



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

23 March 2025



SLAVE TO THE FATHER OF LIES

a service for the third Sunday of Lent

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.

The Greeting

The Introit: Lent Prose (plainsong)

The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, UN-MASKING THE LIES THAT BIND AND KILL US;
JESUS, PROCLAIMING THAT THE TRUTH WILL SET US FREE;
JESUS, WHOSE WORDS PUSH BACK AGAINST THE CHAOS.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Moscow

Felice Giardini (1716-1796)



1. God whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight,
hear us, we humbly pray,
and, where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light!
2. Saviour, who came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
now to all humankind
let there be light!
3. Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy Dove,
speed on your flight!
Move on the waters' face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light!
4. Gracious and holy Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far and wide
let there be light!

John Marriott (1780-1825) alt.

Prayer of Approach

Lord Jesus Christ,
as you walked your Lenten journey,
did you hear the lies?

THAT YOU WERE MAD?

THAT YOU WERE BAD?

THAT YOU WERE FROM THE HOUSE BEELZEBUB?

Lord Jesus Christ,
as you heard the stories of those around you,
did you hear the lies?

THAT WE ARE WORTHLESS?

THAT NOTHING MATTERS?

THAT NO ONE CARES?

We know, O living Lord,
that you heard all this,
and that you mounted a brave protest:

NO TO THE HATRED,

NO TO THE FEAR,

NO TO THE DESPAIR.

Yes to the love,
yes to the understanding;

YES TO THE TRUTH,

AND YES TO THE LIFE.

Silence

Today we will hear of your encounter
with those who purported to be children of Abraham,
but whose hearts were set on murder.
You saw through what they were saying
to what they were planning.

YOU STOOD UP TO THEIR DECEIT.

Today we may well trace the existence of slavery,
as it was, and as it is,
**TO THE DEEP LIES WE TELL ABOUT OURSELVES
AND ABOUT OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.**

As we do this, we may well need to hear a word not only of challenge,
but also of the kind of forgiving love
that makes new life possible.
So, calling to mind the lies we know we tell,
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 all truth,
give us discerning ears,
wise minds
and honourable hearts
to confront the lies of our times.

**MAY THE SAME SPIRIT BE IN US
THAT WAS IN JESUS,
RESISTING THE WRONG,
REJOICING IN THE RIGHT,
AND BEING FREE.**

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 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 First Lesson: John 8: 31-38

Hear the words of the Lord Jesus Christ.
HIS TRUTH WILL SET US FREE.

Knox Singers: God so loved the world
John Stainer (1840-1901)

The Gospel Lesson: John 8: 39-44

Hear the challenge of the Lord Jesus Christ.
UNDER ITS WEIGHT, MAY WE GROW.



Hymn:

Diva Servatrix

Bayeux Church Melody



1. Now God, be with us, for the night is closing;
the light and darkness are of thy disposing,
and 'neath thy shadow here to rest we yield us,
for thou wilt shield us.
2. Let evil thoughts and spirits flee before us;
till morning cometh, watch, Protector, o'er us;
in soul and body thou from harm defend us;
thine angels send us.
3. Let holy thoughts be ours when sleep o'ertakes us;
our earliest thoughts be thine when morning wakes us;
all day serve thee, in all that we are doing
thy praise pursuing.
4. We have no refuge, none on earth to aid us;
save thee, Creator, who thine own hast made us;
but thy dear presence will not leave them lonely
who seek thee only.
5. Dear God, thy name be praised, thy kingdom given,
thy will be done on earth as 'tis in heaven;
keep us in life, forgive our sins, deliver
us now and ever.

Petrus Herbert (d. 1571)

translation: Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.

Sermon: Looking for the lies

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/SB0T0IF82hk>

Hymn:

Londonderry Air

Irish traditional melody



1. Fold to your heart your sister and your brother:
where pity dwells, the peace of God is there;
to worship rightly is to love each other,
each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.
For he whom Jesus loved has truly spoken:
the holier worship, which he deigns to bless
restores the lost, and binds the spirit broken,
and feeds the widow and the fatherless.
2. Follow with reverent steps the great example
of him whose holy work was doing good:
so shall the wide earth seem our Father's temple,
each loving life a psalm of gratitude.
Then shall all shackles fall: the stormy clangour
of wild war music o'er the earth shall cease;
love shall tread out the baleful fire of anger,
and in its ashes plant the tree of peace.

John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892), alt.

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Lesley Hunt

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

We bring money and food, O God.
We bring also our desire to be more open to others,
more understanding and respectful,
more critical of the lies that abound.

**WILL YOU BLESS WHAT WE BRING,
DIRECTING IT WISELY,
FOR THE COMING OF YOUR EASTER LIFE.
AMEN.**

Notices

The Lenten Litany:

O Christ,
you met the racial and classist arrogance of the Pharisees
with a claim that their arrogance was based on lies.
With directness, you met their lying.
Along the Lenten path,
LEAD US LORD JESUS.

O Christ,
you told those who heard your voice
that the truth would set them free.
You called them to join you in your God-given freedom.
Along the Lenten path,
LEAD US LORD JESUS.

God of love,
as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us,
so may we give ourselves to you,
living according to your will.
**KEEP OUR FEET FIRMLY IN THE WAY WHERE CHRIST LEADS US,
THIS LENT, AND ALL OUR DAYS. AMEN.**

Hymn:

Heinlein

Nürnbergisches Gesangbuch, 1677, alt.



1. Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;

forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.

2. Sunbeams scorching day by day;
chilly dewdrops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about thy way;
stones thy pillow; earth thy bed.
3. Shall not we thy sorrows share,
learn thy discipline of will,
and, like thee, by fast and prayer
wrestle with the powers of ill?
4. If the tempter, vexing sore,
flesh and spirit should assail,
thou, our truth, our way, our life,
will not suffer us to fail.
5. So shall we have peace divine;
holier gladness ours shall be;
round us too shall angels shine,
such as ministered to thee.
6. Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant at thy side;
that with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

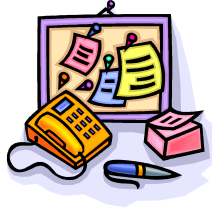
*George Smyttan (1822-1870)
and Francis Pott (1832-1909), alt.*

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Allegro moderato e serioso, Sonata 1
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

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

Music printed in this order of service is covered
under a music copyright licence agreement: LicenSing #604802



NOTICES

This Week: 23 March – 29 March
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
11.30am Shalom
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: 30 March – 5 April
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Shalom - The Shalom group will be meeting after church today, as usual. The topic is: 'Food and transport for a more sustainable world.' This will be facilitated by Bobbi and Richard. All welcome.

Bus Trip to Rangiora - If you'd like to take a little trip out of the city, please join us on Thursday 27 March as we head off to Rangiora on the Number 1 bus. Be at the bus stop in Victoria Street opposite Knox - by the barber's van - at 10.30ish in the morning. The bus is due at 10.40am but could be early. It arrives in Rangiora at about 11.30am. You are free to wander around or stop at a café as you wish. Buses return to Victoria Street departing Rangiora at 12.22, 12.52, 1.22, 1.52 and so on. Carparks will probably be available in the Knox carpark.

Janet Wilson

Easter Day Breakfast - Following on the tradition, we will be celebrating Easter Day with breakfast on Sunday 20 April to be served from 8.30am – 9.15am in the Knox Lounge. Menu: Fruit and Cereal, Scrambled Eggs with Bacon, Toast and Spreads, Tea/Coffee. Cost: \$10 per person. There are clipboards by both doors to be filled in by Sunday 13 April. We need to get an idea of numbers for food ordering but there will be enough food for extras.

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.

Whispering in the ear



Sometimes, as when Iago whispers in Othello's ear, the lies are unwelcome, and do their damage.



Sometimes, as when the advisor whispers in the ear of the ambassador, the lies are welcome, but also do their damage down the line.

Lent 2025 Slavery - Longing for Freedom

30 March - 10:00am

Lent 4 - A Slave's Tale



We look at the letter of freed slave Jourdain Anderson to his one-time Master, responding to the latter's invitation to return to "service". Jourdain outlines some of what he's enjoying about his new freedom. We look at Paul's famous request to Philemon to give freedom to his run-away slave, Onesimus - [Philemon 1-22](#). For Paul, the life of Christ is the beginning of the end of slavery.

6 April - 10:00am

Lent 5 - Communion The Manifesto - flags of dawn



When Jesus announces the beginning of his ministry in Nazareth, [Luke 4:16-21](#), he calls upon the concept of the "year of the Lord's favour", which in Jewish thought involved the returning of land to its traditional owners and the setting free of all who had been sold into servitude. While these practices were seldom observed in Israel's life, Jesus seemed confident that his "way" would do better. Was he right?



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Philemon: 1-7
- Philemon : 8-22

Knox Directory

28 Bealey Ave,
Ōtautahi Christchurch 8013

Secretary: Lynda Gerken,
ph. (03) 379 2456,
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
voicemail at home (03) 3570 111

Church Council Clerk: Jean Brouwer
jean.brouwer@knoxchurch.co.nz

Director of Music: Jeremy Woodside
jeremy.woodside89@gmail.com

Pastoral Visitors:
Rev Norman and Linda Wilkins
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: