knox Lounge. Breakfast - Fruit and Cereal: Scrambled Eggs and Bacon: Toast and Spread: Tea/Coffee. Cost - \$10 per person. There are clipboards by both doors to be filled in by Sunday 24 March. We need to get an idea of numbers for food ordering but there will be enough food for extras.

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

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.

CLASSICAL HEBREW WORD FOR RAINBOW

The Hebrew word translated in the English New Revised Standard Version of the Bible as rainbow is קשת (keshet). The same word is used in Hebrew for arch or the bow that propels arrows - so it's essentially about shape, rather than colour or location. BUT in Hebrew it makes sense to talk about "all the colours of the keshet". When a bow is in the sky, the Hebrew speaker will think "rainbow" but say "bow". There is no separate word for rainbow.

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.



*Maksim Kuzminov, died at 29,
shot multiple times and run over by his own car in Spain
13 February, 2024*

Lent 2024

Season of the Covenant

3 March - 10:00am

Lent 3 - Communion Covenant in Commandment



Exodus 20:1-17 - The people are called to express their commitment to the covenant by living a peculiar form of life that is honourable to people and to God.

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

10 March - 10:00am

Lent 4 Covenant Wobbles



Numbers 21: 4-9 - A plague of snakes threatens the people's commitment to covenant life, but God finds a strange solution.

Ephesians 2: 1-10 - Paul notes that we, whose hope was dead, were brought back to life through a resurrection that, ostensibly, made no sense. "This is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."

17 March - 10:00am

Lent 5 Covenant with Heart



Jeremiah 31: 31-34 - God promises to make a new covenant. Not like the old one, *this* one will be written on the hearts of the people - making God's presence obvious.

John 12: 20-33 - Jesus notes that when the heart gets involved, it's not only deeper, but more costly. "Whoever serves me must follow me" - covenant calls for sacrifice.

24 March - 10:00am

Lent 6 - Palm Sunday Walking the Covenant Talk



After reading the Palm Narrative (Mark 11: 1-11), we do our annual Palm Procession along a short stretch of Bealey Ave.

Isaiah 50: 4-9a - A meditation on what might have moved Jesus on Palm Sunday to "walk the covenant talk", and how he might have seen the depth of the shadows.

28 March - 7:30pm
Maundy Thursday - Tenebrae
The Covenant Meal
Communion



Exodus 12: 1-14 - The Covenant people are instructed to prepare for the flight from Egypt by celebrating a particular meal.

What kind of life are they being called to as they prepare to leave their homes and begin the great trek to freedom and a new home? As we join them, but moved by Christ's revisionist meal, what do we expect? We end the service with the Litany of the Shadows, during which the light in the church is extinguished.

29 March - 10:00am
Good Friday
The Covenant Broken



Psalms 22: 1-11 - A reflection on the question "My God, why have you forsaken me", as we consider the death of the Living Covenant Christ. His words speak for all forsaken people.

We read the full Passion Narrative from John's gospel.

Fa'anana Efeso Collins (1974-2024)



Matthew sent (10/04/22, 2:16 PM)

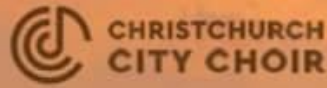
Talofa Efeso. Alas, I am no longer an Aucklander, now residing in the lovely Ōtautahi, but I hope all my Auckland family vote for you. I think (from what I've seen of you on TV) that you would be a fabulous mayor.

Fa'anana Efeso (10/04/22, 6:19 PM)

Talofa Matt, thanks heaps for the note really appreciate the support. Hope that life in Christchurch is well and you're happy and well. Big campaign effort ahead and will give it our best shot. God bless, Efeso

In his maiden speech in parliament just a short while ago, he spoke about his values and hopes for the country. Given the relative underrepresentation in parliament of Pasifika people, he was an inspiration to many, particularly in his home neighbourhood of South Auckland. His maiden speech is online:

https://newsroom.co.nz/2024/02/21/efeso-collins-maiden-statement-to-the-house/?fbclid=IwAR2HByTsbnP09NHdaUZavQ_F5Pd8H6k2jqXsp4WSzvjP48pzTgmkLV1D39M



Come And Sing

Requiem by John Rutter

23 March 2024

Knox Church, Bealey Avenue

Conductor Dr. John Linker

Featuring Jeremy Woodside (Organ) and Nicola Holt (Soprano)

Christchurch City Choir welcomes all singers to join in the preparation and performance of Rutter's Requiem.

Register for the Workshop (10am-12noon, 1-2.30pm)

at info@citychoir.co.nz

Concert at 3pm

Tickets available through Humanitix, \$25 and \$15
or at the door (cash only please).

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 FIVE OF THIRTY FIVE

"Bigpela Long Ol Pipol", by John Siune, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

Jesus is very happy to come to the village to meet all the people, old men, mothers, babies, young men, girls, because he loves them all, all creatures, even village dogs.

My people like to put feathers, flowers and decorations in hair, to paint faces with bright colours, and to wear necklaces of pigs tusks, shells or beads for special ceremonies and visitors.





The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Exodus 20: 1-17

Knox Directory

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Monday - Friday, 9.00am-noon

Visit our website

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



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minister@knoxchurch.co.nz
voicemail at home (03) 3570 111

Church Council Clerk: Janet Wilson,
ph. (03) 338 7203

Organist: Jeremy Woodside
jeremy.woodside89@gmail.com

Pastoral Visitors:
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<http://g8m8zinbayst@gmail.com>
+64 272499741 (Linda's mobile)
+64 220667626 (Norman's mobile)



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