

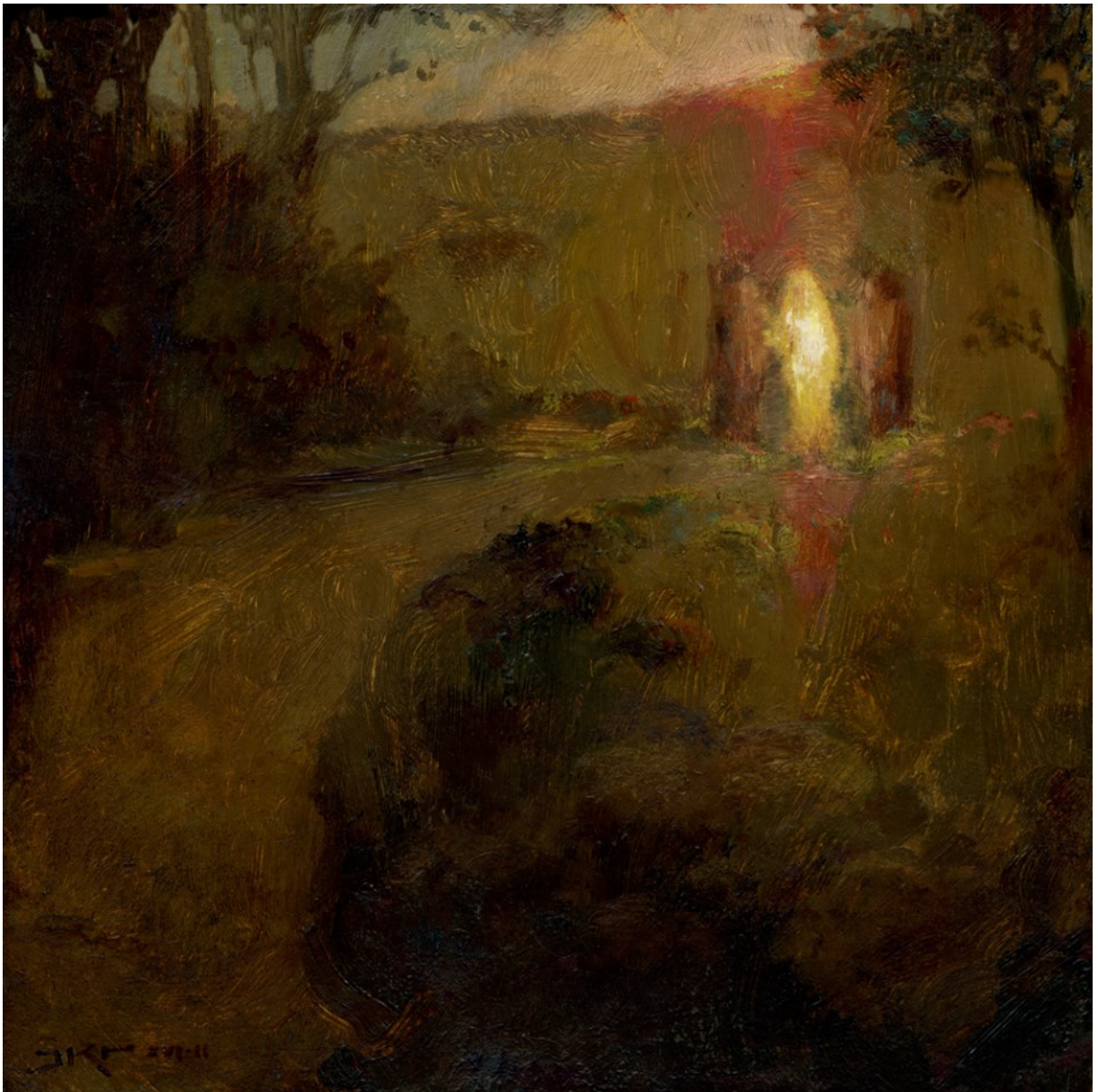


KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

19 April 2026



EMMAUS FAITH

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 - use your aid's "T" setting.

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 Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, JOINING TRAVELLERS ON THEIR SAD JOURNEY HOME;
JESUS, OPENING SCRIPTURES AND FIRING UP HEARTS;
JESUS, IN WHOSE PRESENCE THERE IS CLARITY AND JOY.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Vulpius

Melchior Vulpius (1570-1615)



1. The strife is o'er, the battle done:
now is the victor's triumph won;

O let the song of praise be sung:
Alleluia!

2. Death's mightiest powers have done their worst,
and Jesus hath his foes dispersed;
let shouts of praise and joy outburst:
3. On the third morn he rose again
glorious in majesty to reign;
let us awake and join the strain:
4. He closed the frowning gates of hell;
the bars from heaven's high portals fell;
let hymns of praise his triumph tell:
5. Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee,
from death's dread sting thy servants free,
that we may live, and sing to thee,
'Alleluia!'

*Latin, 17th Century,
trans. Francis Pott (1832-1909), alt.*

Prayer of Approach

The strife may well be o'er,
but the people don't yet quite understand.
For many, it's all still new -

A MYSTERY YET TO BE COMPREHENDED.

On an Easter Day,
a man called Cleopas and a friend,
head back home to Emmaus

RETREATING TO THEIR "NORMAL".

On an Easter Day
they visit memories of nails and flesh,
MEMORIES OF A GRIEVOUS TRAUMA.

On an Easter Day
they ponder the impossibilities of God -
**EMPTY-TOMBED RUMOURS
OF WHAT THE WOMEN SAY THEY SAW.**

On an Easter Day,
they do their best to make sense
OF WHAT IS BEYOND THEM.

If maybe we stand with them in that,
GOD BLESS US.

Pause

On the road they meet the Christ, O God.
He asks questions,
he invites reflection.
He teaches the oldest wisdom
and the newest news.
**A FLAME IS SET
IN THE HEARTH OF THEIR HEARTS.**

If, in this, we stand with them,
GOD BLESS OUR HEARTS.

Pause

As the Emmaus Christ invites us to conversation,
WE CONFESS OUR SILENCE.

As he invites our attention,
WE CONFESS OUR DISTRACTION.

As he invites our moving forward in faith,
WE CONFESS OUR LINGERING BACK.

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:

Lord Jesus Christ,
as your disciples went home,

not yet able to process what Easter morning meant,
you met them,
walked with them,
entered their thinking,
and gave them a profound clarity of Spirit.

**WE, WHO ALSO NEED YOUR CLARITY,
PRAY THAT YOU WILL MEET US ON *OUR* ROAD,
AND THAT WE WILL RESPOND IN A BEAUTIFUL WAY.**

For indeed this is our prayer,
brought in the name of Jesus,
who words we remember 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.

The First Lesson: Luke 24: 13-27

Music for Reflection: Easter (Five Mystical Songs)
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
Text by George Herbert
Soloist: Kahu Gray

*Rise heart; thy lord is risen. Sing his praise
Without delays,
Who takes thee by the hand, that thou likewise
With him mayst rise:
That, as his death calcinèd thee to dust,
His life may make thee gold, and much more just.*

*Awake, my lute, and struggle for thy part
With all thy art,
The crosse taught all wood to resound his name
Who bore the same.
His stretchèd sinews taught all strings, what key
Is best to celebrate this most high day.*

*Consort, both heart and lute, and twist a song
Pleasant and long;
Or since all musick is but three parts vied,
And multiplied;
O let thy blessèd Spirit bear a part,
And make up our defects with his sweet art.*

The Second Lesson: Luke 24: 28-35

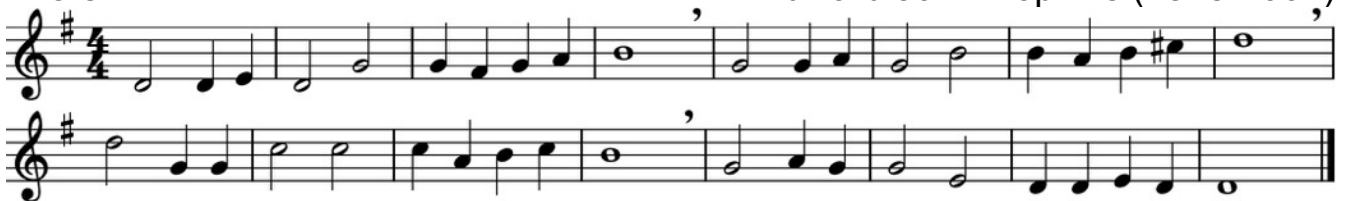
This is the gospel of Christ.
PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

We remain seated to sing

Hymn Fragment:

Ellers

Edward John Hopkins (1818-1901)



1. Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;
here would I touch and handle things unseen,
here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace,
and in my weariness upon thee lean.

Emmaus Reflections:

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 version of this sermon is available from 10:00am today: <https://youtu.be/10eMi20PN1g>

In these reflections, reference is made to a German theologian whose theological reflection was based in his experience as a young man caught up in war. In a short Youtube interview, he speaks about this:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_XG7NywtjM&t=171s

Also mentioned is an interview with Christopher Beha, which can be found at:

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/afternoons/20260413>

Reflection: The Trauma-acknowledging Community

We remain seated to sing

Hymn Fragment:

2. Along this road, O God, we set our feet,
bleak thoughts and trauma weigh us sadly down;
until by grace, a stranger we do meet;
calm at our side, he wears the Easter crown.

Reflection: The Now-Blinded Community

We remain seated to sing

Hymn Fragment:

3. Bless, God our eyes, that we might truly see
beyond the world's dark view of life as pain,
meeting the Christ as One who now is free
to give us vision, Easter life to gain.

Reflection: The Mystery-engaged Community

We remain seated to sing

Hymn Fragment:

4. Praise God for sharing mysteries so bright,
praise God for humble hearts that say "amen";
praise God for vistas opened to our sight
by which our souls are brought to life again.

Reflection: The Reminded Community seeking continued Presence

We remain seated to sing

Hymn Fragment:

5. Praise God for insights from remembered past,
praise God for ancient promise made alive,
praise God for burning hearts that longed at last
to find in God a faith in which to thrive.

6. Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
yet, passing, points to the glad feast above,
giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
the Lamb's great bridal feast of bliss and love.

Verses 1 & 6, Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)

Verses 2 - 5, Matthew Jack (b. 1963)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Janet Wilson

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

On a road to Emmaus,
you turned sad memories into warm-burning hearts.
You blessed unproductive confusion
to be clarity and joy.

**GOD OF WONDERFUL TRANSFORMATIVE POWER,
BLESS THE THINGS WE PRESENT HERE -
MONEY AND FOOD -
TO BE THINGS OF EASTER POWER.**

For we pray this in the name of Jesus.
AMEN.

Notices

Hymn:

Thaxted

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)



1. O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and act upon your word,
we honour and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.
2. Then hear, O gracious Saviour, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favour may serve you as our king;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

Michael Perry (1942-1996)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Paraphrase on a chorus in Handel's Judas Maccabaeus
Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

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

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NOTICES

This Week:	19 April – 25 April
Sunday	10.00am Morning Worship 12.00pm Lunch at Urban Eatery
Wednesday	10.00am Bible Study
Next Week:	26 April – 2 May
Sunday	10.00am Morning Worship 11.30am Shalom
Wednesday	10.00am Bible Study

Book Launch - "Hinewai Reflections" by Hugh Wilson. Today, Hugh Wilson's book "Hinewai Reflections" will be available for collection in the Knox Hall, any time between 1 and 4pm. If you have ordered a copy, please come along and pick it up. If you haven't ordered a copy of this delightful and beautiful book there will be some available for purchase at \$80 each - EFTPOS available. All profit goes to support the wonderful Hinewai reserve above Akaroa on Banks Peninsula. Hugh will be present to sign the books and will speak at 3pm. Tea and coffee will be available.

Film Group - Sunday 3 May at 4.00pm in the Lounge: Captain Phillips (2013). This film portrays a true event. In 2009 a U.S. container ship was hi-jacked by Somali pirates. It shows that dangerous situations can be solved with honour as the Captain, portrayed by Tom Hanks, surrenders himself in order to save his crew.



Knitted ANZAC poppies – available this morning. Donations would be appreciated and will be forwarded to the RSA.

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 (Knox Presbyterian Church). 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.

FUNDING OUR FUTURE

TRAINING PROGRAMME BY BETTER TAXES AOTEAROA

Building the power to win better taxes, for better futures through effective organising conversations.

Join Better Taxes and the Canterbury Tax Reform Coalition for this training to build our skills to fight for better taxes!

THURSDAY 7 MAY

5PM FOR KAI | 5:30PM START

TRADE UNION CENTRE | 68 LANGDONS ROAD, NORTHCOTE

Better taxes
for a **Better Future**

www.bettertaxes.nz



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Acts 2: 42-47
- John 10: 1-10

Knox Directory

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<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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