

KNONX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

24 August 2025

NOW IS ANOT THE TIME

A STUDY OF JUDGMENT, DELAY AND RESTORATION

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.

The sermon and prayers in this service were written by Matthew with no assistance by Artificial Intelligence.

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.

This morning we welcome Resolutions chamber choir from Rangi Ruru School, with their conductor, Helen Charlton. Welcome, Resolutions!

Thanks for joining us.

The Greeting

An Introit: Salve Regina

Miklós Kocsár (1933-2019)

The Call to Worship:

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

JESUS, CLEAR IN HIS MIND ABOUT WHAT IS IMPORTANT;

JESUS, IMPATIENT TO BLESS THE PEOPLE;

JESUS, IMPARTING STRENGTH AND DEPTH TO HIS OWN.

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:



- 1. This day God gives me strength of high heaven, sun and moon shining, flame in my hearth, flashing of lightning, wind in its swiftness, deeps of the ocean, firmness of earth.
- 2. This day God sends me strength to sustain me, might to uphold me, wisdom as guide. Your eyes are watchful, your ears are listening, your lips are speaking, friend at my side.
- 3. God's way is my way,
 God's shield is round me,
 God's host defends me,
 saving from ill.
 Angels of heaven,
 drive from me always
 all that would harm me,
 stand by me still.
- 4. Rising, I thank you, mighty and strong One, king of creation, giver of rest, firmly confessing threeness of persons, oneness of Godhead, trinity blest.

James Quinn (1919-2010), alt.

Prayer of Approach

Given all the things that need doing at home, the unanswered emails, the dishwashers that must be emptied, the daisies returning to the lawn, what made us feel we needed to stop today, and come to church?

DID WE DETECT SOMETHING IMPORTANT?

Given each day's strength of high heaven, each day's sun and moon shining, each day's wind and deeps and firmness, why is today a day for prayer and song?

IS THERE SOMETHING URGENT IN THIS DAY?

Has something suddenly come into focus?
Has something suddenly commending itself as of central importance?
Has a wee crack opened up in our thinking, through which the light has shone?
HAVE WE REALISED
THAT THIS IS A MOMENT OF GRACE?

We don't quite know, O God, but in this very moment, we offer silent praise.

Silence

We confess, O God that sometimes we are impatient, even over things for which we ought to wait. And sometimes we are over patient about things that for others are well and unjustly overdue. We can trivialise the suffering of others, and shrug off the ways in which proper priorities might be pursued. So, we say

Lord have mercy.

CHRIST HAVE MERCY.

Lord have mercy.

Assurance and Response

You are forgiven and you are free. THANKS BE TO GOD.

The Theme Prayer:

God, you have an exquisite attention for what you have made. You keep and care for it with an undying love. You meet our moments of feeling forgotten with miracles each day of healing and wholeness.

BLESS US, AS WE WAKE UP TO THIS TRUTH, THAT WE MIGHT HEAR THE WORD OF LIFE, AND STAND TALL IN YOUR LOVE.

This is our prayer, which we pray in Jesus' name, using the words he gave us, 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: Psalm 103: 1-8

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

Anthem: All things new

Elaine Hagenberg (b.1979)

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 13:10-17

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Introduction to a Hymn

Hymn:



- Stand tall in Christ, all people of our God, no other idol will suffice this hour.
 In Jesus Christ all captives are set free, all hurts are healed and hope is born anew.
- 2. Stand tall in Love, all people who would dare be reconcilers where divisions lie; in love will pain and loneliness be eased and rainbows hung in all our hearts again.
- 3. Stand tall in Peace, all people who love life, whose lives are candles in earth's darkest place, who plead for justice and support the weak that all might live in hope and harmony.
- 4. Stand tall in Faith, all people who would share as trusting partners in God's enterprise, whose lives would speak in deeds, not just in words, of grace, forgiveness and a generous heart.

Margaret Kouvelis (b. 1949)

Sermon: "You'll just have to wait"

Generally, sermons are posted on the sermon page of our website shortly after the service. 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/iOoCvCzv160

An Empty Space

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Josiah Tualamali'i

Offertory Hymn:



- If one could speak the very words of angels, yet not in love that eloquence declare, then all our words, like sounding brass and cymbals, discordantly would jangle in the air.
- 2. If all our words drew power and inspiration, and if our faith could make the mountains move, if we could know the secrets of creation, it would be nothing if we have no love.
- 3. For love is patient, kind and undemanding, forsaking wrong, rejoicing in the truth. While passing is the gift of understanding, love is triumphant in eternal youth.
- 4. Now all we see in shadows dimly casting the fleeting glimpses of the world to be: though faith and hope are prophecy outlasting, love is the greatest, ever, of the three.

Peter Haskins (b. 1948) Based on 1 Corinthians 13

We remain standing for

The Dedication of the Offering

Is today a good day to offer some food? **GOD HALLOWS THIS DAY**.

Is today a good day to sacrifice some money? **GOD BLESSES THIS DAY.**

Would this be a good day for us to learn to give more

of our heart, mind and soul, in support of those who wait? WE HEAR GOD CALLING, AND LONG TO RESPOND IN FAITH.

Bless what we offer, FOR WE PRAY IT IN THE NAME OF JESUS, AMEN.

Notices

Hymn:



- 1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end; Lord, be for ever near me, my master and my friend: I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side, nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.
- O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still, above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will; Lord, speak to reassure me, to chasten or control; O speak, and make me listen, true guardian of my soul.
- 3. Lord, let me see your footmarks and in them plant my own; that I may follow boldly and in your strength alone:
 O guide me, call me, draw me,

uphold me to the end; and then in heaven receive me, my Saviour and my friend.

John Ernest Bode (1734-1820)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Recessional

William Mathias (1934-1992)

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

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NOTICES

This Week: 24 August – 30 August

Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship

11.30am Shalom

Wednesday 10.00 am Bible Study

Next Week: 31 August – 06 September

Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship - Spring Flower Sunday

Wednesday 10.00 am Bible Study

Spring Flower Sunday August 31 - To celebrate Spring it is intended to deliver small bunches of Spring flowers to our shut in and older Senior members after the service. Would you let Jennifer McKinnon know if you are able to bring Spring flowers already bunched for distribution. Also needed will be volunteers to deliver the flowers. This is an opportunity to connect with other church people.

Sunday 7 September 4pm in the Lounge: 2025 is 250 years since Jane Austen was born. In honour of this, our September film is **Persuasion** (2007). The main character, Anne Elliot, is considered to be the closest character to resemble Jane herself. The acting is fabulous and the film is very moving.

Spring edition of Knox Life – Any material for inclusion of the next Knox Life please forward to the office. Knox Life will next be published in September. office@knoxchurch.co.nz

HINEWAI REFLECTIONS - The artwork of Hugh Wilson - Orders are being taken for a 300 page book featuring 170 artworks of birds and plants by Hugh Wilson. Published on fine quality paper, the book includes Hugh's informative and anecdotal comments on each drawing. Profits from sales will go to support Hinewai Reserve, the wonderful area of native bush above Akaroa, where Hugh is the manager. Hugh grew up in Knox Church as his father, Mac Wilson, was a much loved minister here. Hugh is a hugely respected botanist (with several botanical books to his name), as well as an accomplished artist and he has a quirky, humorous way with words. The book is being edited by the writer Sarah Quigley, who is Hugh's niece, and it will be a high quality production. It will be available early next year and advance orders are requested in order to determine the print run. Price will be \$80 which includes packing and postage within NZ. Order forms and payment details are available in the foyer entrance to the church. As only one print run is envisaged this is probably your only opportunity to purchase this wonderfully original book.

Monday 1 September 1.30-2.30pm, Mary Potter Community Centre - Community Centre Talk, Speaker: Mel Frazer (Aspire Canterbury). This presentation will include valuable information regarding support services and mobility equipment available for hire plus products for sale that enhance independence. All welcome and bring a friend. Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham Street North St Albans Christchurch 8014. Cuppa to follow. Donation/Koha welcome

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.



Calling all Christian Authors & Scribes

Date: Saturday, 30th August 2025
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Venue: Dawn's place – 338 Marine Parade, New Brighton, Christchurch
RSVP by Friday, 22nd August to: verna.mcfelin@gmail.com

Let's gather to inspire one another, share our writing, and <u>honour</u> God with our words.





The Bible readings for next week will be:

Matthew 26: 6-132 Corinthians 3: 1-3

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

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