

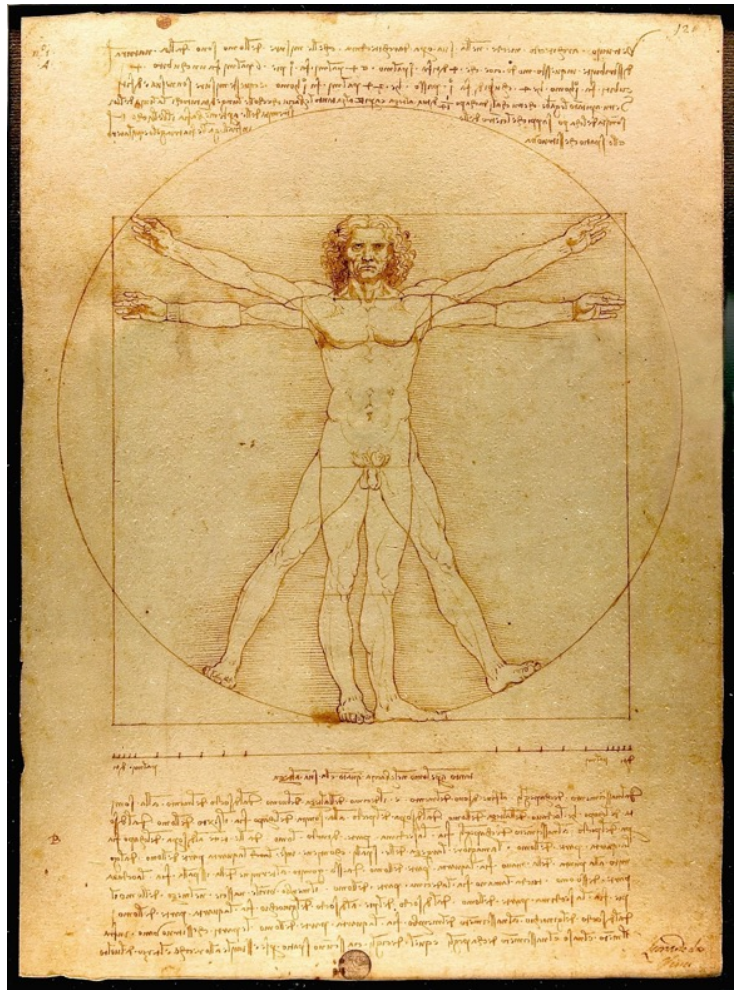


# KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service

2 March 2025



## A SUMMER SEASON OF CARING - 5 CARING FOR THE PLANET - THE CONNECTED THING -

a communion service

## 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.

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

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.

While Jeremy is away on annual leave today, the organ is in the tender and thrilling care of Russell Kent. Thank you so much, Russell.

### The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, NOT REMAINING FAR OFF, BUT LIVING AMONG US;  
JESUS, CALLING A NEW COMMUNITY INTO BEING;  
JESUS, IN WHOM THE MANY ARE MADE ONE.**

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

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

## Hymn:

Rustington

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918)



1. Let creation bless its Maker,  
glorify God's name on high.  
In God all things have their being,  
live and move unceasingly:  
Angels and archangels singing,  
all the hosts of earth and heaven;  
power and might are God's forever  
who the Son to us has given.
2. Let creation bless the Spirit,  
present through all time and space  
in the work of life's unfolding,  
source of order, truth and grace:  
all the wealth of words and music,  
art and science, quest of faith -  
these are signs that God is with us,  
that the Spirit fills the earth.
3. Gracious God of threefold wonder,  
undivided and supreme;  
filling all things, yet descending  
to our lives, to dwell within:  
through the Church, let every creature  
learn to love and not destroy;  
let creation, reaching upward,  
scale the heights of peace and joy!

*David Mowbray (b. 1938)*

## Prayer of Approach

Here in the city, the people of Knox Church gather to worship God.  
Out in the suburbs, the people of the Village,  
the people of St Marks, and St Ninians and up in Cashmere  
gather to worship God.

The Koreans in Edgware and the Pasifika peoples of St Paul's Trinity Pacific.

**IS THIS A CONNECTED THING?**

And in the city the Anglicans worship God,  
and the Catholics,  
and the Sallies and the Baptists.

**ARE WE A CONNECTED THING?**

How about the birds of the air  
and the flowers of the fields?  
A psalmist sings that though there is no speech,  
nor are there words,  
their voice is praising God.

**ALL CREATION PRAISES ITS MAKER.**

*Silence*

We confess, O God,  
that we dwell on the things that divide us,  
allow us to live as if much of creation does not really exist.  
The result often is a devaluing of the valuable,  
the disconnecting of the connected,  
the sequestering of resources  
to the poverty of many.  
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:**

If the image of the House of Faith as a vine,  
or the image of the Church as a body of many parts  
captures our imagination, O God,  
**MAY WE BE GIFTED  
TO STRENGTHEN OUR CONNECTIONS WITH ONE ANOTHER  
AND WITH THE WORLD FOR WHICH WE ARE CALLED TO CARE.**

For we pray this 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 Notices**

**The First Lesson:** 1 Corinthians 12: 12-20, 26

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

**The Gospel Lesson:** John 15: 5-7  
This is the gospel of Christ.  
**PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.**

**Sermon:** Branches and bodies

*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/\\_JpNLQPv0go](https://youtu.be/_JpNLQPv0go)*

**Music for Reflection:** Melodie  
Cesar Franck (1822 - 1890)

### **A Litany of Repentance for our Environmental Degradation:**

On the first day of creation,  
you split the darkness and created light.

**ON THE FIRST DAY OF DESTRUCTION,  
WE SPLIT THE ATOM, AND EXPLODED NUCLEAR DEVICES.**

On the second day of creation,  
you created the sky  
filled with clouds, stars and fresh air.

**ON THE SECOND DAY OF DESTRUCTION,  
WE BEGAN BURNING FOSSIL FUELS,  
PUMPING FUMES INTO THE SKY.**

On the third day of creation,  
you gathered together the waters, revealing the earth,  
forests, streams and seeds for new life.

**ON THE THIRD DAY OF DESTRUCTION,  
WE BEGAN TO STRIP THE LAND, CREATING, BARREN PLAINS.**

On the fourth day of creation,  
you created the Sun and the moon  
and differentiated the day, the night and the seasons.

**ON THE FOURTH DAY OF DESTRUCTION,  
WE THREW AEROSOLS UP INTO THE SKY,  
RIPPING APART THE PROTECTIVE OZONE ABOVE.**

On the fifth day of creation,  
you called the sea and air to bring forth life of many kinds  
for the wonder and delight of all.

**ON THE FIFTH DAY OF DESTRUCTION,  
WE CREATED DDT, KILLING THE FISH OF THE SEAS  
AND DESTROYING UNBORN BIRDS OF THE AIR.**

On the sixth day of creation,  
you watched as creatures of the land emerged,  
crawling, leaping and playing games of life.

**ON THE SIXTH DAY OF DESTRUCTION,  
WE LOOKED AWAY AS MULTITUDES OF SPECIES DISAPPEARED.**

On the seventh day of creation,  
you gave creation the blessing of rest  
to celebrate and sustain all life.

**ON THE SEVENTH DAY OF DESTRUCTION,  
WE CREATED THE RELENTLESS DRIVE FOR PROGRESS.**

*Silence*

God, our Creator, we acknowledge our crimes against creation,  
and we pray the courage in Christ to work with the earth  
to bring healing and peace.

**MAY GRACE FLOW LIKE A RIVER,  
MERCY LIKE A NEVER-ENDING STREAM,  
FOR YOUR MERCY'S SAKE.  
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:

Tenderness

Colin Gibson (1933-2022)



1. Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,  
nourish the life of the world in our care:  
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,  
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

2. We who endanger, who create hunger, agents of death for all creatures that live, we who would foster clouds of disaster, God of our planet, forestall and forgive.
3. Let there be greening, birth from the burning, water that blesses and air that is sweet, health in God's garden, hope in God's children, regeneration that peace will complete.
4. God of all living, God of all loving, God of the seedling, the snow and the sun, teach us, deflect us, Christ re-connect us, using us gently and making us one.

*Shirley Murray (1931-2020)*

*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:

Kremser

Eduard Kremser (1838-1914)



1. Sing praise and thanksgiving, that all creatures living have worshipped their maker with gladness and song; all glory and honour we gave to God, singing:  
O praise to the Almighty, sing praise to our God!
2. Our lives of God's making Christ brought to their waking in darkness we're held in a deep, gracious care; now into the light we are called from our sleeping:  
O praise to the Almighty, sing praise to our God!
3. God, frame our desiring to do your requiring, that unto your glory be all that we do; and now we have worshipped, give faith and give healing:  
O praise to the Almighty, sing praise to our God!

*Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676),*

*tr. Margaret Barclay (b. 1923),*

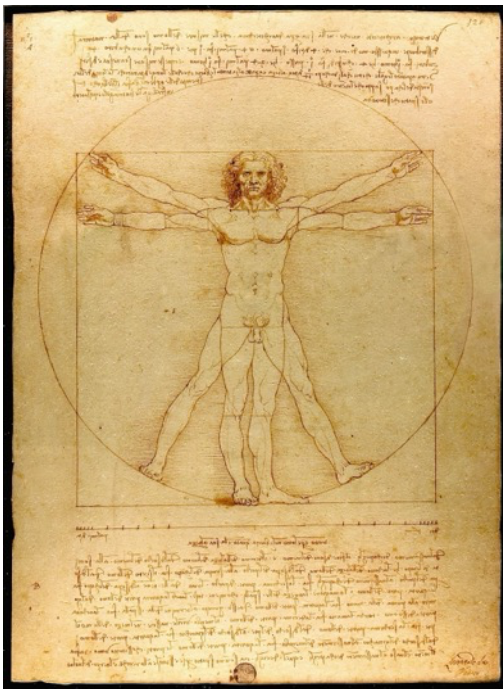
*adapted by Colin Gibson, then again by Matthew Jack.*

## Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: A Festal Fanfare - from the Fourth Concerto  
J.S.Bach (1685-1750)  
arr. by Van Denman Thompson

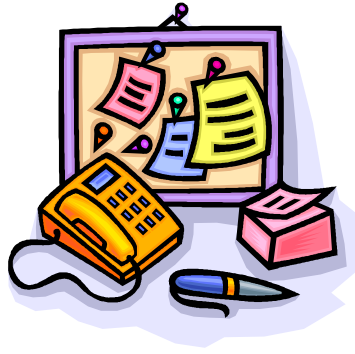
Following the service, morning tea and coffee are served in the church

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The ***Vitruvian Man*** ([Italian](#): *L'uomo vitruviano*); is a [drawing](#) by the [Italian Renaissance](#) artist and scientist [Leonardo da Vinci](#), dated to c.1490. Inspired by the writings of the ancient Roman architect [Vitruvius](#), the drawing depicts a nude man in two superimposed positions with his arms and legs apart and inscribed in both a circle and square. It was described by the art historian [Carmen C. Bambach](#) as "justly ranked among the all-time iconic images of [Western civilization](#)".<sup>[1]</sup> Although not the only known drawing of a man inspired by the writings of Vitruvius, the work is a unique synthesis of artistic and scientific ideals and often considered an archetypal representation of the [High Renaissance](#).

The drawing represents Leonardo's conception of ideal [body proportions](#), originally derived from Vitruvius but influenced by his own measurements, the drawings of his contemporaries, and the [De pictura](#) treatise by [Leon Battista Alberti](#). Leonardo produced the *Vitruvian Man* in Milan and the work was probably passed to his student [Francesco Melzi](#). It later came into the possession of Venanzio de Pagave, who convinced the engraver Carlo Giuseppe Gerli to include it in a book of Leonardo's drawings, which widely disseminated the previously little-known image. It was later owned by [Giuseppe Bossi](#), who wrote early scholarship on it, and eventually sold to the [Gallerie dell'Accademia](#) of Venice in 1822, where it has remained since. Due to its sensitivity to light, the drawing rarely goes on public display, but it was borrowed by the [Louvre](#) in 2019 for their exhibition marking the 500th anniversary of Leonardo's death.



## NOTICES

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

<b>Next Week:</b>	<b>9 March – 15 March</b>
Sunday	10.00am Morning Worship
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.

**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.

**Te Whare Roimata** – It has been reported that the last couple of week's grocery contributions enabled vegetable soup, quiche and apple crumble to be made for the subsidised lunch for vulnerable people. Nice work!

**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.



## The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Exodus 3: 1-10
- Matthew 20: 20-28

## 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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