



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

20 October 2024



HOW DO WE CARE?

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

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 South 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, THE ETERNAL WORD, WHO WAS FROM THE BEGINNING;
JESUS, LOVING AND CARING FOR ALL WHO LIVED AROUND HIM;
JESUS, FIRST-BORN OF THE NEW CREATION.**

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 living creatures, large and small,
diverse and wondrous, one and all,
sing your praises, alleluia!
They, being true to who they are,
express their joy both wide and far,
sing your praises, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
3. 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)
based on Canticle of the Sun, Francis of Assisi (1182-
1226)
adapted by Miriam Therese Winter
third verse, Matthew Jack*

Prayer of Approach

You, O God, love and keep the earth,
and the myriad multitudes of wonderful creatures
that stride, creep, fly, walk and waddle over or upon it.

**YOU BEHOLD IT,
AND SEE THAT IT IS GOOD.**

We who have been called to join you
in appreciating them for who they are,
and to care for them, come now to sing praise.

**PRAISE AND GLORY,
LOVE AND THANKSGIVING
FOR THE WONDER OF THE ANIMALS OF THE WORLD.**

Silence

Dodo died. Moa died. Huia died.
The Canterbury knobbed weevil soon may die.

It seems that we are not such good custodians as we may have wished.

For the animals become extinct,
as for the way we have extinguished the hope of humans,
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:

Give us such an appreciation, O God,
of our place within creation, and of our responsibility to care for it,

**THAT WE MIGHT MOURN WHEN WE HAVE FAILED,
AND YET STRIVE
TO SAVE WHAT CAN BE SAVED.**

That all within your creation might be well,

**TO THE HONOURING OF YOUR WORK
THAT WE ALL KNOW IS "VERY GOOD".**

We pray this in the name of Jesus,
who taught us always to pray together, saying

**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:**

gentle company of sharing,
heaven's nature, yes, declaring;
thanks be to God.

3. For the ones who've worked in service,
thanks be to God;
serving human need and purpose,
thanks be to God;
lifting loads and bearing burdens,
giving help that's always certain,
faithful 'til the final curtain,
thanks be to God.

Matthew Jack (b. 1963)

Introduction: You never existed



We remain seated to sing

Hymn:

Coe Fen

Kenneth Nicholson Naylor (1931-1991)



1. How shall I sing that majesty
which angels do admire?
Let dust in dust and silence lie;
sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.

Thousands of thousands stand around
thy throne, O God most high;
ten thousand times ten thousand sound
thy praise; but who am I?

2. How great a being, Lord, is thine,
which doth all beings keep!
Thy knowledge is the only line
to sound so vast a deep.
Thou art a sea without a shore,
a sun without a sphere;
thy time is now and evermore,
thy place is everywhere.

John Mason (c.1645-1694)

First Lesson: Genesis 1: 1-5

Creation is older and deeper than our time on the planet.
GIVE US HUMILITY IN OUR TASK OF CARING.

Reflection: You did exist, but don't anymore

Knox Singers: All things bright and beautiful
John Rutter, (b. 1945)



Second Lesson: Genesis 1: 20-25

God says that the creation of the animals was good.
LET OUR RESPONSE ALSO BE GOOD.

Reflection: We hope you continue to exist

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 reflection being practised is available from 10:00am today: <https://youtu.be/PUIP-2PiDVs>



Hymn:

Tenderness

Colin Gibson (1933-2022)



1. Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.
2. We who endanger,
who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster
clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive.
3. Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden,
hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

4. God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ re-connect us,
using us gently and making us one.

Shirley Murray (1931-2020)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Norman Wilkins

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

In a world where we know we have responsibility
for the other creatures around us,
and where we know that some of them have ceased to be,
we pray that we might grow more and more
into our role of nurturing creation.

**SO MAY WHAT WE OFFER,
BEYOND THIS MONEY AND FOOD,,
INCLUDE OUR OPENNESS
MORE FULLY TO BE GOOD STEWARDS
OF ALL OUR WEALTH AND POWER.**

We ask 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.

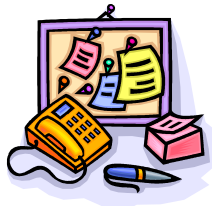
2. Peace will be our way of thinking:
common wealth and common state.
Gone the wounds, the words and weapons
that conspire to hurt and hate,
and no power
shall devour
earth or air where peace might flower.

3. 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: Penguins, from Animal Parade
Iain Farrington (b. 1977)



NOTICES

This Week:	20 October – 26 October	
Sunday	10.00am	Morning Worship
	12.00pm	Lunch at Black & White Café
Wednesday	10.00am	Bible Study
Next Week:	27 October – 2 November	
Sunday	10.00am	Morning Worship
	11.30am	Shalom
Wednesday	10.00am	Bible Study

Prayers at the Peace Bell - the Canterbury Interfaith Organisation is holding its annual Prayers for Peace gathering at the Peace Bell in the Botanic Gardens at 2:00pm on Sunday 20 October. Matthew will lead one of the prayers. Knox people are very welcome.

Cancelled Event - Unfortunately the following event has had to be cancelled - WEST PAPUAN ACTIVIST VICTOR YEIMO 7.30pm next Friday 18 October @ Knox Church Centre, cnr Bealey Ave & Victoria St.

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.



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/>



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Deuteronomy 34: 1-8
- Hebrews 7: 23-28

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