



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

26 January 2025



**LOVE IS IN
THE ROOM**

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, INVITED TO ATTEND A WEDDING IN CANA;

JESUS, TURNING WATER INTO WINE;

JESUS, PROVIDING GOD'S SIGN OF A LOVE THAT NEVER ENDS.

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Regent Square

Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)



1. Jesus come, for we invite you,
guest and master, friend and Lord;
now, as once at Cana's wedding,
speak, and let us hear your word:
lead us through our need or doubting,
hope be born and joy restored.
2. Jesus come, transform our pleasures,
guide us into paths unknown;
bring your gifts, command your servants,
let us trust in you alone:
though your hand may work in secret,
all shall see what you have done.
3. Jesus, come in new creation,
heaven brought near in power divine;
give your unexpected glory
changing water into wine:
rouse the faith of your disciples –
come, our first and greatest Sign!
4. Jesus, come, surprise our dullness,
make us willing to receive
more than we can yet imagine,
all the best you have to give:
let us find your hidden riches,
taste your love, believe, and live!

Christopher Idle (b. 1938)

Prayer of Approach

We don't really need to say "Jesus, come",
because we know that you already are here.
Here in the love we have for one another,
here in the faith we hold in our hearts,
here in the hope we have for the world around us -
HOPE BE BORN AND JOY RESTORED!

We don't really need to say "Jesus, come",
because we know that you've already been here.
Here at the wedding in Cana,
here at the fearing that celebration was stalling,
here at the providing of new Spirit
to the pursuit of living into our call to be people of love -
ALL SHALL SEE WHAT YOU HAVE DONE.

We don't really need to say "Jesus, come",
because we know that you've already been here.
Here in our remembering of those who have nurtured us,
here in our sorrow over things that might have been, but weren't,
here in the putting down of the baggage we'd carried,
here in the slow turning of scar tissue into supple new skin.
TASTE YOUR LOVE, BELIEVE AND LIVE.

In the faith that you are with us,
and in gratitude for that faith,
WE OFFER SILENT WORSHIP.

Silence

Sometimes we bring too little wine to the celebration.
Sometimes we drink too much of what is there.
Sometimes we are cynical about the declaration of love.
Sometimes, in spirit, we are mean.
It may be that we have yet to be inspired
by the vision of Christ at a wedding,
celebrating, and enjoying the celebration of love.
It may also be, that our yet having to be inspired
leaves our world colder and sadder.
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:

God of undying love,
as one of your signs, you sent Jesus to be present at a wedding.
When only water was left to drink,
he was able to furnish the tables with wine to gladden the heart.

**ENABLE US TO HEAR THIS STORY,
AND TO LET IT MOVE US TO REJOICE
THAT YOUR LOVE FOR US
IS INEXHAUSTIBLE,**

for we pray it in the name of Jesus
who was generous to a fault,
and who taught us to pray,
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.



The number of marriages conducted in Aotearoa New Zealand
from 1961 to 2023

The First Lesson: Isaiah 62: 1-5

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

Reflection: The Wedding Roll Call

Hymn:

Bronwen

Ian Render (b. 1954)



1. Who is my mother?
Who is my brother?
All those who gather 'round Jesus Christ:
Spirit-blown people
born from the Gospel
sit at the table, 'round Jesus Christ.
2. Differently abled,
differently labelled
widen the circle 'round Jesus Christ;
crutches and stigmas,
cultures' enigmas
all come together 'round Jesus Christ.
3. Love will relate us -
colour or status
can't segregate us 'round Jesus Christ:
family failings,
human de-railings,
all find their places 'round Jesus Christ.
4. Bound by one vision,
met for one mission
we claim each other, 'round Jesus Christ.
Here is my mother,
here is my brother,
kindred in Spirit, 'round Jesus Christ.

Shirley Murray (1931-2020)

The Gospel Lesson: John 2: 1-11

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Music for Reflection: Clarifica me, Pater
William Byrd (1540-1623)

Reflection: Who wants to get married?

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/9CuSZB7Ximo>

Hymn:

Corvedale

Maurice Bevan (1921-2006)



1. There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than in God's heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.
2. For the love of God is broader
than the grasp of mortal mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make God's love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify God's strictness
with a zeal too greatly grown.

3. There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.
If our love were but more simple,
we would take him at his word;
and our lives would be all gladness
in the joy of Christ our Lord.

Frederick William Faber (1814-63)(alt.)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Murray Winn

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

Can the provision of food be an expression of love?

IF SO, MAY GOD BLESS THE FOOD.

Can the giving of money be an expression of love?

IF SO, MAY GOD BLESS THE MONEY.

We know that we are called beyond money and food,
to the giving of time, attentiveness and hope.

SO MAY GOD BLESS OUR GIVING OF THOSE THINGS AS WELL.

All is offered in the name of Jesus,
turning water into wine
and being God's sign
of heaven's high regard for love.

AMEN.

Notices

Hymn:

Abbots Leigh

Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991)



1. God is love, the heavens adoring;
God is love, let earth rejoice;
let creation sing its praises,
high rejoicing with one voice.
God who laid the earth's foundation,
and who spread the heavens above,
God who breathes through all creation.
is pure love, eternal love.

2. God is love, and is enfolding
all the world in one embrace,
with unfailing grasp is holding
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.

3. God is love, and, though with blindness
sin affects the souls of all,
God's eternal loving-kindness
holds and guides us when we fall.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is love, so love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.

Timothy Rees (1874-1939), alt.

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: cf Martinu
Chris Adams (b. 1979)

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

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The Bible reading for next week will be:

- Psalm 84