



# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service 3 March 2024



## COVENANT IN COMMANDMENT A COMMUNION SERVICE LENT 3



## **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.

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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 Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, IN WHOSE PRESENCE HIS PEOPLE FOUND A HOLY BALANCE;  
JESUS, REVEALING TO US WHAT LIVES AT THE HEART OF THE LAW;  
JESUS, CALLING US TO BE PEOPLE OF LENTEN LOVE AND JOY.**

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

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

### Hymn:

Kingsfold

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)



1. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Come unto me and rest,  
lay down, O weary one, lay down  
your head upon my breast,"  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
weary and worn and sad;  
I found in him a resting-place,  
and he has made me glad.
2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Behold, I freely give  
the living water; thirsty one,  
stoop down and drink and live."  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
and now I live in him.

3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“I am this dark world’s Light;  
look unto me, your morn shall rise,  
and all your day be bright.”  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my Star, my Sun;  
and in that Light of life I’ll walk  
till travelling days are done.

*Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)*

### **Prayer of Approach**

Should we hear the voice of Jesus calling to us,  
offering us a place to rest,  
a breast upon which to lay our muddled heads,  
**WE KNOW IT WOULD BE GOOD  
TO DO JUST THAT.**

Should we hear the voice of Jesus calling to us,  
offering us living water to revive the soul,  
**WE KNOW THAT WE WOULD DRINK.**

Should we hear the voice of Jesus calling to us,  
to look to him for the rising of our hearts  
and the coming of the light,  
**WE KNOW THAT WE WOULD TURN OUR EYES TO HIM.**

But what then?

How then would we mark in our living  
the gratitude we have for him?  
How would we celebrate who he is?  
How would we know that our living,  
praying, hoping and praising  
is an offering bringing delight to his heart?

**WE COVENANT PEOPLE  
LONG TO KNOW WHAT GOD IF NOT REQUIRES,  
THEN AT LEAST FINDS PRECIOUS.**

Shall we offer thousands of rams,  
**RIVERS OF OIL?**

Shall we burn our year-old calves  
**OR OFFER OUR FIRST-BORN FOR OUR TRANSGRESSION?**

It is easy, great God,  
**TO GET THIS WRONG.**

And so, as we keep a silence,  
**GOD, SEARCH OUR HEARTS.**

*Silence*

We think, O God,  
that we do know what a good response to your love might be -  
because we have seen it in Jesus.

But we must confess  
that his life and our life provide some contrasts:

faithfulness  
**AND UNFAITHFULNESS.**

Love  
**AND HATE.**

Truth  
**AND LIES.**

By his actions, he makes those around him better,  
**BY OURS, OUR WORLD IS MADE WORSE.**

So 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:**

Great God of the patient heart,  
who revealed your love  
by re-stating in every age  
your covenant promise,  
you gifted your people  
with a vision of a covenant life.

**GIVE US THE GRACE TO SEE THE VISION,  
TO LONG FOR ITS EMBODYMENT,  
AND TO GIVE OURSELVES  
TO BE YOUR PEOPLE.**

We pray this in the name of Jesus.  
**AMEN.**

## The Notices

The Scripture Lesson: Exodus 20: 1-17

In this is the Word of God.

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Knox Singers: God so loved the world, from The Crucifixion  
John Stainer (1840-1901)

Sermon: Give us a clue

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/pmpvb-bK6bQ>

## Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*To the minister's words*

"Called by the covenant God to engage with our deeper selves",  
*you are invited to respond* **"WE OFFER OUR COVENANT RESPONSE."**

. . . **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:

Brother James's Air

James Leith Macbeth Bain (1860-1925)



1. The Lord's my shepherd: I'll not want;  
he makes me down to lie  
in pastures green: he leadeth me  
the quiet waters by,  
in pastures green: he leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.
2. My soul he doth restore again,  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
e'en for his own name's sake,  
within the paths of righteousness,  
e'en for his own name's sake.

3. Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear no ill;  
for thou art with me, and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still,  
for thou art with me, and thy rod,  
and staff me comfort still.
4. My table thou hast furnishèd  
in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil anoint  
and my cup overflows,  
my head thou dost with oil anoint  
and my cup overflows.
5. Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me;  
and in God's house for evermore  
my dwelling place shall be,  
and in God's house for evermore  
my dwelling place shall be.

*Scottish Psalter (1650)*

*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.**

*We stand for*  
**The Lenten Litany:**

O Christ,  
you opened up the commandments,  
so that everyone could see what lay at their heart.  
You guided your people  
in making a good covenant response.  
Along the Lenten path,  
**LEAD US LORD JESUS.**

O Christ,  
even in a season of lengthening shadows,  
you call us never to lose our vision  
of a life that is balanced and beautiful,  
honourable and good.  
You enshrine this in how you love and serve.  
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:**

The Ash Grove

Welsh Folk Melody



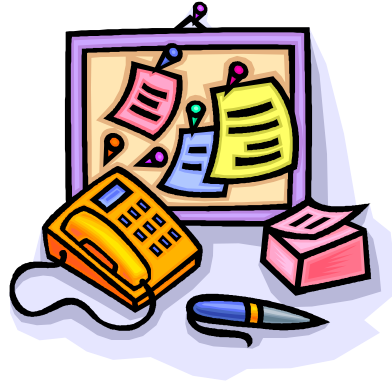
1. Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,  
the body of Christ from this dwelling take leave.  
Our worship now ended. Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of God's teaching, receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us  
to work for the gospel and answer the call.
2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,  
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.  
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children of each time and place.  
With your love you feed us, with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving  
give honour to Christ and His name that we bear.

*Omer Westendorf (1916-1997)*

**Benediction and Sung Amen**

**Postlude:** Con moto maestoso from Sonata no. 3 in A  
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)  
This piece incorporates the Lenten hymn tune "Aus der Tiefe"

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



## NOTICES

**This Week: 3 March – 9 March**  
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship  
05.00pm Film Group – Finding Neverland  
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

**Next Week: 10 March – 16 March**  
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship  
11.30am Len's Study Group in Committee Room  
11.30 / 12 Shared lunch in Lounge  
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.

**Len's Study Group – Quest for the Sacred Feminine** - Meeting in the Committee Room at 11.30am on Sunday 10 March.

**Shared Lunch** – On 10 March we are holding another shared lunch. This time it will be in the Lounge. Just bring along a small plate of finger food which can be left in the kitchen/lounge before Church or brought with you after coffee/tea in the Church. If you wish to come but had forgotten about it, just come along anyway. There is always enough to share. All welcome.

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

**Knox Life:** It's that time again! Knox Life is due out in March 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 within the next week or maybe two but the sooner the better.

## **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.

**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.**



*Moses breaks the tablets  
Rembrandt, 1659*

# Lent 2024

## Season of the Covenant

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.

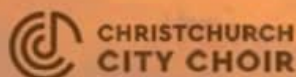
Isaiah 50: 4-9a - A meditation on what might have moved Jesus on Palm Sunday to "walk the covenant talk", and how he might have seen the depth of the shadows.

28 March - 7:30pm

### Maundy Thursday - Tenebrae The Covenant Meal



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



# 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](mailto: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 SIX OF THIRTY FIVE**

"Fishing with the children", by Oscar Towa, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

Jesus likes to be with children in the village as he can laugh, sing, play games and share meals with them, but now Jesus has taken the children out in a canoe for fishing, always fun and exciting for children.

They all are very happy to catch fish. Even the pukpuk (crocodile) face on the prow of the canoe is happy.





### Bible readings for next week will be:

- Numbers 21: 4-9
- Ephesians 2: 1-10

## Knox Directory

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Monday - Friday, 9.00am-noon

Visit our website  
<http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/>



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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