



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

19 July 2026

HE PUT BEFORE THEM ANOTHER PARABLE

Music printed in this order of service is covered
under a music copyright licence agreement: Licensing #604802.

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, TELLING HIS TALES OF HEAVEN IN EARTH;
JESUS, CALLING UPON OUR FAITH AND IMAGINATION;
JESUS, IN WHOM WE BECOME PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Hanover

probably William Croft (1678-1727)



1. The kingdom of God is justice and joy;
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy.
God's power and glory in Jesus we know;
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.
2. The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;
the captives are freed, all people find place,
the outcast is welcomed, God's banquet to share;
and hope is awakened in place of despair.
3. The kingdom of God is challenge and choice:
believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
His love for his people, brought Christ to his cross:
our crisis of judgment for gain or for loss.
4. God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal;
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call;
and all things cry "Glory!" to God all in all.

Bryn Austin Rees (1911-1983)

Prayer of Approach

The kingdom . . .
We long wondered, O God, what that meant -
until something good came out of Nazareth,
a story teller with heaven in his eye,
with Spirit in his heart
and spring in his step.

THE POETIC, CREATIVE SOUL!

The kingdom . . .
we'd thought it was a state existing on high mountains,
smoke in the sky,
in fire and wind and earthquake -
until we heard stories of trees and birds,
and bread and fish,
and people digging in a field.

**PRAISE TO YOU
FOR THE POETIC, CREATIVE TELLER OF TALES.**

The kingdom . . .
we never dared to find it in our kitchens,
our labour,
our sweat and work,
and the random discoveries of God come close.
**AND THEN WE WERE TURNED,
AS WE HEARD FROM THE POETIC, CREATIVE SOUL.**

The kingdom . . .
We are pleased and honoured,
delighted and mended,
that his stories entered our ears
and expanded our hearts.
**PRAISE AND WORSHIP
TO THE GOD WHO SENT US
THE POETIC, CREATIVE SOUL.**

Silence

At the end of one series of stories,
he asked the people "have you understood all this?"
We would like to answer "yes".
But understanding is slow,
imagination is lugubrious,
love is withheld.

So we say

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:

You sent, O God,
your story-weaving Son to us,
and we heard him describe for us
the kingdom that already was present
but largely unnoticed.

OPEN OUR EARS AGAIN TO WHAT HE TELLS US

**WITH TREES AND BIRDS,
AND YEAST IN BREAD,
AND PEARLS OF GREAT PRICE
AND NETS FULL OF FISH -**

THAT WE MIGHT KNOW YOUR PRESENCE IN OUR WORLD,

for we pray it 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 First Lesson: Psalm 128

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

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

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

Hymn:

Ravenshaw

William Henry Monk (1823-1889)



1. Lord, your word abiding,
and our footsteps guiding,
gives us joy forever,
binds us all together.
2. Who can tell the pleasure,
who recount the treasure,
by your word imparted
to the simple hearted?
3. Word of mercy, giving
succour to the living;
word of life, supplying
comfort to the dying:
4. O that we, discerning
its most holy learning,
Lord, may love and fear you,
evermore be near you.

Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877)

Reflection: The poetic, creative soul

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/vsV2kRtzVbQ>

Hymn:

Wolvercote

William Harold Ferguson (1874-1950)



1. O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
Lord, be for ever near me,
my master and my friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.
2. O let me feel you near me:
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw me nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.
3. O let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
Lord, speak to reassure me,
to chasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
true guardian of my soul.
4. Lord, let me see your footmarks
and in them plant my own;
that I may follow boldly
and in your strength alone:
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my friend.

John Ernest Bode (1734-1820)

Reflections

- The tree with birds in it
- The mysterious yeast effect
- The hidden treasure
- The net
- His question to us

Knox Singers: All things new - Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

*Light after darkness, gain after loss, strength after weakness, crown after cross;
Sweet after bitter, hope after fears, home after wandering, praise after tears.
Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end, He is making all things new, springs
of living water shall wash away each tear. Sight after mystery, sun after rain,
Joy after sorrow, peace after pain; Near after distant, gleam after gloom, Love
after loneliness, life after tomb.*

- Frances Havergal, after Revelation 21: 5-6

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Ian Bayliss

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

We offer our imagination.

We offer our desire to see the kingdom in our world.

We offer our potential to be grown in faith, hope and love.

**MAY WHAT WE OFFER BE BLESSED
BY THE POETIC, CREATIVE ONE,**

and may we follow him well.

AMEN.

Notices

Hymn:

Blaenwern

William Penfro Rowlands (1860-1937)



1. Jesus called us here to meet him
as, through word and song and prayer,
we affirmed God's promised presence
where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps the promise;
praise the Son who calls us friends;
praise the Spirit who, among us,
to our hopes and fears attends.

2. Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of Life and Lord of All,
sharer of our flesh and frailness
saving all who fail or fall.
Tell his holy human story;
tell his tales that all may hear;
tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.
3. Jesus calls us to each other:
found in him are no divides.
Race and class and sex and language
such are barriers he derides.
Join the hand of friend and stranger;
join the hands of age and youth;
join the faithful and the doubter
in their common search for truth.

John Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958)

Benediction and **Sung Amen**

Postlude: Allegro con spirito in B flat
Frank Bridge (1879-1941)

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



NOTICES

This Week: **19 July – 25 July**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
 12.00pm Lunch at Urban Eatery
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: **26 July – 1 August**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Film Group: Sunday 2 August at 4pm in the lounge - ***Hunt for the Wilder People (2016)***. A cantankerous old step-uncle takes a young city kid on the run in the wild New Zealand bush. This fun and heartwarming film was one of Sir Sam Neill's favourites. A true masterpiece we shall watch as a tribute to our legendary NZ actor.

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.



toitoti opera
toitotiopera.com

The Merry Widow

24 & 25
July
2026

DIRECTOR - JULIAN ANDERSON | MUSICAL DIRECTOR - ARRANGER - JEREMY WOODSIDE

The ultimate ball-meets-opera experience!

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY TOI TOI OPERA WITH THE SUPPORT OF CREATIVE NEW ZEALAND



BOOK NOW

Tickets: \$65 - \$85

<https://events.humanitix.com/the-merry-widow>

Next week:
wheat and weeds
- a reflection on another parable -



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Matthew 13: 24-30
- Matthew 13: 36-43

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: