



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

31 August 2025



YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE!

SPRING FLOWER SUNDAY

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 styling 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.

The Greeting

A Poem by Wendy Cope

Some men never think of it.
You did. You'd come along
and say you'd nearly brought me flowers
but something had gone wrong.
The shop was closed. Or you had doubts -
the sort that minds like ours
dream up incessantly. You thought
I might not want your flowers.

It made me smile and hug you then.
Now I can only smile.
But, look, the flowers you nearly brought
have lasted all this while.

The Call to Worship:

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

JESUS, WHOSE GRACE GILDS OUR WORLD WITH LOVE;

JESUS, SPRINGTIME LORD OF THE WAKING HEART;

JESUS, TO WHOM BE ALL PRAYER AND PRAISE.

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Laudes Domini

Joseph Barnby (1838-1896)



1. When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries
“may Jesus Christ be praised!”
Alike at work and prayer
to Jesus I repair:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
2. To God, the word on high
the hosts of angels cry:
“may Jesus Christ be praised!”
Let mortals, too, upraise
their voice in hymns of praise:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
3. Let earth’s wide circle round
in joyful notes resound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let air, and sea, and sky,
from depth to height, reply:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
4. Be this, when day is past,
of all my thoughts the last:
“may Jesus Christ be praised!”
The night becomes as day,
when from the heart we say
“may Jesus Christ be praised!”

5. Be this while life is mine,
my canticle divine,
“may Jesus Christ be praised!”
Be this the eternal song
through all the ages long:
“may Jesus Christ be praised!”

*Anon, German, early 19th cent
trans. Edward Caswall (1814-1878)*

Prayer of Approach

God of the beautiful creation,
through the coming of the Spring
it feels like you have brought us flowers.
The coy part of who we are
feels like it needs to say
'YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE!'

But behind the coy response,
there also is something deeply touched,
and struggling to say how much it means
to know that we are children of grace.
YOU HAVE BROUGHT US FLOWERS.

From this poignant Springtime place,
this moment of considering the love you show us,
we keep a moment of silent praise.

Silence

The colours fill the earth,
but we close our eyes.

The roses bloom;
we see only the manure around the roots.

The puritan heart digs in,
and flowers remain unclaimed on the table.

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:

Flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom.

SO, PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING TO YOU, O GOD.

Let us be inspired by your beautiful work,
**AND LET US SHARE FREELY
THE NEW LIFE YOU GIVE.**

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 Prayer of Blessing for the Flowers:

O God, your goodness is stamped on creation.
Its beauty echoes yours.

WE THANK YOU FOR THESE FLOWERS.

O Christ, you spoke of the flowers of the fields.
You said if God clothed them, who neither toiled nor worried,
then how much more would God clothe us.

**WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR FAITH IN GOD'S GOODNESS.**

O Spirit of God, bless these flowers,
that, as they are handed to people today,
they may become signs of divine love
and human caring.

Brighten the homes to which they will go,
**AND FILL ALL OUR HOMES
WITH PEACE.**

We pray this in Jesus' name.
AMEN.



Knox Singers: Look to the Day
John Rutter (b. 1945)

The First Lesson: Matthew 26: 6-13

This is the gospel of Christ.
PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Reflection: She shouldn't have done that

Generally, sermons are posted 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/9jpy4c8Rltg>

The Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 3: 1-3

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

Reflection: Flowers delivered

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

History most probably will not remember our offering
as a beautiful thing to be honoured and cherished.

NEVERTHELESS, WE OFFER IT IN FAITH.

We may not be considered living letters of the Spirit of God,

**BUT WE PRAY THAT SOMETHING OF WHAT WE DO
MAY MAKE A DIFFERENCE THAT IS GOOD.**

Receive, bless and direct what we bring,

THAT THE PURITAN HEART MAY WAKE UP AND SING,

for we pray this in the name of Jesus,

AMEN.

Notices

Hymn:

Dunedin

Vernon Griffiths (1894-1985)



1. Where mountains rise to open skies
your name, O God, is echoed far,
from island beach to kauri's reach,
in water's light, in lake and star.
2. Your people's heart, your people's part
be in our caring for this land,
for faith to flower, for aroha
to let each other's mana stand.
3. From broken word, from conflict stirred,
from lack of vision, set us free
to see the line of your design,
to feel creation's energy.
4. Your love be known, compassion shown,
that every child have equal scope:
in justice done, in trust begun
shall be our heritage and hope.

5. Where mountains rise to open skies
your way of peace distil the air,
your spirit bind all humankind,
one covenant of life to share!

Shirley Murray (1931-2020)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: In a Monastery Garden
Albert Ketelbey (1875-1959) arr. Hugh Ware

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

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NOTICES

This Week: **31 August – 06 September**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship - Spring Flower Sunday
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: **07 September – 13 September**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Spring Flower Sunday August 31 - Many thanks to those who have provided Flowers and Posies to be delivered after the Service today. Thank you too to those who are willing and able to deliver the posies. Addressed envelopes are on the table at the front of the Church. This is a great opportunity to reach out and connect with other church folk.

Linda and Norman will be away from 1-13 September. We are going to Cairo to see my brother and family. Colin is seriously ill with liver cancer. We would appreciate your prayers and thoughts. Many thanks.

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

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. Ph 03 372 9224. Cuppa to follow. Donation / Koha welcome.

Meditation Saturday 6th September 10.00am in Knox Chapel. A time to share in our meditation practice. All are welcome. Any queries - contact Bobbi Laing - Cell phone number available from the office.

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.

Film Group - 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.

A Knox Hymn-a-thon

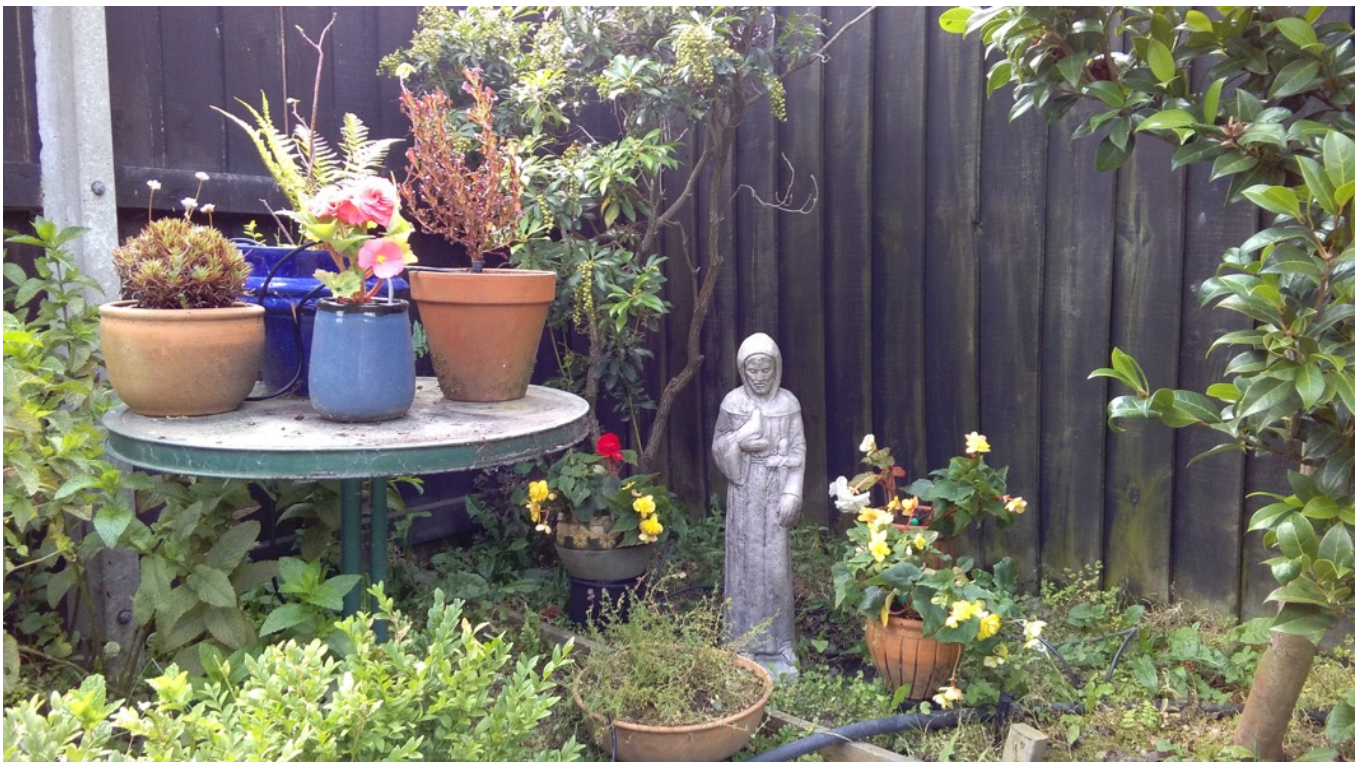
On Sunday 9 November at 2pm, we shall be celebrating the gift of singing with a Hymn-a-thon. Please submit your favourite hymn (and tune if necessary) with a reason behind this to Jeremy (email on the back of the service sheet) by Sunday 26 October. 10 hymns will be selected, and the event will be followed by a cup of tea in the lounge.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS 21 SEPTEMBER 2025

Photos of pets who can't be with us on the day (either because they like to be at home, or because they're not with us anymore), can be sent to the office by 12:00 noon on Wednesday 17th.

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.





The Bible reading for next week will be:

- John 20: 19-20, 24-28

Knox Directory

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Monday - Friday, 9.00am-noon

Visit our website
<http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/>



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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?

Name:

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