



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

23 August 2026

600 SERMONS

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, WORD OF GOD, SPOKEN FROM THE BEGINNING;
JESUS, WHOSE ECHOING WORDS AROUSE FAITH AND HOPE;
JESUS, THE LIVING ONE, STILL SPEAKING TODAY.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Moscow

Felice Giardini (1716-1796)



1. God whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight,
hear us, we humbly pray,
and, where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light!
2. Saviour, who came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
now to all humankind
let there be light!
3. Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy Dove,
speed on your flight!
Move on the waters' face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light!
4. Gracious and holy Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far and wide
let there be light!

John Marriott (1780-1825) alt.

Prayer of Approach

The vision is of a Word spoken into a chaotic darkness,
causing all that is bad and wrong to flee.

The foundations of the order of the universe.

Gospel day, glorious ray,

SPEAK, O WORD OF GOD.

The vision is of a Word spoken into blindness and illness,
and all that constrains peaceful enjoyment of life.

In the desire that we be well and free,
there is healing and sight,
the coming of light.

SPEAK, O WORD OF GOD.

The vision is of a Word spoken into falsehood and hatred,
and the dying of hope.

The Word brings grace, and Spirit,
and truth and life.

SPEAK, O WORD OF GOD.

The vision is of a Holy Three in Unity,
bringing might, love and wisdom to a world in need,
an ocean tide of fullest pride.

SPEAK, O WORD OF GOD.

Silence

So earnestly
the people declared their ears to be open.

And earnestly, some brave people gave their speaking
to be a home to the Word.

There were sermons, testimonies,
reflections and lectures.

There was the offering of the small little sentence
to the uttering of the infinite.

Before we dare pray that our speaking might somehow serve
the purposes of heaven,

we confess our poor use of language -

not so much the vulgar,

as much as the hurtful -

not so much the inelegant,

as much as the cruel.

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:

In the beginning was the Word,
giving form to all that lives.
Throughout history,
people have gathered to listen.

**OPEN OUR EARS, O GOD,
THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE COMFORT,
CHALLENGE,
WISDOM, LOCATION AND PEACE,**

for we pray this in the name of Jesus,
in whose guidance we rejoice,
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.

Introduction: Too much!

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/PeZ--xeX36Q>

Lesson:

Isaiah 55: 1-3a, 8-11

In this is the Word of God.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Do words still work?

CERTAINLY, IF GOD STILL SPEAKS.

Reflection:

Do words still work?

Music for Reflection:

Voluntary in D minor

William Croft (1678-1727)

Lesson:

Luke 4: 14-19

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Speak to our heart, soul, mind, hope and creativity,

FOR WE OPEN OUR EARS, O GOD.

Reflection:

Why do we seek the Word of Life?

Hymn:

Liebster Jesu

Later form of melody by Johann Rodolph Ahle (1625-1673)



1. Blessèd Jesus, at your word
we are gathered all to hear you;
let our hearts and minds be stirred
now to seek and love and fear you;
by your gospel pure and holy
teach us, Lord, to love you solely.
2. All our knowledge, sense and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
till your Spirit breaks our night
with your beams of truth unclouded;
you alone to God can win us,
you must work all good within us.
3. Glorious Lord, yourself impart,
light of light from God proceeding;
open lips and ears and heart,

help us by your Spirit's leading;
hear the cry your Church now raises;
Lord, accept our prayers and praises.

Tobias Clausnitzer (1619-1684)
tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Leslie Hunt

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

We offer our desire to speak
IN WAYS THAT GIVE LIFE.

We offer our desire
TO COMFORT AND TO CHALLENGE.

We offer our desire
TO PRODUCE AN APT WORD IN SEASON.

We offer also this money and food
FOR THE BLESSING OF THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD.

May it all find deep location in the work of Jesus Christ,
THE ETERNAL WORD.
AMEN.

Notices

Hymn:

Regent Square

Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)



1. Glory to our God, Creator,
glory be to Christ, our Sun,
glory be to God the Spirit,
great Redeemer, Three in One!
Glory, glory, glory, glory,
while eternal ages run.

2. Glory be to One who loved us,
came our loyalties to claim;
glory be to God who won us,
caught our spirits in the flame;
Glory, glory, glory, glory,
to the One whose love remains.
3. Glory be to God in this day,
with our current weal and woe;
glory be to God who calls us,
in whose name we've far to go.
Glory, glory, glory, glory,
to the God in Christ we know.
4. 'Glory, blessing, praise eternal!'
thus the choir of angels sings;
'Honour, riches, power, dominion!'
thus its praise creation brings;
Glory, glory, glory, glory,
from our hearts our worship springs!

*Horatius Bonar (1808-1889),
alt. Matthew Jack*

Benediction and **Sung Amen**

Postlude: Allegro moderato e serio (Sonata no. 1)
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

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

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NOTICES

This Week:	23 August – 29 August
Sunday	10.00am Morning Worship 11.30am Shalom
Wednesday	10.00am Bible Study
Thursday	10.30am Bus trip

Next Week:	30 August – 5 September
Sunday	10.00am Morning Worship
Wednesday	10.00am Bible Study

Shalom - Today Rev. Len Pierce will help us understand what is meant by 'revelation' in the Christian tradition. Is God speaking? Or is this human imagination? How do we discern? 11.30-12.30 in the lounge. All welcome.

Spring Flower Sunday – 30 August: To celebrate spring, it is intended to deliver small bunches of spring flowers to our shut in and older senior members after the morning service. Would you let Jennifer McKinnon know if you are able to bring spring flowers, already bunched, for distribution. Also needed will be volunteers to deliver the flowers. This is an opportunity to connect with other church people.

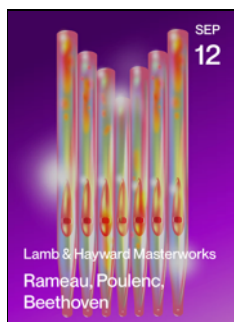
Bus Trip - A bus trip to Rangiora is planned for Thursday 27 August. Just be at Knox by 10.30am ready to catch the Rangiora bus (Number 1) opposite Knox in Victoria Street at 10.41am. We'll reach Rangiora at 11.47am and will have a bite to eat at a cafe. A walk along the main street may appeal to some if the weather is pleasant. Buses return to Christchurch at 10 past and 40 past each hour. Feel free to board the bus at the bus exchange or elsewhere along the route if that is more convenient for you.

Film in the Lounge - Sunday 6 September 4pm: The Last Emperor (1987). This is the story of Pu Yi, who became Emperor of China in 1908 at the age of three. Then China became a republic, and Pu Yi ended up as a gardener in the Peking Botanical Gardens. This fascinating film gives us some insight into the birth of modern China.

Knox Life – It's that time again! Contributions to the spring issue of Knox Life are very welcome but please send them to the office asap. Many thanks.

URGENT - Morning Tea and Door Duty Rosters - Due to ill health and various reasons we are looking for additional people to join the Door duty and Morning Tea teams. If you can assist, please contact Jennifer McKinnon or the Church Office.

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.



Christchurch Symphony Orchestra and Jeremy Woodside play music by Rameau, Beethoven and Poulenc's Organ Concerto. 12 September, 7.30pm, Christchurch Town Hall.

Tickets from www.cso.co.nz or Eventfinda

Benjamin Sheen (Jesus College, Cambridge / St Thomas 5th Avenue, New York) is giving an organ recital this afternoon at St Michael's, Oxford Terrace, 2pm. \$25 cash only.



The Cashmere Presbyterian Church in Christchurch is hosting the **AI & Humanity Conference 2026** from Friday, August 28 to Saturday, August 29, 2026. This public event features lectures and talks by guest speakers Dr. Stephen Garner and Dr. Matthew Galloway to demystify artificial intelligence and explore its ethical and human impacts.

This event is not free. Tickets need to be purchased through Humanitix.

SEASON OF CREATION 2026

Four Essentials



30 August

The Coming Warmth

A Spring Flower Sunday service.

God creates light, life and blossom

Blossom speaks of the coming warmth. Does it also speak to the coming of the new Creation? Hope?

We bless posies of flowers that will be delivered to people who don't get to church much these days.



6 September

Air

God breathes air into the nostrils of the Adam, and the human being comes to life. We explore our husbandry of the atmosphere, and set it next to Paul's description of the destructive influence of the "ruler of the power of the air". We celebrate communion.



13 September

Water

As we note droughting parts of the world, and parts overwhelmed by rain and flood, and rising sea levels, (managed retreat) we explore Ezekiel's image of the living waters (Ezekiel 47:1-12) that bless creation.



20 September

Non-judging Company

For our annual "Blessing of the Animals" service, we ask whether the company of other creatures is as vital to us as air, water and being. How important is companionship? Please bring your animal to the service, or send photos of pets past and present to the office by noon, Wednesday 16 September.



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Song of Songs 2: 8-13
- Romans 8: 18-25

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: