



# KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service

23 November 2025

---



# TWO CRIMINALS AND A KING

## **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 late Jack Durrer enjoyed making things out of wood. One day he presented the minister with three small crosses on a platformed base.

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 and Welcome**

#### **Colossians 1: 11-20,**

*a celebratory reading in honour of Christ,  
in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.*

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

On the edge of Advent,  
**WE CELEBRATE CHRIST AS OUR KING.**

### **The Call to Worship:**

We light a candle in the name of Jesus Christ, a light in the world.  
**JESUS, IN WHOM THE FULLNESS OF GOD WAS PLEASED TO DWELL;  
JESUS, IN WHOM ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER;  
JESUS, MAKING PEACE THROUGH HIS BEING ON THE CROSS.**

Kia noho a Ihowa ki a koutou. God be with you.  
**MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.**

**Hymn:**

St Helen

George Clement Martin (1844-1916)



1. Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour;  
first-begotten from the dead,  
you alone, our strong defender,  
lifting up your people's head:  
alleluia, alleluia,  
Jesus, true and living Bread.
2. Here our humble homage pay we,  
here in loving reverence bow;  
here for faith's discernment pray we,  
lest we fail to know you now:  
alleluia, alleluia,  
you are here, we ask not how.
3. Though the lowliest form has veiled you  
as of old in Bethlehem,  
here as there your angels hail you,  
branch and flower of Jesse's stem;  
alleluia, alleluia,  
we in worship join with them.
4. Great High Priest of our profession  
through the veil you entered in;  
by your mighty intercession  
grace and mercy you can win:  
alleluia, alleluia,  
Victor over pain and sin.
5. Life-imparting heavenly manna  
stricken rock with streaming side,  
heaven and earth with loud hosanna  
worship you, the Lamb who died,  
alleluia, alleluia,  
risen, ascended, glorified!

*George Hugh Bourne (1840-1925)*

## **Prayer of Approach**

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,  
**CHRIST OF FAITH,**

on the verge of Advent,  
when we will begin again to prepare our hearts  
for your birth among us,  
**WE THINK BACK NOW,  
ON HOW WE ENGAGED WITH YOU  
SINCE CHRISTMAS LAST.**

You were Christ of the Joseph the father,  
**OF TARIANA THE POLITICIAN,**  
of new Council members  
**AND THE SAVING OF THE PLANET.**

You were Christ of slaves in bondage deep,  
**AND CHRIST OF PEOPLE SET FABULOUS AND FREE.**

You were Christ of Pentecost artworks  
**AND CHRIST OF THE MATATIKI STARS.**

You were Christ of the feeding, the clothing,  
**THE WELFARE AND THE HEALING.**

You were Christ of the peace,  
**AND CHRIST OF THE ANIMALS IN CREATION.**

Your Christ-world extended to every corner of who we are  
**AND THAT FOR WHICH WE HOPE.**

To you, in whom the fullness of God  
was pleased to dwell,  
**WE SANG "LORD, ENTHRONED IN HEAVENLY SPLENDOUR".**

On this Sunday,  
we seek to crown this all  
with an acknowledgement of your sovereignty,  
**YOUR BEING THE CREAM OF ALL OUR HEARTS.**

In token of which, we offer silent praise.

*Silence*

If there is a kingly rule,  
**THEN ALSO THERE IS A REBELLIOUS SPIRIT.**

If there is a crown,  
**THEN ALSO THERE IS A HIDDEN SWORD.**

If there is a common wealth,  
**THEN ALSO THERE IS A PRIVATE AMBITION.**

If the kingdom of Christ is for our health and wholeness,  
**WE CONFESS OUR TREASON  
IN THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED.**

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:**

Near the culmination of your pouring out of your soul,  
for us and for all the world, Lord Jesus Christ,  
**YOU WERE LIFTED UP ON A CROSS  
BETWEEN TWO OTHER CROSSES.**

From each cross came starkly different responses to who you were  
**AND TO WHAT GOD'S GIFT OF LIFE IS ABOUT.**

Bless us today  
as we explore how we sit within the different responses,  
**THAT WE MIGHT HEAR THE INVITATION,  
"TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE",**

for we pray this in the name of Jesus,  
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 playing of a Sound Clip

In 1988, at the age of 27, Michael was diagnosed with what, at the time, was an incurable disease. Faced with death, he became very angry, but had a moment of clarity in a Herne Bay Hospice. Michael says "I want to die calm, peaceful and loving". And so, to the words of three people dying on the cross.

**The Gospel Lesson:** Luke 23: 33-43

This is the gospel of Christ.

**PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.**

From wherever we are,

**MAY GOD OPEN OUR EYES TO CHRIST.**

## Hymn:

Passion Chorale

*Melody from Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)*



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. O sacred head sore wounded,<br>with grief and shame weighed down;<br>O kingly head surrounded<br>with thorns thine only crown.<br>Death's pallor now comes o'er thee,<br>the glow of life decays;<br>yet hosts of heaven adore thee<br>and tremble as they gaze. | 2. What language shall I borrow<br>to praise thee, heavenly friend,<br>for this thy dying sorrow,<br>thy pity without end?<br>O agony and dying!<br>O love to sinners free!<br>O Christ, all grace supplying,<br>turn thou thy face on me. |
|---|--|

3. In this thy bitter Passion,  
good Shepherd, think of me  
with thy most sweet compassion,  
unworthy though I be:  
beneath thy cross abiding  
for ever would I rest,  
in thy dear love confiding,  
and with thy presence blest.
4. Be thou my consolation,  
my shield, when I must die;  
remind me of thy passion  
when my last hour draws nigh.  
Mine eyes shall then behold thee,  
upon thy cross shall dwell,  
my heart by faith enfold thee;  
who dieth thus, dies well.

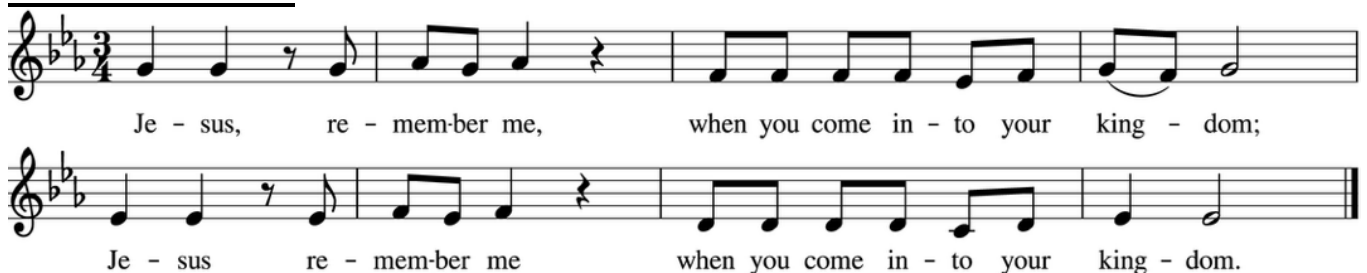
*Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676),  
from Salve caput cruentatum  
attrib. Bernard of Clairvaux (1091-1153)  
tr. James Waddell Alexander (1804-1859) and others*

**Sermon:** Three crosses

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/j3-fDL30Ge0>

While remaining seated, we sing for as many times as seems appropriate

**The Taizé Chant**



The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Taizé Chant. The first staff is in 3/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody consists of quarter notes, eighth notes, and a half note. The lyrics are: 'Je - sus, re - member me, when you come in - to your king - dom;'. The second staff is also in 3/4 time and has the same key signature. The melody is similar to the first staff. The lyrics are: 'Je - sus re - mem-ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.'.

**One Minute of Silence**

**Music for Reflection:** Fantasy  
Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

**Prayers for Others and Ourselves**

*led by Len Pierce*

## The Offering and Dedication

*We stand for the dedication of the Offering*

Some deride and call for vengeance,  
**BUT OTHERS MAKE OFFERINGS IN HOPE.**

Some give last breath to anger,  
**BUT OTHERS SEEK IN THE PRESENT TO NURTURE PEACE.**

Call us, and enable us, O God,  
**TO BE THOSE WHOSE LEGACY IS HONESTY AND LOVE.**

Bless the offering we bring,  
**IN THE NAME OF JESUS,  
AMEN.**

## Notices

### Hymn:

Gwalchmai

Joseph Michael Jones (1827-1870)



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. King of glory, King of peace,<br>I will love thee;<br>and, that love may never cease,<br>I will move thee.<br>Thou hast granted my request,<br>thou hast heard me;<br>thou didst note my working breast,<br>thou hast spared me. | 2. Wherefore with my utmost art<br>I will sing thee,<br>and the cream of all my heart<br>I will bring thee.<br>Though my sins against me cried,<br>thou didst clear me;<br>and alone, when they replied,<br>thou didst hear me. |
| 3. Seven whole days, not one in seven,<br>I will praise thee;<br>in my heart, though not in heaven,<br>I can raise thee.<br>Small it is, in this poor sort<br>to enrol thee:<br>ev'n eternity's too short<br>to extol thee.         |   |

*George Herbert (1593-1633)*



## **Benediction and Sung Amen**

**Postlude:** Postlude in C  
Henry Smart (1813-1879)

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 November – 29 November**

Sunday	10.00am	Morning Worship
	11.30am	Shalom in the Hall
Wednesday	10.00am	Bible Study

### **Next Week: 30 November – 6 December**

Sunday	10.00am	Morning Worship
Wednesday	10.00am	Bible Study

**Shalom:** Dr. Rose Isbell will briefly talk about labyrinths which are 'known to quiet the mind, open the heart and ground the body'. We will have the opportunity to walk an actual labyrinth. All welcome.

**Meditation** – Saturday 6 December at 10am in Knox Chapel. A time to share in our meditation practice. Please feel free to come along.

**Lost Property** – left in the Church last week – a gray Kathmandu rain jacket. To be collected from the office.

**Project Esther** - Hard copies of the most recent newsletter from Project Esther are available on the tables at the rear of the church

**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.**

	Book 1 Toby the Cat Moves to a New House		Book 2 Toby the Cat Makes New Friends
	Book 3 Toby the Cat Explores the Stream		Book 4 Toby the Cat Discovers the Bush
	Book 5 Toby the Cat Goes Walkabout		Book 6 Toby the Cat Star Gazes
	Book 7 Toby the Cat is a Hero		Book 8 Toby the Cat to the Rescue

## Tails of Toby the Cat

On Sundays 16, 23 and 30 November, eight Toby the Cat books (written by Sheila Cuthbertson) will be available from a table at the rear of the Church. \$10.00 per copy, or a full set of eight for \$70.00. **CASH ONLY.**



**You are Invited to:**

**West Papua's National Day**

**"Morning Star" Flag Raising**

**5pm Monday, 1 December 2025**

**Bridge of Remembrance**

**Cashel St West**

**Keynote Speaker: Teanu Tuiona MP**





**★ Stand in solidarity with suffering West Papuans**

**For those willing, we assemble at 4pm at Aldersgate Centre, 309 Durham St before marching to the Bridge of Remembrance for speeches & flag raising at 5pm.**

**Organised by: West Papua Action Canterbury**

**Coordinator: Brian Turner - 021 129 4305 / bhturner41@gmail.com**

# Advent and Christmas 2025 - "Towards the new world"

30 Nov	Justice, unity and peace 	<b>ADVENT 1</b> Isaiah 2:1-5 presents the image of God's holy mountain becoming a beacon for all the nations. Pondering the conflict surrounding the Waiwera Valley, we explore good and bad "mountain building". We sing "O come, O come Emmanuel"..
7 Dec	Deep understanding 	<b>ADVENT 2</b> In Isaiah 11:1-11, God's servant is described as having a spirit of wisdom and understanding. We imagine a world where we have a deep understanding of our neighbours, and we explore ways of inching towards that. We sing "Come, O long-expected Jesus".
14 Dec	The flourishing 	<b>ADVENT 3</b> In Isaiah 35:1-7, we find some dis-spirited figures on a dry and struggling landscape, and we explore the human realities for which they stand. We then consider the image of the landscape coming to life. We sing "When out of poverty is born a dream that will not die".
21 Dec	Nine Lessons and Carols 	<b>ADVENT 4</b> Following some well-worn readings that trace humanity's deep spiritual need from the beginning, we sing some favourite carols and enjoy hearing some brand new originals written especially for the occasion.



**I have loved you for a long time**  
A candlelight service  
11:15pm, Christmas Eve



**Welcome to the new world**  
10:00am, Christmas Day



## The Bible reading for next week will be:

- Isaiah 2: 1-5

## Knox Directory

28 Bealey Ave,  
Ōtautahi Christchurch 8013

Secretary: Lynda Gerken,  
ph. (03) 379 2456,  
[office@knoxchurch.co.nz](mailto: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](mailto:minister@knoxchurch.co.nz)  
voicemail at home (03) 3570 111

Church Council Clerk: Jean Brouwer  
[jean.brouwer@knoxchurch.co.nz](mailto:jean.brouwer@knoxchurch.co.nz)

Director of Music: Jeremy Woodside  
[jeremy.woodside89@gmail.com](mailto:jeremy.woodside89@gmail.com)

Pastoral Visitors:  
Rev Norman and Linda Wilkins  
[g8m8zinbayst@gmail.com](mailto: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: