

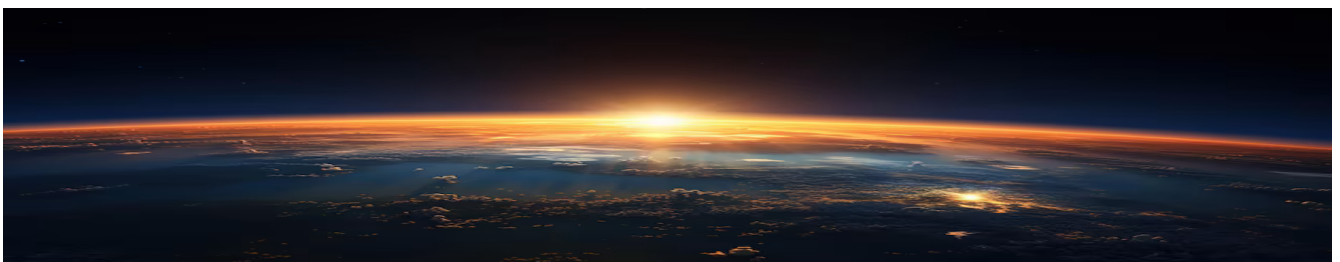
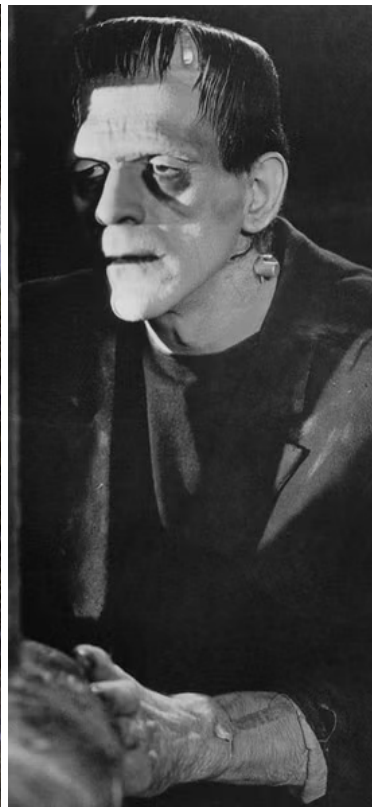


KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

23 February 2025



**A SUMMER SEASON OF CARING - 4
CARING FOR THE PLANET
- THE LIVING THING -**

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 city 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.

While Jeremy is away today, we're really pleased to welcome Micah to the organ bench. Welcome Micah, and thanks for helping us out today.

The Call to Worship:

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

JESUS, LIVING IN THIS WORLD OF DUST AND HOPE;

JESUS, ARTICULATING OUR PLACE BENEATH THE STARS;

JESUS, BRINGING DIGNITY TO OUR HUMAN LIVING.

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Highwood

Richard Runciman Terry (1865-1938)



1. O God of every shining constellation
that wheels in splendour through the midnight sky:
grant us your Spirit's true illumination
to read the secrets of your work on high.
2. You, God, have made the atom's hidden forces;
your laws its mighty energies fulfil:
teach us, to whom you give such rich resources,
in all we use, to serve your holy will.
3. O Life, awaking life in cell and tissue;
from flower to bird, from beast to humankind:
help us to trace, from birth to final issue,
the sure unfolding purpose of your mind.
4. You, God, have stamped your image on your creatures
and, though they mar that image, love them still:
lift up our eyes to Christ, that in his features
we may discern the beauty of your will.
5. Great God of nature, shaping and renewing,
you made us more than nature's child to be;
you help us tread, with grace our souls enduing,
the road to life and immortality.

Albert Frederick Bayly (1901-1984)

Prayer of Approach

We creatures of God and citizens of the planet
sing the praise of the Source of all life.

O LIVING ONE, HEAR OUR PRAISE.

On a trip to the beach,
the primary school child sets down the wooden frame
above the rock pool,
begins to count the living things.

As pace slows down, and eyes are more able to notice,
it is revealed just how full of life it is.

THE WORLD IS FULL OF LIFE.

The intricacy, the wonder,
the delicacy, the vulnerability,
the beauty, the nobility -

THE GIFTEDNESS TO OUR CARING.

In our fourth week in our late Summer Season of Caring,
we give thanks for the planet on which we live,
AND WE PRAY FOR GOD TO NURTURE OUR CARING.

Silence

We confess, O God,
that we are not always respecters of life,
that sometimes we take, just because we can,
without any concern for sustainability.
WE TREAT OUR WORLD AS A COMMODITY.

And so, there is degradation, exhaustion and extinction.
Indeed, 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:

Slow us down a bit, dear God,
that we might notice all the life around us.
Be in our hearts,
that we might care again for that which lives.

**RENEW OUR CAPACITIES TO CARE FOR THE EARTH,
THAT ON THIS PLANET, AS IN HEAVEN, ALL MAY BE WELL.**

For we pray it in the name of Jesus,
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.

A Series of Readings and Reflections - the Living Thing -

A Lesson: Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18

A Reflection: The appreciated, successful living thing

*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/E3SQyA5Xo_4*

Hymn:

Sursum Corda

Alfred Morton Smith (1879-1971)



1. Thou art before me Lord, thou art behind,
And thou above me hast spread out thy hand;
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
Too high to grasp, too great to understand.
2. Then whither from thy Spirit shall I go,
And whither from thy presence shall I flee?
If I ascend to heaven thou art there
And in the lowest depths I meet with thee.

3. If I should take my flight into the dawn,
If I should dwell on ocean's farthest shore,
Thy mighty hand would rest upon me still,
And thy right hand would guard me evermore.
4. If I should say 'Darkness will cover me,
And I shall hide within the veil of night',
Surely the darkness is not dark to thee,
The night is as the day, the darkness light.
5. Search me, O God, and know my heart,
Try me, O God, my mind and spirit try;
Keep me from any path that gives thee pain,
And lead me in the everlasting way.

Ian Robertson Pitt-Watson (1923-1995)

A Reflection: Another kind of living thing

Music for Reflection: Berceuse, Op 77, No 3
Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

Segue: The Larger Living Thing

Lesson: Genesis 3: 8-12, 17-19

A Reflection: Stealing from the larger living thing

Lesson: Matthew 6: 25-30

Epilogue: Enough for the birds

Hymn:

Lucerna Laudoniae

David Evans (1874-1948)



1. For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
*Christ our God, to you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*
2. For the beauty of each hour,
of the day and of the night,

hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,
Christ our God . . .

3. For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight,
Christ our God . . .
4. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
pleasures pure and undefiled,
Christ our God . . .
5. For each perfect gift divine
to our race so freely given,
joys bestowed by love's design,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
Christ our God . . .

Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917), alt.

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Janet Wilson

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

Living things need food,
SO WE OFFER FOOD.

Living things need love, nurture, caring and keeping,
**SO WE OFFER OURSELVES
TO BE LOVERS, NURTURERS, CARERS AND KEEPERS.**

May God bless all that we offer here,
**IN THE NAME OF JESUS,
AMEN.**

Notices

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: Fugato
Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)

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

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NOTICES

This Week: 23 February – 1 March
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
11.30am Shalom (Richard Milne presentation no. 1)
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: 2 March – 8 March
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
11.30am Shalom (Richard Milne presentation no. 2)
5.00pm Film Group in Lounge
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Film Group Sunday 2 March: One Life (2023) - "We only have one life, so we need to live it as best as possible." Nicholas Winton, a young London stockbroker, lived by these words. In the months leading up to World War II, he organised the rescue of 669, mainly Jewish children, from Prague as the Germans were invading. He arranged a 'Kindertransport' train to take them away to safety in Britain. He was later knighted and in 1988 took part in the TV show "That's Life" where he was introduced to dozens of the children and their children whom he had saved. This film tells his story.

Knox Life – it's nearly that time again. If you have anything to contribute please email the office before the end of February, if possible.

Shalom – Due to holding Richard Milne's presentations on Sunday 23 February, then again, on Sunday 2 March there will not be a Shalom meeting on 9 March.

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.

Community Hui

Waipapa Papanui-Innes-Central Board

Our first community hui for this year will be held on Friday 28 February from 1.30pm to 3.30pm in the Papanui Board Room, corner of Restell Street and Langdons Road. This will be an information session with Council staff presenting on the proposed Local Alcohol Policy and the 2025/26 Annual Plan.

Agenda

1. Meeting welcome and H&S (10 min)
2. Local Alcohol Policy development (50 min)
 - a. Short presentation on the policy development and what research tells us about alcohol-related harm in Christchurch and Banks Peninsula
 - b. Group discussion
3. Annual Plan consultation (50 min)
 - a. Short presentation on what is proposed for the Annual Plan
 - b. Q&A to answer your questions
4. Summary of learnings throughout the meeting (10 min)
5. Meeting close

PUBLIC LECTURE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

Professor Bronwyn Hayward of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change will talk about her area of expertise - continuing the Christchurch Art Gallery's series on climate change and environmental action.

Date: Wednesday 26th February 2025.

Start Time: 6pm.

Location: Philip Carter Family Auditorium at the Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū (Corner of Worcester Boulevard and Montreal Street, Central City).

Cost: FREE.

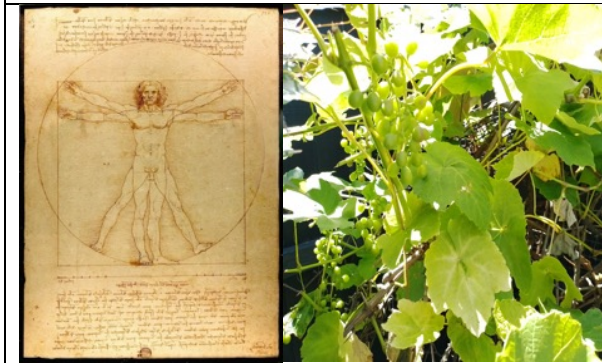
Bronwyn Hayward (MNZM, FRSNZ) is a professor in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Canterbury and director of the Sustainable Citizenship and Civic Imagination Research group. Her research sits at the intersection of sustainability, youth, climate change and democracy. Bronwyn was a member of the core writing team of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change AR6 (Synthesis report 2023) and co-lead author of Cities and Infrastructure (2022) and lead author of the IPCC Special Report on 1.5 Degrees C (2018). She is co-primary investigator with University of Surrey's ESRC funded Centre for Understanding Sustainable Prosperity (CUSP), where she leads the CYCLES Children and Youth in Cities Lifestyle Evaluation study in seven world cities. She is a Co-PI of the National Science Challenge Mana Rangatahi, supporting Indigenous young people facing climate change.

A Late Summer Season of Caring



Sunday 23 February Caring for the planet - 1 The Living Thing

Acknowledging that creation is a living thing, we explore what living things need to flourish - nourishment, rest, love. After the service, Dr Richard Milne, Independent Health Economist, will conduct an interactive session exploring, among other things, the nine planetary boundaries.



Sunday 2 March Caring for the planet - 2 The Connected Thing

An understanding of the connectedness of creation moves us to consider our global responsibilities. After the service, we hear more from Richard Milne.

After worship **today** and again next week (2 March), Dr Richard Milne will facilitate discussions on 'Caring for the Earth, in view of the planetary ecological crisis'. Richard was previously an Associate Professor at the University of Auckland. He has been working with church groups for almost 20 years on responding to climate change. All welcome.



Contemplation Point, Styx Mill Conservation Area



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- 1 Corinthians 12: 12-20, 26
- John 15: 5-7

Knox Directory

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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?

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