

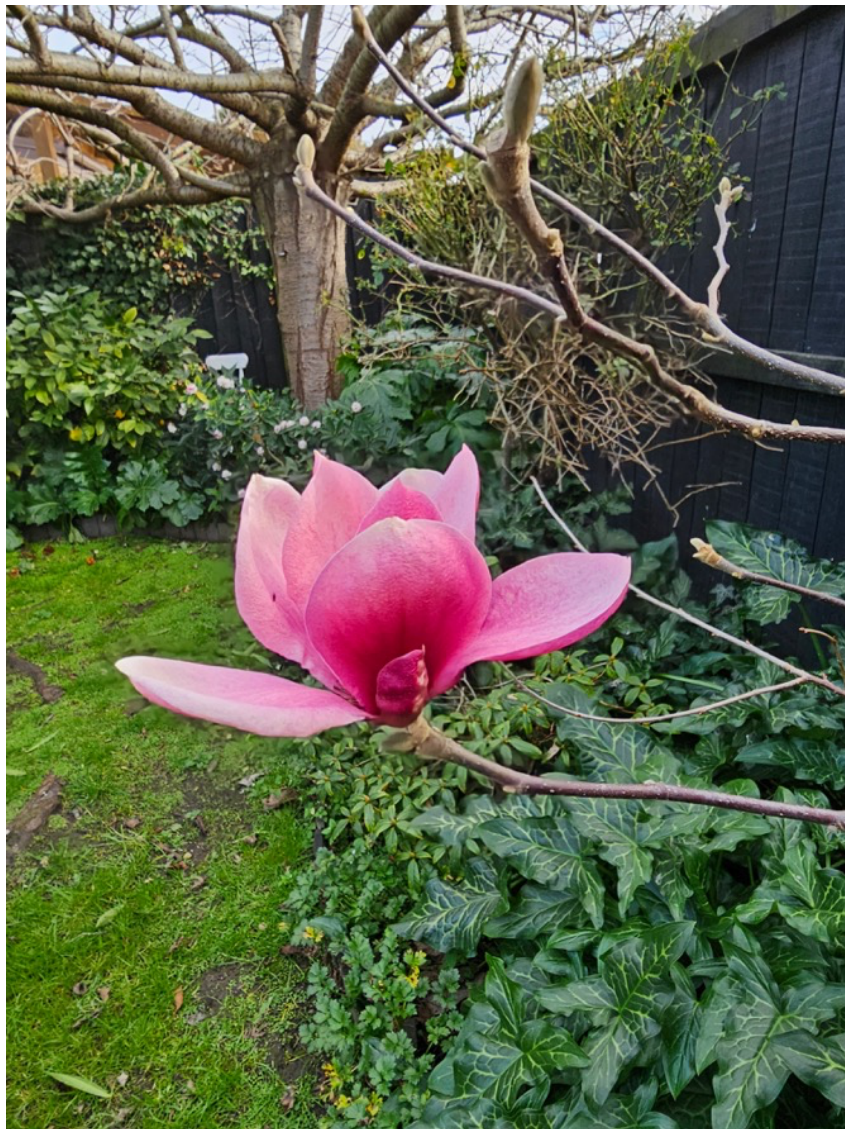


KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

30 August 2026



THE COMING WARMTH
a service for Spring Flower Sunday
Season of Creation 1 / 4

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.

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.

Welcome

Introit: King Jesus hath a garden
Traditional Dutch arr. Charles Wood (1866-1926)

King Jesus hath a garden, full of divers flowers, where I go culling posies gay, all times and hours. There naught is heard but paradise bird, harp, dulcimer, lute, with cymbal, trump and tymbal, and the tender soothing flute. The Lily, white in blossom there, is chastity: the violet, with sweet perfume, humility. There naught is heard . . .

The Call to Worship:

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

JESUS, GOD'S BEAUTY IN HUMAN FORM;

JESUS, CALLING US TO LOVE AND TO BE LOVED;

JESUS, IN WHOM WE HOPE FOR THE COMING WARMTH.

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Bunessan

Gaelic traditional melody



1. Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird:
praise for the singing, praise for the morning,
praise for them springing fresh from the world!
2. Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
like the first dew fall on the first grass:
praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where his feet pass.
3. Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play:
praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's re-creation of the new day!
4. Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird:
praise for the singing, praise for the morning,
praise for them springing fresh from the world!

Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)

Prayer of Approach

Praise to God,
who kept us safe during the winter.
**FOR THE SAFETY AND SURVIVAL,
THANKS BE TO GOD.**

And now, from the cold and dark of winter,
a morning has broken.
**THE GOODNESS OF GOD
BRINGS A NEW LIFE TO THE GARDEN.**

On the bare branches,
NEW LEAVES APPEAR.

From the ground,
DAFFODILS RISE UP TO MEET THE SUN.

In the air,
a brightening of the skies,
A SENSE OF A COMING WARMTH.

And bringing their posies of flowers,
fresh from the world,
the people of God sing a hymn
of a Christ figure,
around whose garden footsteps
spring completeness, elation, re-creation.

**PRAISE TO THE CHRIST,
THE LORD OF LIFE
AND SOVEREIGN OF THE NEW CREATION.**

At the coming of the Spring,
WE OFFER OUR SILENT WORSHIP.

Silence

O God, you put flowers in the garden;
WE PAVE THE LAWN WITH CONCRETE.

You fill the world with colour;
WE MAKE OURSELVES TOO BUSY TO SEE IT.

You call us to hope and to trust;
WE NURTURE CYNICISM AND DISTRUST.

You call us to cultivate life;
WE STUDY WAR AND DEATH.

So, on a Spring Flower Sunday,
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:

If Spring is a reminder to us, O God,
of your commitment to bring life
and to lead the old creation to new creation,
**THEN GIVE US GRACE
TO BE INSPIRED BY THE BEAUTY OF THE SEASON,
AND OF THE HOPE IT BRINGS.**

Fill us with wonder and appreciation
for the way life blossoms each year,
**AND MOVE US JOIN THE WORK
OF THE COMING WARMTH,**

for this is our prayer,
offered in the name of Jesus,
who taught us to pray, together saying

**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.

A Prayer of Blessing for the Flowers:

O God, your goodness is stamped on creation.
Its beauty echoes yours.

WE THANK YOU FOR THESE FLOWERS.

O Christ, you spoke of the flowers of the fields.
You said if God clothed them, who neither toiled nor worried,
then how much more would God clothe us.

**WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR FAITH IN GOD'S GOODNESS.**

O Spirit of God, bless these flowers,
that, as they are handed to people today,
they may become signs of divine love
and human caring.

Brighten the homes to which they will go,

**AND FILL ALL OUR HOMES
WITH PEACE.**

We pray this in Jesus' name.

AMEN.

An Introduction: Light and Life

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/r0F8YylJBrI>

The First Lesson: Song of Songs 2: 8-13

In this is the Word of God.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

The winter is past;

THE FLOWERS APPEAR.

A Reflection: Love and Springtime

Knox Singers: Look to the Day
John Rutter (b. 1945)

Look to the day when the world seems new again: morning so fresh you could touch the sky; the earth smells sweet and every flower looks bright, shining in a dewy light as you wander by. Taking the time to enjoy each moment; tasting the fruits spread along your way, knowing there's time to spare, dreams you can dream and share: look to the day.

Look to the day when the earth is green again: promise of spring after winter's sleep. The sounds of life returning fill the air, music that's forever there for your heart to keep. Deep in the earth lay the seed of life renewed, quiet and strong till the time of spring: life in each bud and shoot, life in each flower and fruit, look to that day when earth shall sing.

Look to the light that will drive out darkness; look to the hope that will conquer fear. God's strength uphold us till the fight is won, till we see our task is done when the day is here. Look for that day when there shall be no more pain; sorrow and sighing shall pass away. Pray for the day to come, trust that the day will come, look to that day.

Lord, we give thanks for the gifts of life and health; plant a new seed in our hearts, we pray: help us to see, O Lord, how it could be, O Lord; look to the day.

The Second Lesson: Romans 8: 18-25

In this is the Word of God.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Creation waits with eager longing

FOR THE REVEALING OF THE CHILDREN OF GOD.

A Reflection: The coming warmth

Hymn:

Irish

From Collection of Hymns and Sacred Poems, Dublin, 1749



1. "Your kingdom come!" - on bended knee
the passing ages pray;
and faithful souls have yearned to see
on earth that kingdom's day.
2. But the slow watches of the night
not less to God belong;
and for the everlasting right
the silent stars are strong.
3. And lo! already on the hills
the flags of dawn appear;
gird up yourselves, you prophet souls,
proclaim the day is near:

4. The day in whose clear shining light
all wrong shall stand revealed,
when justice shall be throned with might,
and every hurt be healed:
5. When knowledge, hand in hand with peace,
shall walk the earth abroad, -
the day of perfect righteousness,
the promised day of God.

Frederick Lucian Hosmer (1840-1929)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Janet Wilson

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

Fourteenth Century Christian mystic, Julian of Norwich, wrote:

"All shall be well, and all shall be well,
and all manner of thing shall be well."

So we, hoping for the coming warmth of the new Creation,
dedicate our offering.

Pause

Money is offered in hope.

MAY ALL THINGS BE WELL.

Food is offered in hope.

MAY ALL THINGS BE WELL.

Love, creativity, capacity for beauty, are offered in hope.

MAY ALL THINGS BE WELL.

This Spring Flower Sunday,
may all that we offer contribute well
to the coming warmth,

**FOR WE PRAY IT IN THE NAME OF JESUS,
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

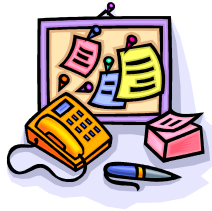
Postlude: Waltz of the Flowers

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

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

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The sermon and prayers in this service were written by Matthew with no styling
assistance by Artificial Intelligence.



NOTICES

This Week: **30 August – 5 September**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship – Spring Flower Sunday
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: **6 September – 12 September**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
 11.30am Shalom
 4.00pm Film Group
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Spring Flower Sunday – Today: Many thanks to those who have provided flowers and posies to be delivered after the service today. Thank you also to those who are willing and able to deliver the flowers. Addressed envelopes are on the table at the front of the Church. This is a great opportunity to reach out and connect with other church folk.

Meditation: Saturday 5 September at 10am in the Chapel. Come along and see what it's all about.

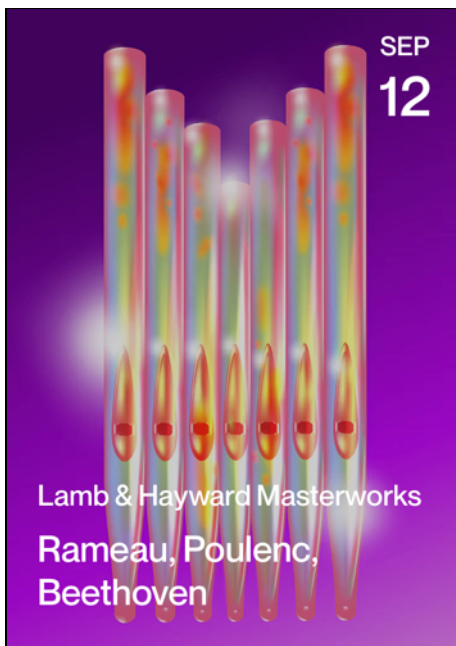
Film in the Lounge - Sunday 6 September 4pm: The Last Emperor (1987). This is the story of Pu Yi, who became Emperor of China in 1908 at the age of three. Then China became a republic, and Pu Yi ended up as a gardener in the Peking Botanical Gardens. This fascinating film gives us some insight into the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

Knox 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.

CWEA - Meet the Central City Candidates

Thursday 24 September - 59 Gloucester Street, Christchurch Central

We'll begin at **5pm** with a sausage sizzle and the unveiling of our election fence banners and interactive panels. At **6pm**, we'll move indoors for candidate statements and questions submitted by the community. The formal event will finish at 7.30pm, followed by tea and an opportunity to speak informally with candidates.



Christchurch Symphony Orchestra and Jeremy Woodside

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

The Douglas Lilburn Auditorium and its mighty Rieger organ take centre stage in Poulenc's "Concerto for organ, timpani and strings" – a rare opportunity to experience the full glory of this immaculately designed concert hall. Organist Jeremy Woodside brings Poulenc's vivid score to life, shifting effortlessly from brooding intensity to playful charm, and making full use of the organ's 4,307 pipes.

Tickets from www.cso.co.nz or Eventfinda



Join us for a magnificent concert experience as we welcome esteemed guest conductor Richard Webster to the stage. This special performance unites the grandeur of Haydn's spectacular ***Harmoniemesse***—considered by many to be the greatest of his six masses—with a selection of Richard Webster's own compelling sacred compositions.

The concert's centrepiece is Franz Joseph Haydn's last major work, the *Harmoniemesse* or "Wind Band Mass" of 1802. The writing displays some of his most daring harmonies and dazzling surprises. The three leading musical forces of the "Classical" era — roughly 1750 to 1820 — were Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. Imagine the thrilling Viennese musical scene in 1791, when all three were living and working in that city, just prior to Mozart's death. We are excited to be featuring musicians from the Christchurch Youth Orchestra.

KNOX CABARET

Music, poetry, comedy.....the
stage is yours!

Friday 23 October

6pm Potluck Dinner in the Hall

(please bring a plate of finger food)

7pm Cabaret in the Church

Please email details of your act to
jeremy.woodside89@gmail.com

by 16 October

Organ Recital

Sea-am Thompson
Senior Organ Scholar
Magdalen College, Oxford



Sunday 6 September | 2:00pm
The Transitional Cathedral



Entry by generous koha!

All proceeds will be given to Sea-am to help with next year's university expenses



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Genesis 2: 4b-7
- Ephesians 2: 1-6

Knox Directory

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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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