



# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service

29 December 2024

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**THE SUFFERINGS  
OF THIS PRESENT TIME,  
AND THE GLORY  
ABOUT TO BE REVEALED**

## 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, FIRST-BORN OF THE NEW CREATION;**

**JESUS, PRESENT WITH US AS A NEW YEAR IS POISED TO BEGIN;**

**JESUS, PROMISING TO BE WITH US ALWAYS.**

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

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

### Hymn:

Lord of the Years

Timothy Dudley Smith (b. 1926)

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'Lord of the Years' by Timothy Dudley Smith. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff is the melody, written in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The second, third, and fourth staves provide accompaniment, also in treble clef. The music is written in a simple, accessible style, suitable for congregational singing. The piece ends with a double bar line.

1. Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way, sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided: Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.
2. Lord, for that Word, the Word of life which fires us, speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze, teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us: Lord of the Word, receive your people's praise.
3. Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us - self on the cross and Christ upon the throne, past put behind us, for the future take us: Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)*

### **Prayer of Approach**

God of the years,  
you not only have filled our past with fine things to remember,  
and our present with presence,

**YOU ALSO NOW SPEAK TO US  
FROM THE FUTURE THAT YOU ARE CREATING -**

where mercy and truth meet,  
where righteousness and peace kiss,  
**WHERE SWORDS ARE BEATEN INTO PLOWSHARES,  
AND LIONS AND LAMBS ARE AT PEACE.**

Just as in the time of Jesus,  
wee signs of the glory to come  
were spotted by those who had vision,  
**SO NOW WE ARE BLESSED  
TO GLIMPSE HEAVEN BEING PROGRESSED IN OUR DAYS.**

Indeed, the year was what it was,  
365 days of twenty four hours each.  
Today is what it is.  
**YET YOUR TOMORROW REACHES OUT TO US,  
CALLING US INTO YOUR BLOSSOMING NEW CREATION.**

Singing and song, healing and blessing,  
grace and truth, peace at the last -  
**AT YEAR'S END,  
THIS IS YOUR PROMISE  
AND OUR CALLING.**

So, we worship you.  
**IN THE SILENCE,  
RECEIVE OUR PRAISE.**

*Silence*

Looking back on the year,  
we are aware, O God,  
of opportunities for good that were lost.  
We are aware of hurtful deeds we've done.  
Looking to a realm of more faithful service and praise,  
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:**

God of the years,  
in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus,  
you have begun your making new of the world.  
Each day, either quietly  
or with great boldness,  
you give us signs of your kingdom coming.

**OPEN OUR EYES, AND INDEED OUR MINDS AND HEARTS,  
THAT WE MIGHT SEE YOUR SIGNS,  
AND GRASP EVERY OPPORTUNITY  
TO NURTURE YOUR NEW CREATION.**

for we pray it in the name of Jesus,  
even as he taught us to pray, 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:  
NOU HOKI TE RANGATIRATANGA,  
TE KAHA, ME TE KORORIA,  
AKE AKE AKE. AMINE.**

### **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.*

**The Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 28: 16-20

This is the Gospel of Christ;  
**PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.**

**The Second Lesson:** Romans 8: 18-25

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

**Sermonette:** Could these be labour pains?

### **Hymn:**

Hyfrydol

Rowland Huw Prichard (1811-1887)



1. Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown:  
Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
pure unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.
2. Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave:  
thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

3. Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be,  
let us see thy great salvation,  
perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love and praise.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

**Review:** We see nothing to feed our hope?

*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/PC7urCLB\\_nw](https://youtu.be/PC7urCLB_nw)*

**Music for Reflection:** Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her, BWV 606  
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

### **Prayers for Others and Ourselves**

*led by Linda Wilkins*

### **The Offering and Dedication**

*We stand for the dedication of the Offering*

We offer this money and food, O God,  
**PRAYING THAT THEY WILL DO GOOD THINGS IN THE WORLD.**

We offer also our desire  
to be alive to signs of your reign  
already at work in our days.

**WILL YOU BLESS ALL THAT WE OFFER,  
TO THE COMING OF YOUR KINGDOM,  
AND A VERY GOOD 2025.**

This is our prayer,  
through Jesus Christ,  
**AMEN.**

### **Notices**

**Hymn:**

Auld Lang Syne

Scottish Air



1. We worship God in harmony  
with hearts in full accord;  
we share one Spirit, hope and faith,  
one Parent and one Lord:  
  
*In Jesus Christ our Lord and king,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord,  
the Spirit makes us all as one  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.*
2. We're children now of God by grace  
our new life has begun,  
where male and female, Greek and Jew,  
both bound and free are one.  
*In Jesus Christ...*
3. We live as those whom Christ has called  
to love with Christ-like mind  
that looks towards each other's needs,  
forbearing, patient, kind.  
*In Jesus Christ...*
4. One day we'll see him face to face,  
to him we'll bow the knee;  
we'll never say goodbye again  
the best is yet to be!  
*In Jesus Christ...*

*Michael Baughen (b. 1930), alt.*

**Benediction and Sung Amen**

**Postlude:** Festival Voluntary  
Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

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

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## Summer closure

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



### The Bible reading for next week will be:

- Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23

## 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