



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service 22 December 2024



NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

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.

Music printed in this order of service is covered under a music copyright licence agreement: LicenSing #604802

A Note about the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

In 1918, the Very Reverend Eric Milner-White, the Dean of the Chapel at King's College in Cambridge, shocked his congregation by introducing an innovation to the Chapel. It was a service called "The Nine Lessons with Carols". As the name suggests, the backbone of the service was a collection of nine bible readings, tracing the story of God's goodness from the fall of humanity, through the hope of the prophets, to the incarnation of God's Son, Jesus Christ. The lessons and carols were supported by anthems from the choir.

The fellows of King's College surprised themselves by responding well to the new liturgy, and it was decided to observe it again in 1919. It has been held every year since, and Churches all around the world have copied the format.

We express our thanks to Jeremy and the Knox Singers, who have worked hard to assemble a good selection of anthems for today's service. We rejoice that two world premieres are happening during today's service, with brand new works having been commissioned from Christopher Mortlock and James Burt. Well done and thank you, gentlemen, for contributing to a living tradition!

The Welcome:

Kia noho a Ihowa ki a koutou. God be with you.
MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

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)



4. Spared child, spoiled child, hurting, wanting more,
wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

Shirley Murray (1931-2020)

The fourth candle: God with us in the singing of an ancient story

Setting our hearts to sing of what happened in Bethlehem so long ago, we confess that we love the familiar songs and story. There is comfort in knowing that the baby shall be found in the manger, that the angels shall sing, that the shepherds shall worship.

Lighting this candle, we affirm the faithfulness of God's story, and look for a deeper understanding of how "God is with us".

The candle is lit

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

The Opening Hymn:

Irby

H. J. Gauntlett (1805-1876)



Verse 1 is sung by a soloist.

Verse 2 is sung by choir only.

The congregation stands and starts singing at verse 3

1. *Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle-shed
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.*
2. *He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.*
3. And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.
4. Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
when, like stars, his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

C. F. Alexander (1818-1895)

The Bidding Prayer

**... 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.**

First Lesson: Genesis 3: 3-15

Carol: Christmas Lullaby
John Rutter (b. 1945)

Second Lesson: Genesis 22: 15-18

Hymn:

Puer Nobis

Piae Cantiones, 1582



1. Unto us is born a Son,
king of quires supernal:
see on earth his life begun,
of lords the Lord eternal.
2. Christ, from heav'n descending low,
comes on earth a stranger;
ox and ass their owner know,
be cradled in the manger.
3. This did Herod sore affray,
and grievously bewilder,
so he gave the word to slay,
and slew the little childer.
4. Of his love and mercy mild
this the Christmas story;
and O that Mary's gentle Child
might lead us up to glory.
5. O and A, and A and O,
cum cantibus in choro,
let our merry organ go,
benedicamus Domino.

Latin, 15th Century

translated Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)

Third Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Carol: Entre le boeuf

French Trad.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Entre le bœuf et l'âne gris
Dort, dort, dort le petit Fils.

<i>Mille anges divins, Mille séraphins,
Volent à l'entour De ce Dieu
d'amour.</i> | 1. Between the ox and the gray donkey
Sleeps, sleeps, sleeps little Son.

<i>Thousand divine angels, thousand
seraphim,
fly round from this God of love.</i> |
| 2. Entre les deux bras de Marie
Dort, dort, le Fruit de la Vie. | 2. Between the two arms of Mary
Sleeps, sleeps, the Fruit of Life. |
| 3. Entre les roses et les lys
Dort, dort, dort le petit Fils. | 3. Between the roses and lilies
Sleeps, sleeps, sleeps little Son. |
| 4. Entre les pastoureaux jolis
Dort, dort, dort le petit Fils. | 4. Between the happy shepherds
Sleeps, sleeps, sleeps the little Son. |
| 5. En ce beau jour solennel
Dort, dort, dort l'Emmanuel. | 5. On this beautiful solemn day
Sleeps, sleeps, sleeps Emmanuel. |

This text was first published in Henri Lemeignen's *Vieux Noël*s (1876) and is thought to have originated in Brittany. The tune is one of many variant versions.

Carol: In the bleak midwinter
Keina Rollinson (cello)

Jeremy Woodside (b. 1989)

Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 11: 1-9

Hymn:

Sussex Carol

English traditional melody



1. Above the peaks the angels sing,
across the snow their voices ring,
and musterers come riding down,
to find the little country town
where Christ is waiting to be born,
our summer Child, this Christmas morn.
2. Across the hills the ratta spread
their signal fires of smokey red;

by golden sands and whit'ning shell
pohutukawa flames to tell
that Christ is waiting to be born,
our summer Child, this Christmas morn.

3. Beneath a Southern Cross of light,
led by Pointers, through the night
three travellers are hast'ning home
from distant lands to find their own;
for Christ is waiting to be born,
our summer Child, this Christmas morn.
4. We too would sing that ancient song
and join the busy, hurrying throng,
and take the road once more to find
that hallowed place in heart and mind
where Christ is waiting to be born,
our summer Child, this Christmas morn.

Colin Gibson (1933-2022)

Fifth Lesson: Luke 1: 26-38

Carol: 'The Oxen', text by Thomas Hardy (1840-1928),
Christopher Mortlock (b. 1991)
This is a world premiere of this work

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2: 1-7

Offertory Hymn:

The First Noel

English traditional melody



1. The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel!*
2. They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far;

and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel!

3. And by the light of that same star,
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell . . .
4. Then enter'd in those wise men three,
full rev'rently, upon their knee,
and offer'd there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell . . .
5. Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
that hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
and with his blood salvation bought:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell . . .

English traditional carol, arranged by Paul Halley (b. 1952)

We remain standing for

The Dedication of the Offering

We make this offering in love, hope and praise.

**MAY GOD DIRECT ITS USE,
MOVE US TO LIVE LIVES OF SERVICE,
AND BLESS ALL PEOPLE THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON.
AMEN.**

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2: 8-16

Carol: In dulci Jubilo
German trad, arr. Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2: 1-11

Carol: Tomorrow shall be my dancing day
James Burt (b. 2006)
This is a world premiere of this work

Ninth Lesson: John 1: 1-14

Hymn:

Adeste Fideles

John Francis Wade (c.1711-1786)



1. O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him
born the king of angels;
O come, let us adore him . . .
Christ the Lord!

2. God of God,
Light of light,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore him . . .
Christ the Lord!

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above.
'Glory to God,
glory in the highest':
O come, let us adore him . . .

John Francis Wade (c.1711-1786)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Prelude on 'God rest ye, merry gentlemen'
John Rutter (b. 1945)

Following the service, a special morning tea, provided by the Knox Singers,
is served in the church



NOTICES

This Week: **22 December – 28 December**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
Tuesday 11.15am Christmas Eve Service
Wednesday 10.00am Christmas Day Service

Next Week: **29 December – 4 January**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship

Christmas Services



God ponders how to be "with us"

A candlelight service
11:15pm. Christmas Eve



God with us (bus stop)

A simple service
for Christmas Day - 10:00am

Summer closure

The Knox office closed at noon on Thursday 19 December, and opens again at 9:00am on Monday 6 January 2025.

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.

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



Advice and Compost

In Advent 2 and 3, we met Mrs Mafi, from Tonga. In Advent 4, we learn about local organisations providing hopeful climate solutions across Oceania. Mrs Mafi is connected with the Tonga Community Development Trust, TCDT for short. TCDT bring local communities together. TCDT provide local training in home composting and organic gardening. Your CWS

gift this Christmas is a way of sharing climate hope with TCDT and many local organisations working for hope across the Pacific and the globe this Christmas.



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Romans 8: 18-25
- Matthew 28: 16-20

Knox Directory

28 Bealey Ave,
Ōtautahi Christchurch 8013

Secretary: Lynda Gerken,
ph. (03) 379 2456,
office@knoxchurch.co.nz

Office hours:
Monday - Friday, 9.00am-noon

Visit our website

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



Minister: Rev. Dr Matthew Jack
minister@knoxchurch.co.nz
voicemail at home (03) 3570 111

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

Director of Music: Jeremy Woodside
jeremy.woodside89@gmail.com

Pastoral Visitors:
Rev Norman and Linda Wilkins
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