



# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service

1 December 2024



## GOD WITH US AT THE TABLE

ADVENT 2024

Waiting for Emmanuel - "God with us"

### A COMMUNION SERVICE FOR ADVENT 1

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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 South 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.

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.

A warm welcome to some members of the City Choir, who are joining the Knox Singers this morning. We hope you enjoy your experience of singing at Knox.

### **The Call to Worship:**

'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.  
Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'

*Luke 3:1-6*

We light a candle in expectation of the coming to us of the Lord Jesus Christ, whom the prophets called Emmanuel which means "God with us".

**WE WAIT FOR GOD TO BE MORE CLEARLY "GOD WITH US".  
AMEN! COME, LORD JESUS!**

## Hymn:

Veni Emmanuel

from Fifteenth Century French Processional



1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Christ of God appear.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice!*  
*Emmanuel shall come to you,*  
*O Israel!*
2. O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
and order all things far and nigh,  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
and help us in that way to go.  
*Rejoice . . .*
3. O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer  
our spirits by your advent here;  
love stir within the womb of night,  
and death's own shadows put to flight.  
*Rejoice . . .*
4. O come, Desire of Nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
make envy, strife and quarrels cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
*Rejoice . . .*

*Based on antiphons from Advent Vespers,  
trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and others, alt.*

## Prayer of Approach

His name was Jesus, O God.

It came to Mary in a vision -  
some strange angelic engagement.

So "Jesus" is tucked away at the front of the mind,  
in case the unbelievable turned out to be true.

**O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL.**

So, we welcomed him as the Christ,  
the Word made flesh,  
as the "Emmanuel", which means "God with us".  
**O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL.**

He'd be with us in the being born -  
**O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL.**

He'd be with us in the gathering of friends -  
**O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL.**

He'd be with us in the breaking of the bread -  
**O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL.**

He'd be with us in the suffering and dying -  
**O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL.**

And then, in the rising  
he'd be with us, face to face in the new creation.  
**O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL.**

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
ransom our captivity.  
Be born again in our faith and hoping.  
**O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL,  
GOD WITH US  
IN JESUS, THE LORD.**

*Silence*

Before the great proclamation  
that God is with us,  
we confess the many ways in which we deny it.  
God is not here, we say, to claim our hearts,  
leaving us to act out our loneliness -  
**TO THE DAMAGE OF OTHERS.**

God is not here, we say, to claim our minds,  
leaving us to act out our ignorance -  
**TO THE DAMAGE OF OTHERS.**

God is not here, we say, to claim our strength,  
leaving us to flail about when we could make the world better -  
**TO THE DAMAGE OF OTHERS.**

God is not here, we say, to live in our hope,  
leaving us to act out our despair  
**VERY MUCH TO THE DAMAGE OF OTHERS.**

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:

As this great Season of Advent begins, O God,  
with Christmas on our distant horizon,  
we approach what is both a delicate mystery  
and an audacious claim that, in Christ, you are with us.

**GIVE US GRACE, THROUGH THIS SEASON,  
TO GROW IN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF HOW YOU ARE WITH US,  
THAT WE MIGHT BE MORE COMPLETELY  
A PEOPLE OF ADVENT HOPE,  
LIVING TO THE BLESSING OF ALL THE WORLD,  
AND TO THE GLORY OF JESUS,  
AMEN.**

### The Notices

#### The Advent Wreath

Waiting for the birth of the child at Christmas, we ask in faith: "is God with us?"

*We remain seated to sing*

#### Hymn:

Star Child

Carlton Young (1926-2023)



1. Star Child, earth Child, go between of God,  
love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lighting rod,  
This year, this year, let the day arrive  
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

Shirley Murray (1931-2020)

## **The first candle: God with us at the table**

Remembering how we have been gathered to tables where we have enjoyed the company of others, have grown as people, and have been fed for our journey, we give thanks that God is with us in the sharing of bread and wine, purpose and calling.

Lighting this candle, we affirm the hospitality of God, and look for a new understanding of how "God is with us".

*The candle is lit*

O come to us, abide with us,  
**OUR LORD EMMANUEL.**

**The Bible Lesson:** 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13

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

**Knox Singers:** And the glory of the Lord, from Messiah  
G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

**Sermon:** A birthday dinner

*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/6q5aeuYUEGU>*

## **Prayers for Others and Ourselves**

To the minister's words, "May God open the way for face to face",  
you are invited to respond "**RESTORING WHAT IN FAITH WE LACK**".

. . . **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.

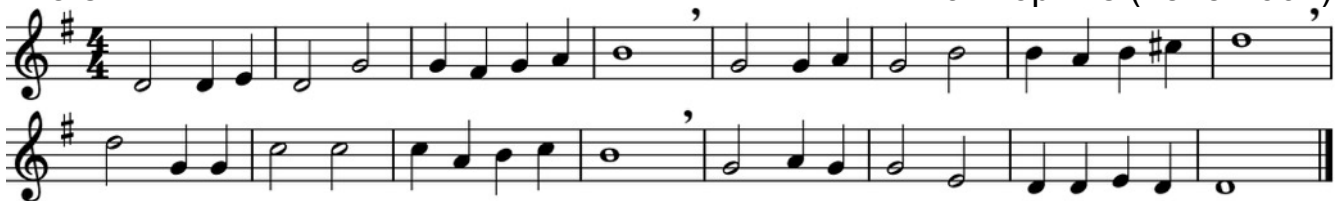
**A KI A KOE ANO HOKI;  
AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

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

## Communion Hymn:

Ellers

E. J. Hopkins (1818-1901)



1. Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;  
here would I touch and handle things unseen,  
here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace,  
and in my weariness upon thee lean.
2. Here would I feed upon the bread of God,  
here drink with thee the royal wine of heaven;

here would I lay aside each earthly load,  
here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.

3. This is the hour of banquet and of song,  
this is the heavenly table spread for me;  
here let me feast, and, feasting, still prolong  
this hallowed hour of fellowship with thee.
4. Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,  
yet, passing, points to the glad feast above,  
giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,  
the Lamb's great bridal feast of bliss and love.

*Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)*

*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.**

### Hymn:

Stuttgart

Melody attrib. Christian F. Witt (1660-1716)



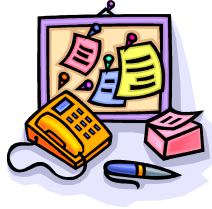
1. Come, O long-expected Jesus,  
born to set all people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
grant us your true liberty.
2. Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope to all the earth impart;  
dear desire of every nation,  
enter every longing heart.
3. Born all people to deliver,  
born a child, you came to reign!  
Born to rule on earth for ever,  
come, be known to us again.
4. By your own eternal Spirit  
come to claim us as your own;  
by your all-sufficient merit  
let us share your cross and crown.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

## Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Wachtet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645  
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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



## NOTICES

**This Week: 1 December – 7 December**  
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship  
5.00pm Film Group – Red, White & Brass

**Next Week: 8 December – 14 December**  
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship  
11.00am Congregational Meeting  
11.30am Shalom – Pot-luck lunch in Lounge

**Film Group:** Today 5pm in the Lounge - **Red, White and Brass** (2022). In 2011 some of the Rugby World Cup games were held in Wellington. The Tongan team would play France. Tongan rugby fan Maka misses out on a ticket so he decides to form a marching brass band to perform before the event. He gathers his friends, although none of them know how to play brass instruments or march. Based on this true story, the film is a heart-warming homage to the Tongan community. And at the end, we see a photo of the original band!

**Congregational Meeting:** A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday 8 December at 11am immediately following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to vote for new members of the church council. Three nominations have been approved by the church council and the congregation will now vote on these nominations. Brief biographical notes have been provided by the nominees and have been distributed. Anyone with any concerns is asked to speak to Matthew before the congregational meeting.

**Shalom:** Sunday 8 December at 11.30am – Pot-luck lunch in Lounge to celebrate the end of 2024. Finger food contributions welcome. Open to whole congregation. If you have any queries, please phone Susan Peake on 027 765 9898.

**Sunday lunch 15 Dec** – 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), preferably no later than Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Knox Life** – Last chance to get your stories and magazine material into the office for inclusion in the December edition of Knox Life. Email: [office@knoxchurch.co.nz](mailto:office@knoxchurch.co.nz).

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.



**You are Invited to:**

**West Papua's National Day**

**"Morning Star" Flag Raising**

**12 noon Sunday 1 December 2024**

**Bridge of Remembrance**

**Cashel St West**

**Keynote Speaker: Kahurangi Carter MP**

- ★ **Stand in solidarity with suffering West Papuans**
- ★ **Learn what you can do**
- ★ **An inter-agency occasion**

Organised by: **West Papua Action – Canterbury**

Coordinator: **Brian Turner - 021 129 4305 / [bhturner41@gmail.com](mailto:bhturner41@gmail.com)**

# Christian World Service Christmas Appeal 2024

## Give Climate Hope this Christmas

The theme emerges from listening to our CWS partners in Oceania. Former Archbishop of Tikanga Pasifika, the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, Winston Halapua speaks of a call from the world's largest ocean as "to



treasure God's gift of the planet earth. Fe'iloakitau Kaho Tevi, Advisor to the current Bishop of the Diocese of Polynesia and member of Christian World Service Board, recently described oceans as our hope. "We need to make ocean front and centre of our church, the message, the preaching, the discussions, the intercessions, the prayers." A focus on climate hope this Christmas also aligns strategically with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Strategic Development Goal 13: Climate action



### Weather Stations in the Solomons

In 1966, the island of Walande, Solomon Islands, had 200 inhabitants who had built houses flat on the ground. Over decades, more people built homes, and by 2002, there were 1200 inhabitants. But the sea was changing. People described feeling "scared" of what they called the "restless seas." They felt "out of control," unsure of the future for them and their children. When the church was flooded, people began to relocate to live higher up on nearby islands. By 2016, there were only four inhabitants left. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2\\_GzkUne7g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2_GzkUne7g)

In the Solomon Islands (consisting of 21 main islands and over 900 smaller ones), there are very few climate monitoring and weather station sites. This means little is known about climate change in this part of Oceania. Every one of the islands, however, has a church. In 2019, the Anglican Church decided to respond to the "restless seas" by using some of its churches to host weather monitoring stations. Local people committed to be trained as citizen scientists to record the weather. While the task is shared, it is led by a person commissioned by the church as a "green apostle," often a clergy person, who takes responsibility as part of their daily prayer for updating the booklet in which the weather measurements are recorded. These measurements can then be used for scientific analysis by the government and international organisations.



Tēnā koutou katoa

Advent...a time of waiting. A time to slow down somewhat and take the time to reflect as we approach the season of Christmas. To reflect on the coming of the Christ. A time for the weekly rhythm of lighting an Advent candle, for singing seasonal hymns and songs, to talk of hope, peace, joy and love. And a time when we are very aware of how this rhythm and focus differs quite dramatically from the rhythm and focus of society, of the world.

How do the themes of hope, peace, joy and love resonate in our world at this time? Are they just sentimental, soft words we throw about, or do they speak to our hearts and have their outworking in action?

The backdrop to this church season feels very discordant to such themes. Last week we had the formal public apology from the [government](#) by the Prime Minister to the survivors of abuse in care. I attended a survivor led gathering at the Pipitea marae in Wellington that same day and saw and felt some of the reality of how life is, and has been, for some of those survivors. And last week the contentious Principles of the Treaty Bill had its first reading in the house, eliciting protest, dismay and anger from many. Beyond our shores, across the world, there is continued violence, oppression and prejudice. Do our themes of Advent have anything to say, any power, any impact?

As Christians we believe that they do, and they must. That Jesus, the Prince of Peace, continues to be the way, the truth and the life. Jesus spoke into situations of brokenness, strife and prejudice and showed a different way in which to live. A way that led to life.

Rather than seeing these themes as soft and sentimental, we see them as strong and purposeful.

At weddings I have sometimes used a version of that popular reading from Corinthians which puts it this way... “Love is tough: there is nothing it cannot face. Love never loses hope, never loses heart”. There is a sense of resilience, tenaciousness, strength in this that I believe is seen in the life and works of Jesus.

The pictures that accompany this message are of little Christmas tree hangings made by one of our church members. One for each of the weeks of Advent - hope, peace, joy and love. Can we use these themes to motivate us to action in our particular context? For instance, can we ask/challenge ourselves with questions such as, how can I bring a sense of hope to those in need around me – in prayerful and practical ways? How can I work towards peace where there is brokenness? We can be very intentional in seeking to incarnate the Advent themes into our lives... hope, peace, joy, love. We are all part of the Body of Christ. As we all seek to incarnate these themes into our daily living, we strengthen the presence and effectiveness of the Body of Christ here and now. And we do this in the strength of Christ and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Enter this season of Advent with a sense of expectancy, and the knowledge that through Christ all things are possible.

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.” [John 1: 1-5]*

Advent blessings.

*Rose*

***Right Rev Rose Luxford***

*Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand*

[moderator@presbyterian.org.nz](mailto:moderator@presbyterian.org.nz)



**Presbyterian Church  
of Aotearoa New Zealand**





# HANDEL'S *Messiah*

**SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER, 7.30PM**  
**CHRISTCHURCH TOWN HALL**



Dr John Linker **Music Director**



Christchurch  
Symphony  
Orchestra

Sarah-Jane Rennie **Soprano** Patrick Power ONZM **Tenor**  
Margot Button **Mezzo Soprano** Samuel McKeever **Bass**

Tickets from \$53 Adults, \$49 Senior,  
\$20 Students (plus booking fees)

**Book at [ticketek.co.nz](https://www.ticketek.co.nz)**



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### Bible readings for next week will be:

- Matthew 1: 18-23
- Revelation 21: 1-4

## Knox Directory

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Monday - Friday, 9.00am-noon

Visit our website

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



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Director of Music: Jeremy Woodside  
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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