



# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service

17 May 2026



## MARKING THE FOOT STEPS WHERE HE TROD

a service for the Sunday after Ascension

## **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.

**While Jeremy is away, we welcome Russell Kent to the organ bench. Thanks so much, Russell, for playing today. And thank you Margaret Hawkes for directing today's occasional choir.**

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

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

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

**JESUS, ENTERING INTO THE HOPE OF THE PEOPLE;**

**JESUS, DYING, RISING, APPEARING;**

**JESUS, ASCENDED, PROMISING TO COME AGAIN.**

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

**MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.**

## Hymn:

Hyfrydol

Rowland Huw Prichard (1811-1887)



1. Hallelujah! sing to Jesus,  
his the sceptre, his the throne;  
hallelujah! his the triumph,  
his the victory alone;  
hark, the songs of peaceful heaven  
thunder like a mighty flood:  
“Jesus out of every nation  
has redeemed us for our good.”
2. Hallelujah! not as orphans,  
are we left in sorrow now;  
hallelujah! he is near us,  
faith believes, nor questions how;  
though the cloud from sight received him  
when the forty days were o’er,  
shall our hearts forget his promise,  
“I am with you evermore”?
3. Hallelujah! King eternal,  
you the Lord of lords we own;  
hallelujah! born of Mary,  
earth your footstool, heav’n your throne:  
you within the veil have entered,  
robed in flesh, our great high priest;  
you on earth both host and hosted  
in the new creation's feast.

*William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)*

## Prayer of Approach

Where did he tread, O God?

Into the hope of the people?

Into their longing for the justice they felt was missing?

Into the journey along which they had cultivated

their longing for things to be right?

**FROM NAZARETH THERE CAME A SAVIOUR.**

Where did he tread, O God?  
Into the breaking of bread,  
and feeding of hope,  
and walking on water?  
Into the wonders that stretched their thinking?  
**FROM NAZARETH THERE CAME A SAVIOUR.**

Where did he tread, O God?  
Into the carrying of the cross,  
the crying out in sorrow,  
the emptying of the self?  
**FROM NAZARETH THERE CAME A SAVIOUR.**

Where did he tread, O God?  
Behind doors locked in fear,  
defences raised in horror,  
into that time of hearing "peace be with you."  
**FROM NAZARETH,  
BUT ALSO FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE,  
THERE CAME A SAVIOUR.**

And now, with forty days between Easter and now,  
where does he tread?  
He treads into that moment of being with us,  
but not quite seen.  
**HE CAME FROM NAZARETH,  
LIVED AMONG US,  
AND NOW ASCENDS TO COMPLETION.**

God give us stillness.  
**GOD GIVE US STILLNESS.**

*Silence*

He says that he loves us,  
and will come to us again.  
We say "OK, maybe not".

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:

Grant us grace, faith and imagination, O God,  
**TO EMBRACE THE VISION OF CHRIST ASCENDING.**

As the men in white robes ask the disciples  
"why are you standing there, staring up into heaven",  
**CALL US INTO THE FAITHFUL YET INQUISITIVE LIFE  
THAT IS YOUR HOPE FOR US,**

for this is our prayer,  
in the name of Jesus, whom 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 Gospel Lesson: John 17: 1-11

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

**The Second Lesson:** Acts 1: 6-14

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

**Anthem:** "Lift thine eyes",  
from Elijah  
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

*Lift thine eyes to the mountains whence cometh help. Thy help cometh from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He hath said thy foot shall not be moved, thy keeper will never slumber."*

**Sermon:** There was a time

*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/wZ\\_tnVpNO98](https://youtu.be/wZ_tnVpNO98)*

**Hymn:**

Lord of the Years

Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)



1. Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way, sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided: Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.
2. Lord, for that Word, the Word of life which fires us, speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze, teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us: Lord of the Word, receive your people's praise.
3. Lord, for our land in this our generation, spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care: for young and old, for commonwealth and nation, Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

4. Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,  
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,  
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:  
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.
5. Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -  
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,  
past put behind us, for the future take us:  
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)*

## Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*led by Jennifer McKinnon*

### The Offering and Dedication

*We stand for the dedication of the Offering*

He filled the hungry with good things;  
**SO ALSO MAY WHAT WE OFFER.**

He lifted up the poor;  
**SO ALSO MAY WHAT WE OFFER.**

Promising to come again in love,  
he lifted the eyes of those who followed him;  
**SO INDEED, ALSO, MAY WE LEARN TO DO.**

Bless what we offer here, O God,  
**MOVING US TO SERVE YOU WITH FAITH, HOPE AND ASCENDED LOVE.**  
**AMEN.**

## Notices

### Hymn:

Dunedin

Vernon Griffiths (1894-1985)



1. Where mountains rise to open skies  
your name, O God, is echoed far,  
from island beach to kauri's reach,  
in water's light, in lake and star.

2. Your people's heart, your people's part  
be in our caring for this land,  
for faith to flower, for aroha  
to let each other's mana stand.
3. From broken word, from conflict stirred,  
from lack of vision, set us free  
to see the line of your design,  
to feel creation's energy.
4. Your love be known, compassion shown,  
that every child have equal scope:  
in justice done, in trust begun  
shall be our heritage and hope.
5. Where mountains rise to open skies  
your way of peace distil the air,  
your spirit bind all humankind,  
one covenant of life to share!

*Shirley Murray (1931-2020)*

### **Benediction and Sung Amen**

**Postlude:** Chorale Prelude by on a melody by Melchior Vulpius.  
Healey Willan (1880 - 1968)

*Born in 1570 and dying in 1615, Vulpius was a famous German singer and composer. The tune that Healey Willan used as a basis for this work, is the one we know as "The strife is o'er the battle won". It has an Easter theme.*



## **NOTICES**

<b>This Week:</b>	<b>17 May – 23 May</b>
Sunday	10.00am Morning Worship 12.00pm Lunch at Urban Eatery
Wednesday	10.00am Bible Study

<b>Next Week:</b>	<b>24 May – 30 May</b>	
Sunday	10.00am	Morning Worship
	11.30am	Shalom
Wednesday	10.00am	Bible Study

**ANZAC Poppies** – a total of \$782.00 was handed to the RSA this year with the help of Sheila's knitted poppies. The RSA was very grateful for this donation - the Treasurer reporting that it is getting more and more difficult each year to be able to help veterans.

**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 Robyn Frew on the subject of death
- 9 August Murray Winn - the relationship between religion & psychology.

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](mailto:office@knoxchurch.co.nz) ph: 379 2456.**



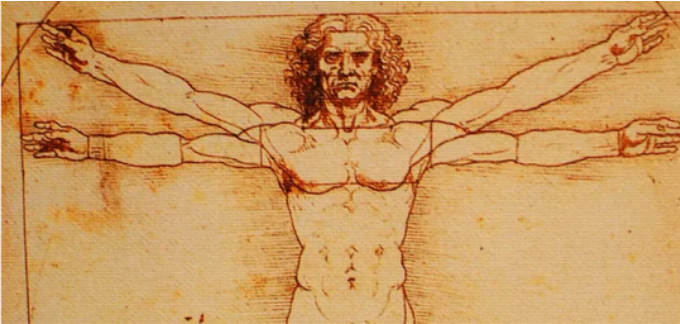
**For next week, Pentecost**, why not consider wearing something red to church? Red is the liturgical colour for Pentecost, representing the flame that alighted on the heads of those gathered for the festival.

# Services in June - Human Rights Month

## The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

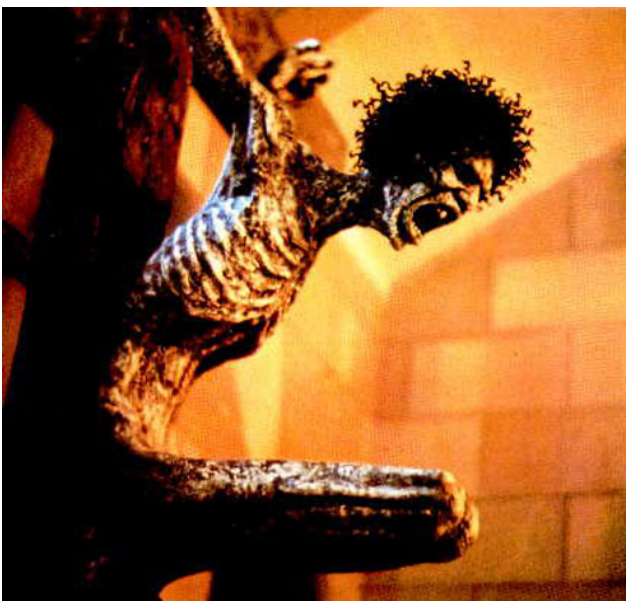
### Articles 1 and 2

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.



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?

## 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.



## 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.



21 June

## IMMIGRATION AND SAFETY

### Deuteronomy 24: 17-21

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:

- Acts 2: 1-11
- 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13

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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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