



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

19 October 2025



**PERSISTENCE IN THE FACE
OF INDIFFERENCE**

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 lectern side of the sanctuary.

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

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.

Welcome:

The peace of God be with you. **And also with you.**

We keep a moment of silence.

The Call to Worship:

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

Frederick A. Styles *Worship For An Easter People* 'Volume 2' (Ontario: enThusia Enterprises 1978) p. 1-9

Hymn: AA155 Where mountains rise to open skies



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

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

Let us pray.

O God of covenant and promise we come before you in awe of your patience and grace that is always open to us.

As the mystery beyond all mystery you have breathed existence into the emptiness of eternity and brought life, in all its variety, out of the very building blocks of creation.

As humanity struggles to mediate its drive to survive and reconcile its fear of others through borders and treaties, we also sense the divine presence.

Each of us can feel a call to cooperation and peace, though justice and lovingkindness, that is given targetable form in Jesus who is Christ to us.

Christ gives us a vision and understanding of our relationship with each other.

In such a relationship we are also linked to the divine in a covenant relationship that surpasses all written laws and treaties of human construction.

LAMENT

Humanity is not always open to the divine law planted deep within us and competition replaces the natural instinct of a cooperative species.

Revenge and retribution seem more satisfying and expedient than justice through reconciliation and rehabilitation.

Statutes and treaties seek to limit our excesses of self-interest and contain our quest for security through territory and wealth at the expense of the vulnerable and the marginalised.

Inadequate parenting and abuse of addictive substances brings forth new generations of dysfunctional parents and a subculture of violence and hopelessness.

Open the hearts and minds of all humanity to the way of peace through justice and lovingkindness, O God of transformation and Hope.

Amen

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In Jesus Christ we find the image of the God of Peace,
the pathway to reconciliation and new beginnings
and the resurrection of expectation for all humanity.
Through Christ transformation is a reality and hope is eternal.

Thanks be to God

We conclude our prayers with the prayer we believe Jesus taught his disciples.

The Lord's Prayer:

**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

The peace of Christ be with you all.

AND ALSO WITH YOU.

We exchange a sign of peace with one another.

Introduction to the First Reading

The First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:27-34

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

Knox Singers: King of Glory, King of Peace
William Harris (1883-1973)

Introduction to the Second Reading

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 18:1-8

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Hymn: WOV558 When I needed a neighbour



1. When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?

*And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?*

2. I was hungry and thirsty, were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?

3. I was cold, I was naked, were you there, were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?

4. When I needed a shelter, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a shelter, were you there?

5. When I needed a healer, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a healer, were you there?

6. When they put me in prison, were you there, were you there?
When they put me in prison, were you there?

7. Wherever you travel, I'll be there, I'll be there,
wherever you travel, I'll be there.

Sydney Carter

Sermon: Persistence in the face of indifference

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.

Hymn: WOV92 God has spoken by his prophets



1. God has spoken by his prophets,
spoken his unchanging word,
each, from age to age proclaiming
God, the one, the righteous Lord.
In the world's despair and turmoil
one firm anchor holds us fast:
God is king, his throne eternal,
God the first, and God the last.

2. God has spoken by Christ Jesus,
Christ, the everlasting Son,
brightness of the Father's glory,
with the Father ever one;
spoken by the Word incarnate,
God from God, ere time began,
Light from Light, to earth descending,
God revealed as Son of Man.

3. God is speaking by his Spirit,
speaking to our hearts again,
in the age-long word expounding

God's own message, now as then,
through the rise and fall of nations
one sure faith yet standing fast;
God still speaks, his word unchanging,
God the first, and God the last.

George Wallace Briggs
TiS158 words

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Andrew Johnston

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering.

Notices

Hymn: AA156 Where the road runs Out

Tune: Columbus



- 1 Where the road runs out and the signposts end,
where we come to the edge of today,
be the God of Abraham for us,
send us out upon our way.

*Lord, you were our beginning,
the faith that gave us birth.
We look to you, our ending,
our hope for heaven and earth.*

- 2 When the coast is left and we journey on
to the rim of the sky and the sea,
be the sailor's friend, be the dolphin Christ,
lead us on to eternity.
- 3 When the clouds are low and the wind is strong,
when tomorrow's storm draws near,
be the spirit bird hovering overhead
who will take away our fear.

*Colin Gibson
Used by permission*

Benediction and **Sung Amen**

Go now and take your place on holy ground.

All God's Creation is holy ground

May peace be your dream,
justice be your vision on the way,
and God's freedom open before you
like a pathway of hope.

Dorothy McRae-McMahon, *The Glory Of Blood Sweat And Tears Liturgies For Living And Dying*
(Melbourne: The Joint Board of Christian Education 1996) p.32.

And may the blessing of God
our creator, redeemer and giver of Life
be with us always. **Amen**

Postlude: Praeludium in G minor - Nicolaus Bruhns (1665-1697)

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

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NOTICES

This Week: 19 October – 25 October
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
12.00pm Lunch at Black & White Café
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: 26 October – 1 November
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
11.30am Shalom
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Shalom - Using MD Larry Dossey's book "Healing Words" Len Pierce will look at the relationship between the power of prayer and the practice of medicine. Second of four sessions will be held next week at 11.30am in the Lounge - everyone welcome.

Pillars – For the first three Sundays of November we will be collecting Christmas treats and gifts for Pillars, as we have done for many years now. Pillars is an organisation which supports the families of people in prison. They greatly appreciate our donations of Christmas gifts and food which are distributed to their families in the festive season. They currently work with children between the ages of 0-17. We hope you find the following suggestions for gift ideas helpful:

- Toiletries for teenage boys and girls
- Card games
- Board games
- Outdoor toys/games.

Please note, that with many people struggling financially, we will also continue collecting our regular food donations for Te Whare Roimata. Thank you for your support of both these organisations and the needy people they serve.

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.



You are invited to a Forum on:

TRENDS IN EDUCATION

Developing Trends in NZ Secondary Education

Keynote Speaker: Chris Abercrombie
Te Amorangi/President
PPTA Te Wehengarua

Faith Response and Q & A following

When: 6.00 pm
Thursday 23 October 2025
(refreshments from 5.30 pm)
Koha please

Where: Knox Centre
28 Bealey Avenue
Christchurch

Organised by EcuAction

*Further info from: Marilyn, ph 021-0613940
Brian, ph 021 129 4305*



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Joel 2:23-32
- Luke 18:9-14

Knox Directory

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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?

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