



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

15 March 2026



Six stories of Jesus and the stones
LENT 4

SINKING STONES RISING

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 and Welcome

Introit: Lent Prose - plainsong

*Hear us O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have sinned against thee.
To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory: lift we our weeping eyes in
holy pleadings: listen, O Jesu, to our supplications.*

The Call to Worship:

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

JESUS, WITH A HEART FOR THE "LITTLE ONES";

JESUS, WITH A CAUTION FOR THE WOLVES;

JESUS, SHARING WITH US HIS COURAGE AND VALOUR.

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

St Andrew

Edward Henry Thorne (1834-1916)



1. Jesus calls us! O'er the tumult
of our life's wild restless sea,
day by day his voice is sounding,
saying "Christian, follow me".
2. Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying "Christian, love me more".
3. In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these".
4. Jesus calls us! By your mercy,
Saviour, make us hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt.

Prayer of Approach

We begin the second half of our Lenten journey, O God.
The half-way point of many journeys
brings a sense of much of the work done,
lots of the travelling confidence grown -
now for the simple part!

**BUT OPENING BEFORE US TODAY
IS A STORMY SEA,
THE CHALLENGE OF FEAR,
THE LOOMING SPECTRE OF THE MILLSTONE AND NOOSE.**

Jesus calls us
**O'ER THE TUMULT
OF OUR LIFE'S WILD, RESTLESS SEA.**

Pause

Today we will hear another declaration of woe from our Lord.
It will be woe over those who make a ruin
of the hope and faith of the "little ones".

**THAT WE SHOULD NOT SINK IN DESPAIR,
HELP US CONFESS.**

We will hear the story of a sinking Peter,
disappearing beneath the waves of the storm.

**THAT WE MIGHT FIND A BUOYANCY IN OUR OWN STORMS,
AND NOT SINK LIKE STONES,
HELP US CONFESS.**

Into the silence,
we put our confession:

Lord have mercy.
CHRIST HAVE MERCY.
Lord have mercy.

Silence

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:

God of the "little ones",
you have revealed that your heart is the home
of a protective zeal,
a fiery concern for the small and vulnerable.
You have revealed yourself as One who contends with our fears,
lifting us up to faith and belonging.

**BLESS US TO MEDITATE ON THIS,
THAT OUR CONCERN FOR OTHERS MIGHT GROW,
AND OUR COURAGE MIGHT FLOURISH,**

for we pray this in the name of Jesus,
whose words we recall as together we say:

**E TO MATOU MATUA I TE RANGI,
KIA TAPU TOU INGOA.
KIA TAE MAI TOU RANGATIRATANGA.
KIA MEATIA TAU E PAI AI
KI RUNGA KI TE WHENUA
KIA RITE ANO KI TO TE RANGI.**

**HOMAI KI A MATOU AIANEI
HE TARO MA MATOU MO TENEI RA.
MURUA A MATOU HARA,
ME MATOU HOKI E MURU NEI
I O TE HUNGA E HARA ANA KI A MATOU.
AUA HOKI MATOU E KAWEA KIA WHAKAWAIA;
ENGARI WHAKAORANGIA MATOU I TE KINO:
NOU HOKI TE RANGATIRATANGA,
TE KAHA, ME TE KORORIA,
AKE AKE AKE.
AMINE.**

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 First Gospel Lesson: Matthew 18: 6-7

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

Sermon Part 1: Dead weights and millstones

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/WNv3qk2pRgY>



Knox Singers: Insanae et vanae curae
Josef Haydn (1732-1809)

Insane and stupid worries flood our minds; often mad fury fills the heart, robbed of hope. O humanity, what good is it to strive for worldly things, if you neglect the heavens? All things work in your favour, with God on your side.

A Second Gospel Lesson: Matthew 14: 22-33

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Sermon Part 2:

Lifting up the sinking



A work by Pete Majendie

Hymn:

Melita

J.B Dykes (1823-1876)



1. O great Creator, strong to save,
whose arm has bound the restless wave,
who bidst the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.
2. O Christ, whose voice the waters heard
and hushed their raging at thy word,
who walkedst on the foaming deep,
and calm amid the storm didst keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

3. O Holy Spirit, who didst brood
upon the waters dark and rude,
and bid their angry tumult cease,
and give for wild confusion, peace:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.
4. O Trinity of love and power,
our people shield in danger's hour
from rock and tempest, fire and foe,
guard them wherever they may go:
thus evermore shall rise to thee
glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

William Whiting (1825-1878)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Linda Wilkins

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

We bring the compassion we have,
praying that in its dedication
IT MIGHT BLESS THE LITTLE ONES.

We bring the courage we have,
praying that in its dedication
IT MIGHT STRENGTHEN THOSE WHO FEAR.

We bring this money and food also,
praying that in its dedication
IT MIGHT FEED THE HUNGRY AND BLESS THE NEEDY.

This is our prayer,
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, AMEN.

Notices

The Lenten Litany:

O Christ,
your passion for the little ones
caused you to warn those who hurt and destroy the vulnerable.
You called them back to better practice, to kinder life.
Along the Lenten path,
LEAD US LORD JESUS.

O Christ,
you stood with those who were frightened.
You lifted them up,
and saved them from drowning in their fear.
Along the Lenten path,
LEAD US LORD JESUS.

God of love,
as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us,
so may we give ourselves to you, living according to your will.
**KEEP OUR FEET FIRMLY IN THE WAY WHERE CHRIST LEADS US,
THIS LENT, AND ALL OUR DAYS. AMEN.**

Hymn:

Michael

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)



1. All our hope on God is founded:
who else can our hope renew?
Still through change and chance God guides us,
only good and only true.
God unknown, grace alone,
calls our hearts to be God's own.
2. Well does the almighty Giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow!
With delight our souls are nourished;
pleasure leads us where we go.
At God's hand love does stand;
joy awaits each new command.
3. Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray God's trust;
what with care and toil we're building,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
is our temple and our tower.
4. In glad hymns to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the love in Christ made known.

Hear Christ's call, one and all;
you who follow shall not fall.

*Joachim Neander (1650-1680)
tr. Robert Bridges (1844-1930), alt.*

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Sonata no. 3 in A
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

*The chorale heard in the pedals in the middle section is based on
the Lutheran hymn 'Aus der Tiefe' (Out of the depths) from Psalm
130*

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

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NOTICES

This Week: 15 March – 21 March
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
12.00pm Lunch Outing to Urban Eatery
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: 22 March – 28 March
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
11.30am Shalom
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Climate action - The Religious Diversity Centre has published a "Faith and Action Guide" on how faith communities can respond to climate change and find hope. This book provides statements about climate change and biodiversity from 7 major faiths; the basic science of climate change and its outcomes; actions that we can all take; and resource material. It will be launched in Christchurch at Knox Centre (28 Bealey Avenue) on Thursday 19 March. Each participant will receive

a free copy (subject to availability). This event is open to all, from any faith or none. Refreshments are at 5.30pm and the event starts at 6pm. There is no charge, but a *koha* to cover costs would be appreciated. Hosted by *EcuAction* and the *Canterbury Interfaith Society*.

Easter Day Breakfast - Following on the tradition, we will be celebrating Easter Day with breakfast on Sunday 5 April to be served from 8.30am – 9.15am in the Knox Lounge. Menu: Fruit and Cereal, Scrambled Eggs with Bacon, Toast and Spreads, Tea/Coffee. Cost: \$10 per person. There are clipboards by both doors to be filled in by Sunday 29 March. We need to get an idea of numbers for food ordering however, there will be enough food for extras.

Meditation: Another chance to meditate – in the Chapel on Wednesday 18 March at 8am. All welcome. This is in addition to the Saturday sessions.

Instruments for sale - Piano in the lounge, and Harmonium (including base). These are never used and Jeremy would be keen to sell them. Sensible offers will be accepted.

Lunchtime Concert: Toi Toi Opera presents a programme of arias in the Great Hall, Arts Centre on Monday 16 March at 1.10pm. Tickets are \$5-20 and available at the door.

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.



Brain Health Month Webinar: How not to age

Join this special FREE webinar from Dementia Canterbury with speaker Associate Professor Yoram Barak from the Department of Psychological Medicine, at the University of Otago. Associate Professor Barak will give a presentation that promises to be both informative and interesting.

Date: Thursday 19th March 2026.

Time: 2.30 to 4pm.

Location: Online via zoom.

Cost: FREE.

[Find out more about this webinar on ageing](#), including how to join online.

Walk for the Planet presents...

The Future of Local Government in Canterbury: A public forum



Sunday, March 15
Cuppa from 1.30pm
Forum from 2pm

Koha (donation)
Tea and coffee supplied

Knox Presbyterian Church,
28 Bealey Ave

Speakers:

Former ECan chairperson Craig Pauling
Ngāi Tahu ECan councillor Megen McKay

Please join our walks during the Walking Festival:

Saturday, March 28 - The Great Opawaho Heathcote River Walk

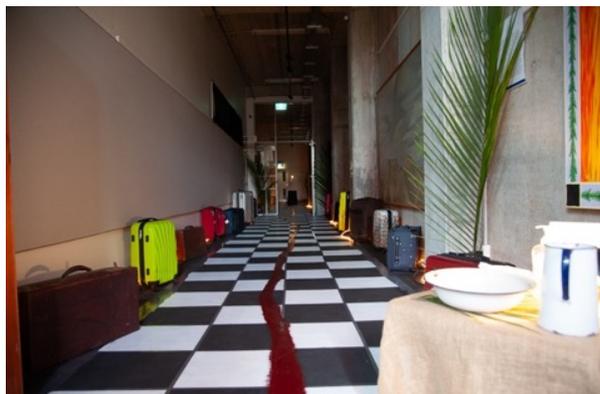
Saturday, April 4 - The Kaiapoi River Wellbeing Walk

Saturday, April 11 - The Great Otakaro Avon River Walk

For more information follow Walk for the Planet 2020 on Facebook.

Holy Week

Tuesday 31 March - Thursday 2
April



The Lenten Way Te Ara Tapu

An Installation Artwork for Holy Week
Pete Majendie

In the Knox Centre Chapel

Open for viewing

Tuesday 31 March - Thursday 2 April,
9:00am - 12 noon.

The artist will be present on Tuesday and
Wednesday, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Maundy Thursday Communion Service
Thursday 2 April, 7:00pm
(also in the chapel)



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Matthew 16: 13-18
- 1 Peter 2: 1-5
- Matthew 16: 21-23

Knox Directory

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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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