



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

10 May 2026



**I WILL NOT
LEAVE YOU
AS ORPHANS**

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, WHO LIVES;

JESUS, PROMISING NOT TO LEAVE US AS ORPHANS;

JESUS, IN WHOSE LOVE WE ABIDE.

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

St Albinus

Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876)



1. Jesus lives! your terrors now
can, O death, no more appall us;
Jesus lives! by this we know
now the grave cannot enthrall us.
Hallelujah!
2. Jesus lives! though once he died;
then may we, for Jesus living,
pure in heart, in him abide,
glory to our Saviour giving.
Hallelujah!
3. Jesus lives! our hearts know well
naught from us his love shall sever:
fame, or hurt, or powers of hell
tear us from his keeping never.
Hallelujah!
4. Jesus lives! to him the throne
over all the world is given;
May we go where he is gone,
rest and reign with him in heaven.
Hallelujah!

Christian Fürchtegott Gellert (1715-1769)

tr. Frances Elizabeth Cox (1812-1897) and others, alt.

Prayer of Approach

In this glorious Easter aftermath,
as the light of life finds ways to shine
into every corner of human hope,
WE HEAR THE WORD OF CHRIST:
"I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU ORPHANED".

As the early Christian community
wonders what will come next,
CHRIST MAKES AN ETERNAL PLEDGE.

And as this generation of faith in Christ
gathers to hear that Christ abides,
he in us, and we in him,
we long to be strengthened -
STRENGTHENED IN FAITH,
AND HOPE AND LOVE.

Silence

That we might walk closely with Christ,
growing into a deep and healing fellowship of spirit,
we seek to set aside those things that distance us from him:
**THE THOUGHTS, WORDS AND DEEDS
THROUGH WHICH WE FAIL HIM AND ONE ANOTHER.**

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:

God, in whose faithfulness we are never alone,
but in whose love we grow and prosper,
**ENABLE US TO HEAR THE ASSURANCE OF CHRIST,
THAT WE MAY GROW AND FLOURISH,
BECOMING TRUE CHILDREN OF YOUR CARE,**

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

**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 Sacrament of Baptism

Narrative – *brief description of why Eliot wants to be baptised.*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we come now to baptize Eliot.

Baptism reminds us that God values each one of us. God's love has always been around Eliot. God has wanted for him a life of love, joy and achievement.

Through this baptism we receive this man into the fellowship of the church and begin to care for him as a member of our church family.

By sharing this sacrament, we all take on ourselves the responsibility to play our part in spreading love, joy, hope and faith to all people.

Baptismal statements

Minister: (to Eliot)

Eliot, do you wish to be baptised?

Eliot:

Yes, I do.

Minister: (to congregation)

And all of you, on behalf of the Christian community right across the world, do you receive Eliot in the name of Christ?

Congregation:

YES, WE DO.

Minister:

Will you endeavour to support him as he lives his life as a Christian?

Congregation:

YES, WE WILL.

The Prayer of Consecration

An elder pours water into the font

May God be with you.

AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Lift up your hearts.

WE LIFT THEM TO OUR GOD.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.

Eternal God, we thank you for the gift of water . . .

The Baptism

In the name of God our Father; in the name of Christ our Lord; and in the name of the Holy Spirit we baptise you.

AMEN.

Pastoral Prayers for Eliot

Presentation of gifts

The First Lesson: Psalm 66: 16-20

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

The Gospel Lesson: John 14: 15-21

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

Hymn:

Ombersley

William Henry Gladstone (1840-1891)



1. God of all being, throned afar,
thy glory flames from sun and star;
centre and soul of every sphere,
yet to each loving heart how near!
2. Sun of our life, thy quickening ray
sheds on our path the glow of day;
star of our hope, thy softened light
cheers the long watches of the night.
3. God of all life, below, above,
whose light is truth, whose warmth is
love,
before thy ever-blazing throne
we ask no lustre of our own.
4. Grant us thy truth to make us free,
and kindling hearts that burn for thee,
till all thy living altars claim
one holy light, one heavenly flame.

Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894), alt.

Sermon: Three orphans and one faithfulness

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/l1FBTXGPDSk>

Music for Reflection: White Note Paraphrase
James MacMillan (b. 1959)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Ian Bayliss

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

Perhaps one way of demonstrating that we are not alone is by sharing what we have.

SO WE MAKE THIS OFFERING.

May the food and personal care items
bless not just the body,
BUT ALSO THE SOUL.

And may the community of Christ make a positive difference.

**FOR THIS IS OUR PRAYER,
IN THE NAME OF JESUS.
AMEN.**

Notices

The Litany for Mothers' Day:

All who are part of this service
are sons or daughters.

**WE PRAISE GOD FOR THE
WOMEN WHO GAVE US LIFE.**

For mothers brave, strong,
compassionate, full of wisdom
and grace,

**WE GIVE GOD THANKS AND
PRAISE.**

For mothers vulnerable, worried,
frustrated, and hurried,

WE PRAY FOR PEACE.

With those who are preparing
emptier nests,

**WE BOTH CELEBRATE AND
MOURN,
HOPING THEIR WINGS ARE
AS STRONG AS THEIR ROOTS
ARE DEEP.**

For mothers who have died, who
live no longer with us,

but whose light shines on in our hearts and memories,

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN,
AND GIVE GOD THANKS FOR LIFE ETERNAL.**



For the mothers, sisters, daughters in our midst and around the world,
for the women who, created in the image of God,
give not just life, but abundant life,
WE GIVE GOD THANKS AND PRAISE.
AMEN.

Adapted from Rev. Robb McCoy's Litany, <http://fatpastor.me>

Hymn:

Nun Danket

Later form of melody by Johann Crüger (1598-1662)



1. Now thank we all our God,
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom the world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.
2. O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us.
God, keep us in your grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.
3. All praise and thanks to God
our Maker now be given,
to Christ and Spirit too,
our help in highest heaven:
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be ever more.

*Martin Rinkart (1586-1649), tr. Catherine Winkworth
(1827-1878), alt*

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Fanfare-Processional
David Bednall (b. 1979)

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

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NOTICES

This Week: 10 May – 16 May
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
11.30am Shalom
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: 17 May – 23 May
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
12.00pm Lunch at Urban Eatery
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Sunday lunch 17 May – Join us for lunch and a friendly chat after church at **Urban Eatery (Oderings, Barrington)**. We meet at around 12pm. Please, add your name to the attendance list at the church entrance. To confirm numbers with the venue it would be appreciated if names were in by Wednesday the 13th.

Shalom - Sunday 24 May at 11.30am in the Knox Lounge. Guest speaker is Dr. Ozayr Ameen who will be speaking about dementia. He is a neurologist affiliated with Neurology at Christchurch Hospital and listed as a Clinical Senior Lecturer within the University of Otago Department of Medicine, Christchurch. Everyone welcome.

For the months of June, July and August 2026, **Shalom** will meet after the church service at 11.30am in the Lounge:

- 14 June - Richard Milne will present on Creation
- 12 July - Murray Winn on the relationship between religion and psychology
- 9 August - Robyn Frew on the subject of death.
- We'll break midway for soup and bread roll. Everyone is welcome so just turn up.

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.

Services in June - Human Rights Month

The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

Articles 1 and 2

Human beings are free and equal in dignity and rights - without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.



Articles 3 and 5

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.



Article 13

Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

7 June

EQUALITY AND EQUITY

Genesis 2: 4-8

With skill and tenderness, God makes the human being and puts him / her into a beautiful garden. Provision for human welfare is made. In our making of provision, what do we make of the claim that all people are equal? Does it call for equal treatment - or is there something else called "equity"? We celebrate communion.

14 June

DIGNITY AND THE FREEDOM TO EXIST

Exodus 20: 1-6

As God owns a great punishing jealousy, we wonder about our manifesting of God's image. Where does our anger come from, and how is it related to how we punish one another?

Acts 3: 1-15

After an act of healing, something the opposite of an act of punishing, Peter speaks of God raising the One whom the people had crucified. Is this a declaration of God's rejection of punishment?

21 June

IMMIGRATION AND SAFETY

Deuteronomy 24: 17-21



Article 16

Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.



Special provision is made for the "alien" in the sharing of the harvest, and a key principle is remembering the experience of having been "alien" oneself.

Philippians 2: 5-11, 3: 20-21

Paul speaks of a new citizenship for which we wait.

We watch a video of Ian McKellen delivering a piece of Shakespeare about turning away the refugee (mountainish inhumanity).

28 June

ALL ABOUT MARRIAGE

Genesis 21: 8-14

Abraham and Sarah work out how to push the boundaries of marriage to fix what they feel is missing - to the pain of Hagar and Ishmael. Who are the victims of the expectations of the institution of family and marriage?

Matthew 22: 23-33

The Pharisees ask Jesus a bizarre question about to whom a multi-married woman would belong in heaven. It gives him opportunity to suggest that marriage is not a good way of framing heaven. Perhaps there is some other "way of being" that is more of the New Creation. What might it be?



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- John 17: 1-11
- Acts 1: 6-14

Knox Directory

28 Bealey Ave,
Ōtautahi Christchurch 8013

Secretary: Lynda Gerken,
ph. (03) 379 2456,
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
voicemail at home (03) 3570 111

Church Council Clerk: Jean Brouwer
jean.brouwer@knoxchurch.co.nz

Director of Music: Jeremy Woodside
jeremy.woodside89@gmail.com

Pastoral Visitors:
Rev Norman and Linda Wilkins
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: