



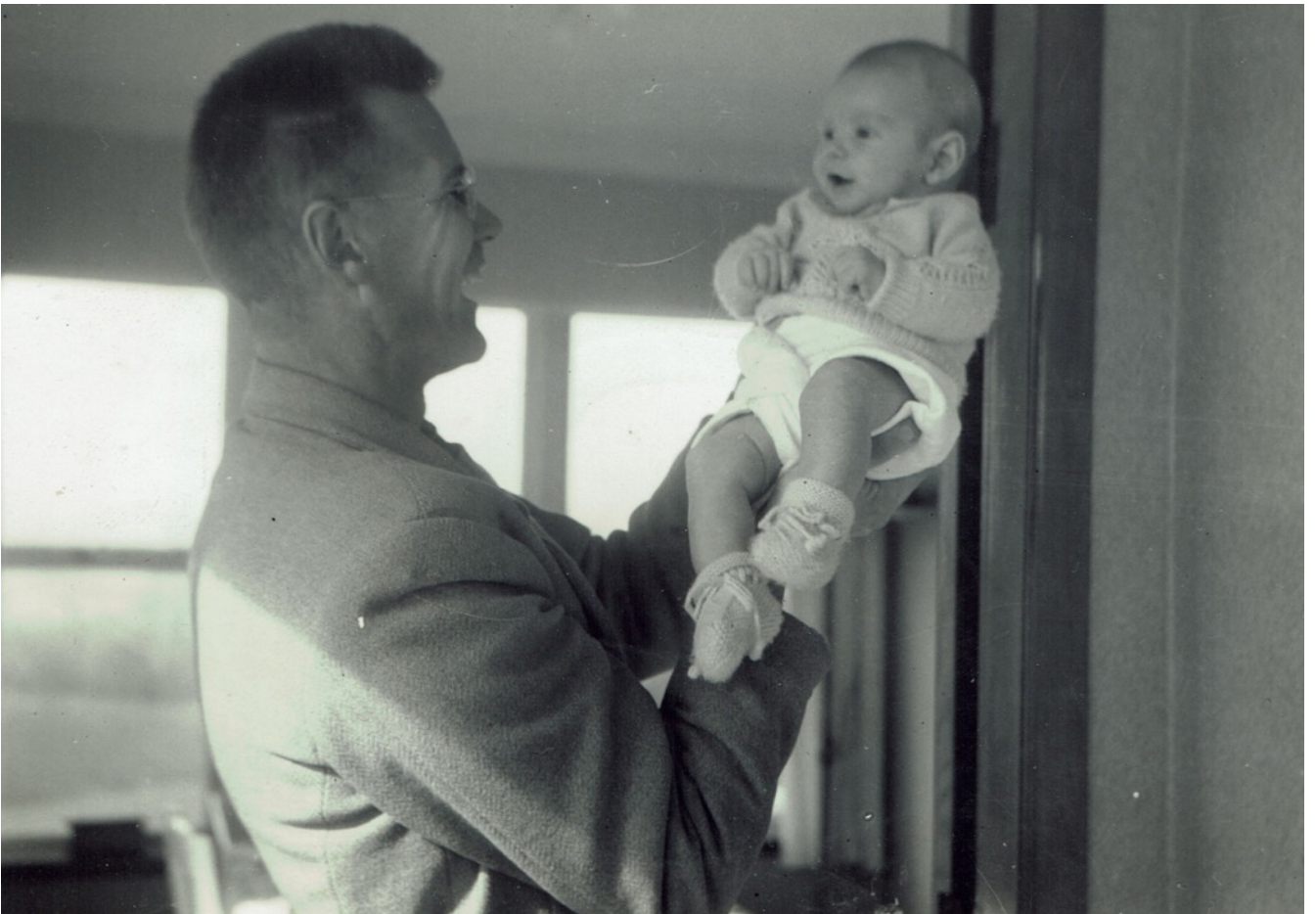
# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service

5 January 2025

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# PROTECTOR

A COMMUNION SERVICE

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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.

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.

### The Call to Worship:

We light a candle in the name of Jesus Christ, a light in the world.

**JESUS, WHOSE POWER A SCEPTER SWAYS;  
JESUS, EVER-LIVING RISEN LORD;  
JESUS, BEGINNING LIFE AS A SMALL CHILD NEEDING PROTECTION.**

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

### Hymn:

Diademata

George J. Elvey (1816-1893)



1. Crown with your richest crowns the Christ upon the throne;  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing of Christ who rose for you,  
and to your risen Saviour bring your thanks for life made new.
2. Crown Christ whose love has flowed down hands and feet and side.  
Look past the peak of Calvary's road to Christ the glorified.  
The sun that lights the sky is pale before that sight.  
At prayer we glimpse then turn the eye from mysteries so bright.
3. Crown Christ the truth, the life who triumphed o'er the grave  
and rose victorious in the strife, this fallen world to save.  
Christ's glories now we sing, Christ's name we magnify,  
who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
4. Crown Christ who rules in peace, whose power a scepter sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise;  
Christ's reign shall have no end, for 'round those wounded feet  
a fragrant garden shall extend forever green and sweet.
5. Crown Christ who holds the years, embracing space and time,  
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime:  
all hail, Redeemer, hail, for your great love for me;  
your praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

*Matthew Bridges (1800-1894) and Godfrey Thring (1823-1903) alt.*

### **Prayer of Approach**

Looking back on the life of Jesus, the believers thrill,  
the poets wax lyrical:  
the Lord of space and time,  
the mover of the rolling spheres,  
the one whose sceptre sways all wars aside,  
the risen Saviour.

### **A SONG OF POWER AND PRAISE.**

Yet at the beginning, it's much more delicate:  
a baby,  
swaddling cloths,  
borrowed accommodation.  
There's no room at the inn,  
and back home, kings are going mad.  
It's a dangerous world  
for a brand new Jesus.

### **DOES HE NEED PROTECTION?**

Today we hear a story  
of someone called "Joseph"  
being called to take the little Christ  
to a place of safety.  
Perhaps it will be for us  
a call to care for all those delicate things of God  
that come to our attention  
and maybe to our sphere of influence.

**PERHAPS YOU WILL CALL US  
TO BECOME PROTECTORS OF YOUR LITTLE MIRACLES.**

Should we hear that call,  
then maybe we will feel not up to the task  
because of our many failures in the challenge of care.  
Maybe in the silence we will recall the things and people  
who have been broken on our watch.  
Indeed, recalling them now,  
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:**

O God,  
with tenderness and care,  
you are enabling us to become people of tenderness and care.  
In the vulnerable love and need of Jesus,  
as in the nurturing Spirit of Truth,  
you are turning us into protectors  
of the small but lovely miracles entrusted to us.

**GIVE US GRACE, COURAGE  
AND STEELY GENTLENESS OF SPIRIT  
TO SERVE YOU WELL  
IN PROTECTING YOUR WORK.**

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

## The Notices

**The Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23

This is the gospel of Christ.

**PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.**

**Music for Reflection:** The Birthday of a King  
William Harold Neidlinger (1863-1924)  
Soloist: Graeme Downie

**Sermon:** "The child and his mother"

*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/LMljx-ej5Ug>

## Prayers for Others and Ourselves

To the minister's words "Whenever we feel ourselves not to be useful", you are invited to respond "**CALL AND BLESS US, O GOD**".

. . . **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:

St Columba

Irish traditional hymn melody



1. Put peace into each other's hands  
and like a treasure hold it;  
protect it like a candle flame,  
with tenderness enfold it.
2. Put peace into each other's hands  
with loving expectation;  
be gentle in your words and ways,  
in touch with God's creation.
3. Put peace into each other's hands  
like bread we break for sharing;  
look people warmly in the eye:  
our life is meant for caring.

4. As at communion, shape your hands,  
into a waiting cradle;  
the gift of Christ receive, revere,  
united round the table.
5. Put peace into each other's hands  
he is love's deepest measure;  
in love make peace, give peace a chance  
and share it like a treasure.

*Fred Kaan (1929-2009)*

*We sit for*

**The Invitation** and **Institution**

**The 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:

Laast Uns Erfreuen

from Geistliche Kirchengesäng 1623



1. From all who dwell below the skies,  
let the Creator's praise arise;  
Hallelujah!  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung,  
through every land, by every tongue.  
Hallelujah!
2. Eternal are your mercies, God,  
eternal truth attends your word:  
Hallelujah!  
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore,  
till suns shall rise and set no more.  
Hallelujah!

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

### Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Prelude sur l'Introit d'Epiphanie  
Maurice Durufle (1902-1986)

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