



# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service

12 January 2025



Des and his son just before the latter's departure from home to study to serve the "other father".

# THE OTHER FATHER

towards whom we grow

## 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.

Please don't leave any items unattended around the church;  
they may cause alarm.

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, BETHLEHEM INFANT, GROWING INTO ADULT LIFE;  
JESUS, MOVING INTO HIS FUTURE AS SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD;  
JESUS, CALLING US ALSO TO BANG ON TOMORROW'S DOOR.**

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

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

### Hymn:

Camberwell

Michael Brierley (b. 1932)



1. God gives us a future,  
daring us to go  
into dreams and dangers  
on a path unknown.  
We will face tomorrow  
in the Spirit's power,  
we will let God change us,  
for new life starts now.
2. We must leave behind us  
sins of yesterday,  
for God's new beginning  
is a better way.  
Fear and doubt and habit  
must not hold us back:  
God gives hope, and insight,  
and the strength we lack.
3. Holy Spirit teach us,  
how to read the signs,  
how to meet the challenge  
of our troubled times.  
Love us into action,  
stir us into prayer,  
till we choose God's life,  
and find our future here.

*Elizabeth J. Smith (b. 1956)*

### **Prayer of Approach**

It doesn't feel all that long ago,  
dear God of love and growth,  
that a wee baby was laid in a manger,

**AND FOR JUST A MOMENT  
EVERYTHING WAS CALM AND BRIGHT.**

It doesn't feel all that long ago that lying in a manger,  
being wrapped in swaddling cloths,  
**WAS ALL HE NEEDED TO DO IN THE WORLD.**

But time moves on, and limbs extend.  
Human impatience pushes edges, and independence makes demands.  
The manger baby was never going to stay there.

**NO, THE SON OF GOD  
WAS ALWAYS GOING TO MOVE ON OUT.**

Today we will hear a story:  
the teen-age Jesus goes missing,  
causing his parents anxiety,  
and offering the world a revelation:  
**THAT HE IS THE SON OF ANOTHER FATHER.**

A second story:  
an adult Jesus is baptized -  
rising from the waters to the proclamation from above  
**THAT HE IS THE SON OF A NEW CREATION.**

As the "other father" claims him,  
bless us to hear these stories, O God,  
**AND RECEIVE OUR SILENT WORSHIP.**

*Silence*

In the story of the growth of your son, O God,  
we will find Joseph providing care for someone who is growing away from him.  
We will see in him nothing other than grace and humility.

We tend to control.  
We tend to restrict.  
We tend to cling to our roles of power -  
while the presence of Christ is crushed.  
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:**

Early in our year, O God,  
we hear stories of how the young Jesus grew  
and brought some tension to those around him.  
We hear stories of his being baptized,  
and taking on a new understanding of to whom he belonged.

**BLESS US TO DWELL A WHILE WITHIN THESE STORIES,  
THAT WE MIGHT FORGIVE THOSE  
WHOSE GROWTH HAS HURT US,**

## **AND REJOICE INSTEAD IN THE COMING OF THE NEW CREATION.**

For we pray this in the name of Jesus,  
whose words now we use, together saying

**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 Passing of the Peace**

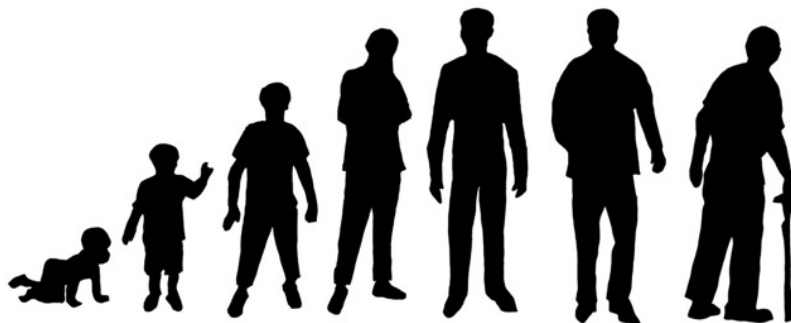
Kia tau tonu te rangimarie o te Ariki ki a koutou.  
The peace of Christ be with you all.

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

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

**Introduction:** Remember sensitive Joseph?

*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/Eyo3C1vzLLE>*



## Hymn:

Ye banks and braes

Scottish melody



1. My God, you called me rise, to do  
a ministry of care for you,  
by blessing those you gave to me,  
that they may be both true and free.  
"Deny yourself", dear God you said,  
"protect the child of hope instead,  
that seeds of faith and grace may grow,  
and through his life my love may show".
2. So Joseph hunkers down to be  
the best a father e'er could be,  
to love, protect, defend and care  
the younger Christ, God's Son and heir.  
Within the home he makes and shares,  
the growing Jesus learns to care,  
and starts to frame a vision of  
the world held strong in heaven's love.
3. Now Jesus, ever Mary's child,  
whom hymns describe as meek and mild,  
this day, as in the past you call  
to selfless duty, one and all,  
to nurture what is small and soft,  
without great care to fear or cost,  
but only ever work to bring  
a space for Christ to be our King.

*Matthew Jack (b. 1963)*

## The First Lesson:

Luke 2: 41-52

Twelve year old Jesus, your father and I are worried.  
**FEAR NOT, I'M GROWING INTO A NEW HOUSE.**

**Reflection:** Moving to a new house

**Music for Reflection:** The Gift  
Judith Bingham (b. 1952)

**The Second Lesson:** Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

Who is this One being baptised?  
**HE IS CHRIST, THE WORD.**

**Reflection:** The voice lays claim

**Hymn:**

Winchester New

William Henry Havergal (1793-1870)



1. The Baptist shouts on Jordan's shore,  
the earth shakes with the mighty roar,  
awake, let lazy sleep now flee:  
behold, the voice of prophecy!
2. The earth and sky and sea now feel  
that which their Author will reveal:  
the Child now leaping in the womb  
as God does human form assume.
3. Clean up your hearts, lay down the way,  
for God approaches day by day;  
prepare for such a worthy heir,  
for such a guest your house prepare.
4. Through you, O Jesus, you alone  
salvation, solace, strength are known;  
without your love we fade like grass,  
like wilted flowers our lives will pass.
5. O One who comes to set us free,  
O Child, to you our song will be,  
with Father, Spirit mothering,  
to you shall praise for ever ring!

*Charles Coffin (1676-1749)*

*tr. John Chandler (1806-1876) and others, alt.*

## Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*led by Norman Wilkins*

### The Offering and Dedication

*We stand for the dedication of the Offering*

Te Whare Roimata will distribute the food we offer.  
We wonder how things are at the whare.

**MAY GOD BLESS THE WORK OF TE WHARE ROIMATA.**

The money we offer will go into the accounts of the church.  
The Treasurer, Finance Committee and Council will manage it.

**MAY GOD BLESS THEM AS THEY DO THAT.**

May all that we offer here,  
along with our hearts and hands,  
be swept up into the movement of the Spirit,  
**FOR THE BLESSING OF THE WORLD,  
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST,  
AMEN.**

### Notices

#### Hymn:

Dunedin

Vernon Griffiths (1894-1985)



1. Forth in your name, O Lord, I go,  
my daily labour to pursue;  
you, only you, resolved to know,  
in all I think, or speak, or do.
2. The task your wisdom has assigned  
O let me cheerfully fulfil;  
in all my works your presence find,  
and prove your good and perfect will.
3. You may I set at my right hand,  
whose eyes my inmost substance view,  
and labour on at your command,  
and offer all my works to you.



4. Give me to bear your easy yoke,  
and every moment watch and pray,  
and still on things eternal look  
and hasten to your glorious day;
5. for you delightfully employ  
whate'er your bounteous grace has given,  
and run my course with even joy,  
and closely walk with you to heaven.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.*

**Benediction** and **Sung Amen**

**Postlude:** Prelude and Fugue in D minor  
Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)

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

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## NOTICES

**This Week:**           **12 January – 18 January**  
Sunday               10.00am   Morning Worship

**Next Week:**       **19 January – 25 January**  
Sunday               10.00am   Morning Worship  
                          12.00pm   Lunch at Black & White Café

**Sunday lunch 19 Jan** – 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 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Shared Lunch:** For various reasons I have made the decision to discontinue the shared lunch in the meantime. It has been very rewarding getting to know many of you a little better. Thank you for all your support and help. Yvonne Barnes

**Rosters for 2025/26** - At the end of February, the rosters for door duty and morning tea are due for renewal. Additional people are welcome to join one or both teams. The rosters run from beginning of March 2025 to end of February 2026. If you are willing to assist, please contact Jennifer McKinnon: [jennifer.mckinnon@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jennifer.mckinnon@xtra.co.nz) or the Church Office: ph. 379 2456. Alternatively, you can speak to the team on duty.



### Next week's service

includes a series of reflections and readings occasioned by the death, on 3 January 2025, of Dame Tariana Turia. The service is not intended to be a hagiography; rather, it is to give thanks for character traits consistent with some of the things seen in the life of Christ. The title of the service is "Character". While it might have made sense to pursue this theme today, Matthew wanted to stick with today's theme today, since it's something of a follow-up on what we began last week with the story of Joseph becoming the "protector".

**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.**



In an article called "**How Jimmy Carter lost his job and found his mission**", Jeffrey Sonnenfeld, leadership expert at the Yale School of Management, noted that while Jimmy Carter achieved more during his one-term presidency than he often is credited with, some of his greatest achievements occurred after he left presidential office.

Part of that post-presidential work happened within a group called "The Elders" - a group of retired world leaders who had diplomatic skills but no current political roles that compromised their impartiality. The Elders worked in places of conflict to build peace. Following Carter's death on 29 December 2024, the group summarised his contribution as follows:

*A forthright and principled advocate for human rights and democracy, President Carter was a founding member of The Elders in 2007. In 2016, he stepped down from his front-line role as a member of The Elders. Praised by then-Chair Kofi Annan for bringing "the gravitas of his Presidential office but also the passion of an activist," he remains an Elder Emeritus.*

*During his nine years as an active member of The Elders, Jimmy Carter led and joined many Elders' delegations, including to Sudan 2007 and 2012; Cyprus in 2008 and 2009; the Korean Peninsula and China in 2011; South Sudan in 2012; Myanmar in 2013; and Moscow in 2015.*

*In addition to the visits above, the Middle East and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was a consistent focus of President Carter's work as an Elder, promoting peace, dialogue and reconciliation. He joined Elders' delegations to the Middle East in August 2009 and October 2010, travelling to Israel, the West Bank, Egypt, Jordan and Syria to support efforts to advance Arab-Israeli peace. In October 2012, he visited Israel, the West Bank and Egypt to draw attention to the imperilled two-state solution and lend support to the Egyptian democratic transition. President Carter also led The Elders' delegation to Israel and Palestine in May 2015 during which The Elders continued to support a two-state solution, Palestinian reconciliation and an end to the perilous situation in Gaza.*



## The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Micah 6: 6-8
  - Matthew 4: 8-11
- 1 Corinthians 3: 4-7

## Knox Directory

28 Bealey Ave,  
Ōtautahi Christchurch 8013

Secretary: Lynda Gerken,  
ph. (03) 379 2456,  
[office@knoxchurch.co.nz](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jeremy.woodside89@gmail.com)

Pastoral Visitors:

Rev Norman and Linda Wilkins  
[g8m8zinbayst@gmail.com](mailto:g8m8zinbayst@gmail.com)  
+64 272499741 (Linda's mobile)  
+64 220667626 (Norman's mobile)



## Keeping in Touch

Would you like to give our office your contact details so that we can send you our quarterly magazine and other Knox communications?

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email: