



# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service

22 September 2024



# SIGHT

**A SERVICE ON THE FOURTH SUNDAY  
IN THE SEASON OF CREATION**

EXPLORING THE SENSES THROUGH WHICH  
WE ENGAGE WITH THE CREATED ORDER

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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.

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, VISIBLE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD;  
JESUS, NEITHER COMPREHENDED NOR OVERCOME BY THE DARKNESS;  
JESUS, THROUGH WHOM GOD'S GLORY MOST CLEARLY WAS SEEN.**

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

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

### Hymn:

Laast Uns Erfreuen

from Geistliche Kirchengesäng 1623



1. To you, O God, all creatures sing  
and all creation, everything  
sings your praises, alleluia!  
Your burning sun with golden beam  
your silver moon with softer gleam  
sing your praises, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
2. Your wind that blows the tempest by,  
your clouds that sail across the sky  
sing your praises, alleluia!  
Your morning rises with a song,  
and lights of evening sing along,  
sing your praises, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
3. Earth's colours, beautiful and bright,  
stars shining in the dark of night,  
sing your praises, alleluia!  
Faces of those we know and love,  
drawing our eyes to you above,  
sing your praises, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
4. Now we who are of tender heart,  
forgiving others, take our part,  
sing your praises, alleluia!  
Christ goes before us to renew  
the way that leads us home to you.  
Hear our praises, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*William Henry Draper (1855-1933)  
from Cantic of the Sun, Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)  
adapted by Miriam Therese Winter,  
third verse, Matthew Jack (b. 1963)*

### **Prayer of Approach**

God of all the senses,  
by whose great wisdom and goodness it all is held together,  
sometimes we cannot help but be amazed  
at how beautiful is this world in which you have placed us,  
**HOW INTERESTING IT IS TO OBSERVE,  
HOW FULL OF LIGHT AND COLOUR,  
HOW ENTERTAINING IS ITS WEIRDNESS AND WONDER.**

Who could have made such a miracle?

**ONLY THE ONE TO WHOM WE SING OUR PRAISES!**

You gave us eyes to see it,  
hearts to embrace it,  
faculties of mind to consider it.  
How beautiful it is!

**FROM WITHIN IT ALL,  
WE OFFER SILENT WORSHIP.**

Silence

We confess, our God,  
that sometimes we prefer not to see your creation.  
For within it we witness the need of others,  
**THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY,  
THOSE WHO ARE THIRSTY,  
THOSE WHO ARE NAKED.**

When these come into our view,  
often we will turn away,  
saying sometimes that they don't exist.  
But they **do**,  
and in our behaving blindly towards them,  
we turn away from you.  
And 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.**

### **Theme Prayer:**

O God,  
who have given us eyes with which to enjoy the world,  
to read stories, to recognise faces,  
to see the fingerprints of divine creativity in our lives,

**ENLIGHTEN ALSO THE EYES OF OUR HEARTS,  
THAT WE MIGHT COMPREHEND  
THE BLESSEDNESS OF THE LOVE  
IN WHICH WE STAND.**

We pray this in the name of Jesus,  
using the words he gave 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.

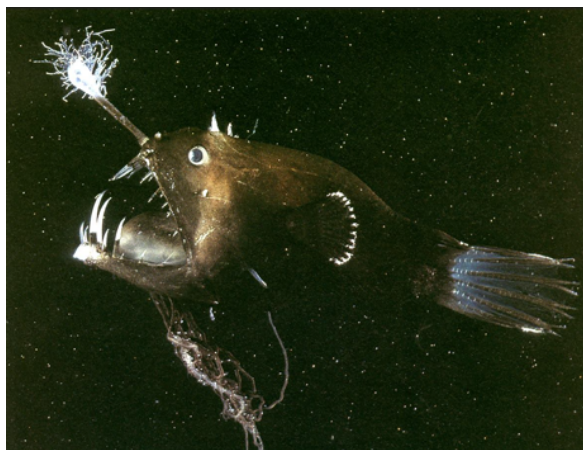
**A KI A KOE ANO HOKI;  
AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

*We exchange a sign of peace with one another.*

### **A Series of Readings, Reflections and Hymns**

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  
these reflections being practised is available from 10:00am today:  
<https://youtu.be/z9aajSw05Mg>

**Introduction:** For the tohu va-bohu



**Anthem:** Ave Maria  
Michael Head (1900-1976),  
Mezzo-soprano, Margot Button

**Lesson:** Matthew 25: 31-40  
Christ is present among the people.  
**MAY OUR EYES BE OPEN TO SEE HIM.**

**Reflection:** Looking for familiar eyes

*We remain seated to sing*

**Hymn:**

Lauds

John W Wilson (1905-1992)



1. There's a spirit in the air,  
telling Christians everywhere:  
"Praise the love that Christ revealed,  
living, working in our world".
2. When believers break the bread,  
when a hungry child is fed,  
praise the love that Christ revealed,  
living, working in our world.
3. Still the Spirit gives us light,  
seeing wrong and setting right:  
God in Christ has come to stay.  
Live tomorrow's life today.
4. When a stranger's not alone,  
where the homeless find a home,  
praise the love that Christ revealed,  
living, working in our world.
5. There's a Spirit in the air,  
calling people everywhere:  
"Praise the love that Christ revealed,  
living, working in our world."

*Brian Arthur Wren (b. 1936)*

**Lesson:** Ephesians 1: 15-23

In this is the Word of God.

**MAY OUR HEARTS PERCEIVE IT.**

**Reflection:** Eyes of the heart

*We remain seated to sing*

**Hymn:**

Concord

Robert James Berkeley Fleming (1921-1976)



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Let there be light,<br>Let there be understanding,<br>Let all the nations gather,<br>Let them be face to face. | 3. Perish the sword,<br>Perish the angry judgment,<br>Perish the bombs and hunger,<br>Perish the fight for gain. |
| 2. Open our lips,<br>Open our minds to ponder,<br>Open the door to concord<br>Opening into grace.                 | 4. Let there be light,<br>Open our hearts to wonder,<br>Perish the way of terror,<br>Hallow the world God made.  |

*Frances Wheeler Davis (b.1936)*

**Epilogue**

**Prayers for Others and Ourselves**

*led by Janet Wilson*

**The Offering and Dedication**

*We stand for the dedication of the Offering*

O God, you chased the tohu va-bohu  
to the edges of the world.  
You created a beautiful order,  
the beholding of which fills our souls.

**MAY THE OFFERING WE BRING,  
CONTRIBUTE TO THE BEAUTY OF THE WORLD,  
WITH THE HUNGRY, THE THIRSTY AND THE NAKED  
BEING BLESSED.**

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

**Notices**

**Hymn:**

**New Directions**

Barry Brinson (b. 1939)



1. Christ has changed the world's direction!  
Christ can change the human heart:  
agents of the new creation  
mend the people torn apart;  
so are we  
charged to be  
go-betweens for unity.
2. Peace will be our way of thinking:  
common wealth and common state.  
Gone the wounds, the words and weapons  
that conspire to hurt and hate,  
and no power  
shall devour  
earth or air where peace might flower.
3. Debts and doubts will be forgiven,  
cancelled in the name of God,  
olive trees again be planted  
there where soldiers' boots have trod,  
hunger fed,  
terror fled,  
justice shining in its stead.
4. Envoys of a High Commission,  
gifts of hope we find to share,  
Christ the Spirit reconciling,  
Christ our internet of care.  
Though we stall,  
fail or fall,  
shall we now refuse God's call?

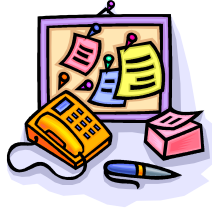
*Shirley Murray (1931-2020)*

**Benediction and Sung Amen**

**Postlude:** Fanfare  
Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)

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





## NOTICES

**This Week: 22 September – 28 September**  
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship  
11.00am AGM  
11.30am Shalom in Committee Room  
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

**Next Week: 29 September – 5 October**  
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship  
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

**Climate Change** - Dr. Richard Milne has made a presentation on "Climate change: the science and our responses" to the Shalom group. He is happy to share this with anybody who requests it from him: [richardmilne12@gmail.com](mailto:richardmilne12@gmail.com).



### Daylight Saving

Daylight saving begins at 3:00pm this coming Sunday morning (29 September). Remember to put your clock one hour forward before you go to bed on Saturday 28th, or you will arrive at church next week just as the service is ending.

**The Season of Creation** - In the last week of the "Season of Creation", we'll be exploring the sense of vestibularity.

**29 Sept The theorized extra sense - place within space**



### THE THEORISED EXTRA SENSE

While, in the olden days, it was taught that there were only five senses, now an extra vestibular sense is recognised: it is the sense of where our body is in space.

We'll use this sense to reflect on our place within our part of the world, and also our time within the times - "the signs of the times". Who are we as people of time and space?

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.



**Peace is Her Song:  
the life and legacy of Shirley Erena Murray**  
- a special book launch -

Please join author Anne Manchester, the Rev. Dr Matthew Jack and hymn writer Marnie Barrell at a special launch in Ōtautahi Christchurch of *Peace is Her Song: The life and legacy of hymn writer Shirley Erena Murray*.

**When:** 20 October, 5pm

**Where:** Knox Church Centre Hall, 28 Bealey Ave

**What to expect:** A musical celebration of Shirley's life and gifts as this country's and one of the world's most noted hymn poets.

Books will be on sale for \$50. Eftpos available.

For more information about *Peace is Her Song*, go to:

<http://www.philipgarsidebooks.com/>



## 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 30 September 2024.

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 Bible readings for next week will be:

- Genesis 28: 11-19
- 2 Timothy 4: 1-8

## 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