



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

7 December 2025



TOWARDS THE NEW WORLD
ADVENT 2

DEEP UNDERSTANDING

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 Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem

The Order of St Lazarus was named after a character in one of Jesus' parables - Lazarus, a poor man with leprosy. The order chose him as the figure head, since it had a special concern to care for people with leprosy. These days, the order sponsors all manner of charitable causes, but still has a concern for matters related to physical health. The local branch appreciates the opportunity to visit congregations of diverse denominations and gently spreads the word about its work. We welcome members of the Canterbury branch today, including its co-commanders Rob Cope-Williams and Gareth Turner.

The Call to Worship:

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

JESUS, UPON WHOM THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH ALIGHTED;

JESUS, WHOSE LIFE WAS FULL OF WISDOM AND GRACE;

JESUS, WHOSE WORLD-COMPLETING COMING WE AWAIT.

AMEN! COME, LORD JESUS!

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

Hymn:

Merton

William Henry Monk (1823-1889)



1. Hark! a herald voice is calling:
"Christ is near," it seems to say,
"cast away the dreams of darkness,
waken, children of the day!"
2. Wakened by the solemn warning
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.
3. Lo, the Lamb so long expected
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us meet him with repentance,
pray that we may be forgiven.
4. So when love comes forth in judgment,
debts and doubts and wrongs to clear,
faithful may he find his servants
watching till the dawn appear.

Words: Anon

Prayer of Approach

When love comes forth in judgment,
HOW WILL OUR HEARTS AND MINDS BE TOUCHED?

When debts and doubts and wrongs are cleared,
HOW WILL OUR FREEDOM BECOME A FORCE FOR GOOD?

A herald voice is heard in the world,
sloth dispelling, souls awakening.

"Christ is near"

IT SEEMS TO SAY.

And so, to welcome him, we wait . . .

Pause

There is a photo of two older women,
engaging in a wonderful moment of being together.
The lines on their faces peak of experience,
THE KNOWLEDGE OF MANY THINGS.

What have they learned of life?
What have they learned from each other?
**WHAT HAVE THEY TO SHARE
WITH THE YOUNGER AND LESS ENLIGHTENED
WHO FOLLOW THEM?**

What more,
and how deeper might the treasures be, O God,
from the wisdom that you impart?
HARK, THE HERALD VOICE IS CALLING!

Today we will hear of the Servant of God,
upon whom falls the spirit of knowledge surpassing thought.
**AS WE JOURNEY TOWARDS CHRISTMAS,
AND THE CELEBRATION OF THE WORLD MADE NEW,
WE AWAIT THE GIFT OF DEEP UNDERSTANDING.**

Silence

Having professed our desire for the gift of understanding,
we confess our lack of enquiry,
our low levels of curiosity to understand those different from ourselves,
our retreating into what is easy, rather than into what is deep.

We acknowledge also that our retreat hurts the world,
and grieves your heart.

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:

On our Advent journey towards the world made new,
you feed our minds, and indeed our hearts, O God,
with Isaiah's vision of someone blessed
by the spirit of wisdom and understanding.

**ENABLE US TO ENGAGE WITH THIS VISION,
THAT OUR SHALLOWS MIGHT BECOME DEPTHS,
OUR CERTAINTIES BECOME MYSTERIES,
AND OUR RELIGION BECOME FAITH, WONDER AND DELIGHT,**

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.

The Advent Wreath

Looking towards God's new world, we ask in faith: "will God renew the earth?"

We remain seated to sing

Hymn:

Salisbury Street

Colin Gibson (1933-2022)



Bring in your new word, child of our earth,
holding creation in your compassion,
waiting your birth;
come little human, cry your first breath,
cry out God's kindness, light out of blindness,
life out of death.

Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)

The Candle of Understanding

Knowing that we often interpret our times, our neighbours and our selves in shallow ways, we long to connect with a wisdom that is deep, timeless and full of truth. Isaiah presents us with the vision of the Servant of God, steeped in an understanding that changes the world: God's crying in kindness, light out of blindness, life out of death.

Lighting this candle, we affirm the enlightenment begun in the birth of Jesus, and we look to the completion of our minds through his "coming again".

The candle is lit

Bring in your new world, O God,
FOR WE WAIT IN HOPE.

The First Lesson:

Romans 15: 4-9a, 13

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

Hymn:

Liebster Jesu

Later form of melody by Johann Rodolph Ahle (1625-1673)



1. Blessèd Jesus, at your word
we are gathered all to hear you;
let our hearts and minds be stirred
now to seek and love and fear you;
by your gospel pure and holy
teach us, Lord, to love you solely.
2. All our knowledge, sense and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
till your Spirit breaks our night
with your beams of truth unclouded;
you alone to God can win us,
you must work all good within us.
3. Glorious Lord, yourself impart,
light of light from God proceeding;
open lips and ears and heart,
help us by your Spirit's leading;
hear the cry your Church now raises;
Lord, accept our prayers and praises.

Tobias Clausnitzer (1619-1684)

tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

A Reflection:

The purpose of education

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/8UGLo1LlrY>

The Second Lesson: Isaiah 11: 1-10

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

Music for Reflection: Es ist das Heil uns kommen her
Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

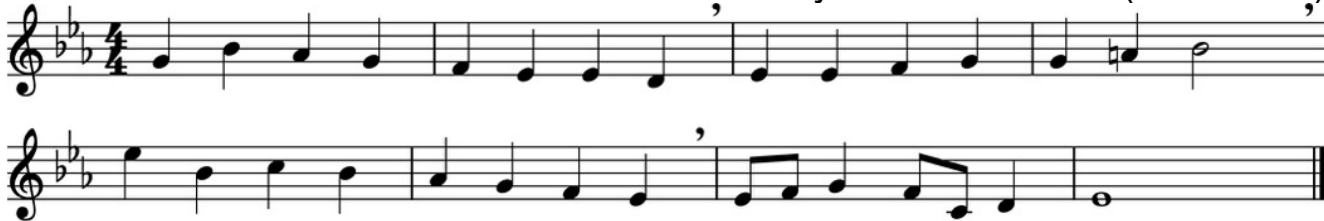
A Reflection:

The spirit of wisdom and understanding

Hymn:

St Leonard's

Arthur Cyril Barham Gould (1891-1953)



1. May the mind of Christ my Saviour
live in me from day to day,
by his love and power redeeming
all I do and say.
2. May the Word of God dwell richly
in my heart from hour to hour
so that all may see I triumph,
by his love empowered.
3. May the peace of God, Creator,
guide my life in everything,
that I may be calm to comfort
sick and sorrowing.
4. May the love of Jesus fill me
as the waters fill the sea;
him exalting, self denying,
this is victory.
5. May I run the race before me
strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus
as I onward go.

Katie Barclay Wilkinson (1859-1928), alt.

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Janet Wilson

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

We offer food, because we have some food to give.
We offer money, because we have some money to give.
We offer our minds, because we have thoughts,
ideas we hope have gospel potential.

**IN OFFERING THESE THINGS,
WE PRAY THAT, IN YOUR HANDS, O GOD,
THEY WILL DO WONDROUS THINGS,
CAUSING THE WORLD TO REJOICE,
AND TO PRAISE THE NAME OF THE ONE WHO BLESSES.**

We pray this in the name of Jesus, for whom we wait.

AMEN.

Notices

Hymn:

Crüger

Johann Crüger (1598-1662)



1. Light of the minds that know him,
may Christ be light to mine!
My sun in risen splendor,
my light of truth divine;
my guide in doubt and darkness,
my true and living way,
my clear light ever shining,
my dawn of heaven's day.
2. Life of the souls that love him,
may Christ be ours indeed!
The living Bread from heaven
on whom our spirits feed;
who lived for love of others,
who heaven's story told,
and made of our life's journey
an eager pilgrim's road.
3. Strength of the wills that serve him,
may Christ be strength to me,
who stilled the storm and tempest,
who calmed the tossing sea;
his Spirit's power to move me,
his will to master mine,
his cross to carry daily
and conquer in his sign.

4. May it be ours to know him
that we may truly love,
and loving, fully serve him
as serve the saints above;
till in that home of glory
with fadeless splendour bright,
we serve in perfect freedom
our strength, our life, our light.

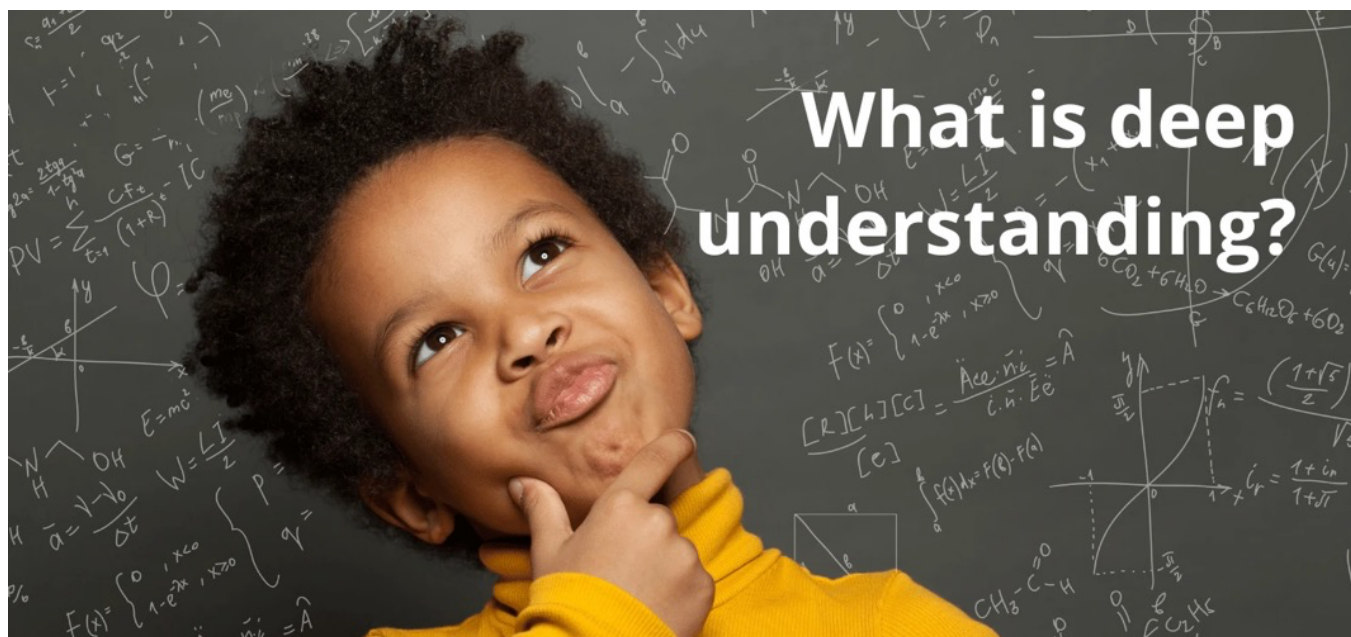
Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme
Max Reger (1873-1916)

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

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NOTICES

This Week: **7 December – 13 December**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship

Next Week: **14 December – 20 December**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
 11.30am Shared Lunch in Lounge

Luncheon - Sunday 14 December 2025. To celebrate being together for another year, Shalom welcomes the congregation to join together for a shared lunch in the Lounge after the service. If possible, please bring a small plate of finger food and leave on the tables in the Lounge. Any queries contact Susan, contact details held in the office.

Christmas Baking - On Sunday 7th and 14th December, Christmas mince pies, quince jelly and a selection of cookies will be for sale in the Church foyer. Cash only. Any contribution towards butter etc. would also be welcome - see Rochelle Howley.

Sunday lunch in December: There will be no shared lunch at the B&W Café, Avonhead this month. Instead, maybe consider accepting the Shalom Group invitation for a shared lunch in the Knox lounge on 14 December! The plan for 18 January is to **change venues** and meet for lunch at **Urban Eatery** in Barrington. Details to follow closer to the date.

Can you help: We need one or two volunteers to assist, from time to time, with flower arrangements for the Church. Please talk to Rochelle Howley / Jean Brouwer or contact the office.

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.

An Advocate for Including the Humanities in the Curriculum

Associate Professor Peter Field,
Head of School of Humanities, University of Canterbury,
speaking on RNZ National, the Panel, Wednesday 3 September 2025.



I'm always thinking about real life skills, but I'm also thinking about arts and humanities, because I'm involved in that every day . . . I like to remind parents and their kids that we were very fortunate indeed in this country; our young people can afford 3 or 4 years to not only work but to prepare themselves for a lifetime of achievement. I always like to remind them too, that the problems that your parents and we've created are not going to go away. So although they certainly should learn real life skills, it seems to me they'll likely solve problems if they don't only think about utility and savings and morals and money, but other things too: friendship and love, and beauty and meaning. No one lives without joy and things that they see and hear and spending some time falling in love with Jane Austen or Pablo Picasso or Beethoven or yes, even The Beatles,. You, yeah, the magical Mystery Tour is waiting to take you away. So the world's problems? I always think they'll still be here when you know yourself better, and are readier to tackle them as you must.

Towards the new world, wondering about the coming of deep understanding, we marvel that communication is possible at all.

LOST IN TRANSLATION: 25 WORDS WITH NO ENGLISH EQUIVALENT

1. **Cafuné** (Portuguese, Brazil) – Running your fingers through a loved one's hair.
2. **Desenrascanço** (Portuguese) – The ability to untangle oneself from a tough situation without a clear plan.
3. **Duende** (Spanish) – The mysterious power of art to deeply move a person.
4. **Forelsket** (Norwegian) – The euphoria you feel when falling in love.
5. **Gökotta** (Swedish) – Waking early to go hear the first birds sing.
6. **Gezelligheid** (Dutch) – A cozy, friendly, pleasant atmosphere.
7. **Hanyauku** (Rukwangali, Namibia) – Walking on tiptoes across hot sand.
8. **Jayus** (Indonesian) – A joke so unfunny it becomes funny.
9. **Jijivisha** (Hindi) – The strong desire to live and thrive.
10. **Kilig** (Tagalog, Philippines) – The fluttery feeling of romantic excitement.
11. **Komorebi** (Japanese) – Sunlight filtering through trees.
12. **Kummerspeck** (German) – Weight gained from emotional eating; literally “grief bacon.”
13. **Lagom** (Swedish) – Just the right amount; balanced living.
14. **Mamihlapinatapai** (Yaghan, Chile) – A look shared by two people who both want something but are hesitant to act.
15. **Meraki** (Greek) – Doing something with soul, creativity, or love.
16. **Outwaaien** (Dutch) – Walking in the wind to clear your mind.
17. **Saudade** (Portuguese) – Deep emotional longing for someone or something that's absent.
18. **Schadenfreude** (German) – Pleasure from another's misfortune.
19. **Sobremesa** (Spanish) – Time spent talking and relaxing after a meal.
20. **Tingo** (Pascuense, Easter Island) – Borrowing items one by one from a friend's home until there's nothing left.
21. **Toska** (Russian) – A deep, melancholic ache without clear cause.
22. **Tsundoku** (Japanese) – Buying books and letting them pile up unread.
23. **Ubuntu** (Nguni Bantu) – “I am because we are”; a philosophy of human connectedness.
24. **Wabi-Sabi** (Japanese) – Finding beauty in imperfection and impermanence.
25. **Yūgen** (Japanese) – A deep, subtle awareness of the universe that evokes an emotional response.

Advent and Christmas 2025

"Towards the new world"

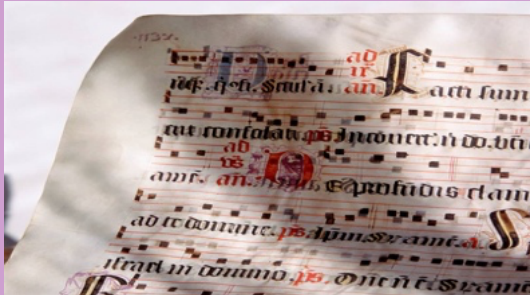
14 Dec The flourishing



ADVENT 3

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



ADVENT 4

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

Retiring offering for Christian World Service



Welcome to the new world

10:00am, Christmas Day

Retiring offering for Christian World Service



**Christian
World Service**
Celebrating 80 years

This Christmas
we are focusing
on helping our
global partners
to provide safe
water.

Give water Give life

"But let justice roll on like a river"
Amos 5:24

Over 1.4 million people in developing countries, mainly children,
die each year from diseases caused by lack of safe water for
drinking, for hygiene, and/or for sanitation.

World Health Organisation, 2024.

Photo: Christian World Service

DONATE NOW
www.cws.org.nz



One of the ways that Knox supports the Christian World Service Christmas Appeal is by taking a retiring offering at the end of our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Isaiah 35: 1-7
- Matthew 11: 2-6

Knox Directory

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<http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/>



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jean.brouwer@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:

Address:

Phone:

Email: