



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

6 September 2026

AIR

A COMMUNION SERVICE
Season of Creation 2 / 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.

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

This is a communion service. The table at Knox is an open one. Members of any church, as well as any who are seeking God sincerely, are welcome to receive communion here.

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 Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem

The Order of St Lazarus was named after a character in one of Jesus' parables - Lazarus, a poor man with leprosy. The order chose him as the figure head, since it had a special concern to care for people with leprosy. These days, the order sponsors all manner of charitable causes, but still has a concern for matters related to physical health. The local branch appreciates the opportunity to visit congregations of diverse denominations and gently spreads the word about its work. We welcome members of the Canterbury branch today, including its co-commanders Rob Cope-Williams and Gareth Turner.

The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, A HUMAN BEING WHO BREATHED THE SAME AIR AS WE DO;
JESUS, FULL OF THE SPIRIT OF VITALITY AND LIFE;
JESUS, PROMISING THE SPIRIT TO ALL WHO FOLLOW HIM.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Down Ampney

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)



1. Come down, O love divine, seek out this soul of mine,
and visit it with your own ardor glowing.
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
And kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.
2. O let it freely burn, til earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let your glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.
3. Let holy charity my outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.
4. And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till we become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

Bianco da Siena (d. 1434)

Trans: Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890)

Prayer of Approach

Here we were, O God,
in the rough shape of humanity,
waiting for it all to be filled
AND COME TO LIFE.

Here we were,
walking, moving, breathing,
**LONGING FOR THE COMING
OF THE DEEPER, HIGHER
BROADER BREATH OF LIFE.**

Into our longing came Jesus,
with his tales of wind blowing where it will,
of Spirit coming where it will,
of life filling life to its furthest corners.
**PRAISE TO CHRIST,
FOR HIS GIFT OF LIFE.**

Silence

On this second Sunday in our Season of Creation,
we reflect on the gift of the air that we breathe.
We will hear the phrase
"when you send forth your spirit, they are created . . .
when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust",
and we will ponder our kaitiakitanga of the air.
In anticipation of our pondering leaving us feeling guilty
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:

To our physical benefit, O God,
you gave the gift of air - that we might breathe.
To our spiritual benefit,
you gave images of the Spirit bringing order, life and peace.

**BLESS US, IN OUR MEDITATION ON AIR AND SPIRIT,
TO BECOME GOOD CUSTODIANS OF THE PHYSICAL ATMOSPHERE
AND LIVELY PARTICIPANTS IN THE SHARING OF LIFE.
AMEN.**

The Notices

The Litany for Fathers' Day:

All who gather here are sons or daughters. For fathers everywhere, who have given us life and love,

HOLY GOD, HEAR THIS PRAYER FOR OUR FATHERS.

For men who act like a father to people in need of advice, support and love,

HOLY GOD, HEAR THIS PRAYER FOR OUR FATHER FIGURES.

For step-fathers who have assumed a role with love and joy, who have loved the children of another as their own,

HOLY GOD, HEAR THIS PRAYER FOR STEP-FATHERS.

For adoptive fathers, for whom the arrival of a child has been a blessing and a delight assisted by others,

HOLY GOD, HEAR THIS PRAYER FOR ADOPTIVE FATHERS.

For fathers who have been unable to be a source of strength, who have not responded to the needs of their children, and have not sustained their families,

HOLY GOD, HEAR THIS PRAYER FOR ABSENTEE FATHERS.

God, whom Jesus called "Father", in wisdom and love you have made all things. Bless these men, that through their humanity all may see your loving fatherhood manifest.

**MAY WE, THEIR SONS AND DAUGHTERS,
HONOUR THEM ALWAYS WITH A SPIRIT OF GRATITUDE AND RESPECT,
THROUGH JESUS, JOSEPH'S SON. AMEN.**

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

Knox Singers: Let us now praise famous men
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers that begat us. Such as did bear rule in their kingdoms, men renowned for their power. Leaders of the people by their counsels and by their knowledge. Such as found out musical tunes, and recited verses in writing: all these were honoured in their generations, and were the glory of their times. And some there be, which have no memorial; who are perished as though they had never been. Their bodies are buried in peace, but their name liveth for evermore. - Ecclesiasticus 44

An Introduction: The delicacy of the air

Generally, sermons are posted on our website's sermon page 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/p2a6J4QsYfM>

Lesson: Genesis 2: 4b-7
In this is the Word of God
THANKS BE TO GOD.

A Reflection: The essential difference

Lesson: Ephesians 2: 1-6
In this is the Word of God
THANKS BE TO GOD.

A Reflection: Agitation in the air

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*To the minister's words, "for the sake of the air",
you are invited to respond **"AND THOSE WHO BREATHE IT".***

. . . **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 Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering.

Blessed are you, O God of all creation.
Through your goodness, we bring what we have gathered,
using the talents that you have given us.
It will further the work of your kingdom.
BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER.

Blessed are you, O God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER.

Blessed are you, O God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us our spiritual drink.

**BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER,
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, 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.

Communion Hymn:

Narenza adapted from J. Leisentritt Catholicum Hymnologium, 1584



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Breathe on me, breath of God:
fill me with life anew,
that I may love the way you love,
and do what you would do. | 3. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
direct my heart's desire,
till every earthly part of me
glows with your holy fire. |
| 2. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with you I will one will,
to do and to endure. | 4. Breathe on me, Breath of God;
so shall I never die,
but live with you the perfect life
of your eternity. |

Edwin Hatch (1835-1889), alt.

We sit for

The Invitation

Institution

Setting Apart of the Elements

The Great Eucharistic Prayer:

May God be with you.

AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Lift up your hearts.

WE LIFT THEM TO GOD.

Let us give thanks to the world's creator.

IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.

It is right indeed . . .

The Breaking of the Bread

Lamb of God:

Jesus, Bread of Heaven,

HAVE MERCY ON US.

Jesus, recreating your people where they stand,

HAVE MERCY ON US.

Jesus, foretaste of the new creation,

GRANT US YOUR PEACE.

The Communion

*For the distribution, please come forward to the table,
receive some bread, dip it in the cup, and return to your seat. If you prefer
gluten free bread, some is available on the plinth in front of the bread servers.
Non-alcoholic grape juice can be taken from the trays held by the glass servers.*

The Prayer After Communion

Eternal God,

we give you thanks and praise

that while we were still far off

you met us in your Son, and brought us home.

MAY WE WHO SHARE HIS BREAD

LIVE HIS RISEN LIFE;

WE WHO DRINK HIS CUP

BRING LIFE TO OTHERS;

WE WHOM THE SPIRIT LIGHTS

GIVE LIGHT TO THE WORLD,

THAT ALL YOUR CHILDREN SHALL BE FREE,

AND THE WHOLE EARTH LIVE TO PRAISE YOUR NAME.

AMEN.

Hymn:

Spiritus Vitae

Mary Jane Hammond (1878-1964)



1. O breath of life, come sweeping through us,
revive your church with life and power;
O breath of life, come cleanse, renew us,
and fit your church to meet this hour.
2. O wind of God, come bend us, break us,
till humbly we confess our need;
then in your tenderness remake us,
revive, restore: for this we plead.
3. O breath of love, come breathe within us,
renewing thought and will and heart;
come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,
revive your church in every part.
4. Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating
while harvest fields are vast and white?
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting,
equip your church to spread the light.

Elizabeth Ann Porter Head (1850-1936)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Prelude and Fugue in C minor, BWV 549
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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

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NOTICES

This Week: **6 September – 12 September**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
 4.00pm Film Group in the Chapel
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: **13 September – 19 September**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
 11.30am Shalom
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Film in the Chapel – Today at 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.

Shalom – 13 September: Murray Winn follows up on the relationship between psychology and theology.

Sunday lunch 20 Sep – 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 16th.

Lost Property – If anyone knows the whereabouts of a Nelson College Bag and another bag that may have contained lemons/limes their return would be appreciated, especially the Nelson College Bag. Leave at the office or return to Murray Winn. Many thanks.

Science for the Churches

How does science benefit the churches? How does faith fit with science? How can the churches help the dialogue?

Topics:

- Empowering young people to explore the big questions (Steph Bevan);
- Believing scientifically (Joshua Wilson-Black);
- Science in the Pews by a new curate, Ciru Muriuki;
- Climate Science with Richard Milne and Kathleen Rushton RSM,
- Science and faith from William (13) and Philip Pattemore, who has had a career in medical research;
- An AI discussion

Theology House, 95 Tuam Street

12 September, 9:00am to 3:00pm

Bring your own lunch, or eat at Riverside

Registration on Eventbrite: Science in the Churches. Students, free.

Upcoming workshops at Knox Church

'*Thriving in this Land*' is a three-part workshop series designed to help Christian communities join the dots between following Jesus of Nazareth and some of the big issues Aotearoa New Zealand is facing. Excellent materials have been provided by the organisation 'Common Grace.' <https://www.commongrace.nz/thriving>



The first session begins with why and how Christians should engage in politics. It includes input from Petra Baghurst, Reverend Nathan McLellan, CEO Venn Foundation (an educational institution), and Dr Bonnie Robinson, Director of the Salvation Army.

The workshops, presented via video/slides, is a series of three with key topics that build on each other:

23 September:	Climate Change
30 September:	Te Tiriti O Waitangi
7 October:	Cost of Living Crisis

Time: 7.00pm to 8.30pm

Venue: Knox Lounge, 28 Bealey Ave, Ōtautahi Christchurch

All welcome, bring a friend. Limited parking is available. There is no charge, but a koha is welcome to help cover costs.

Common Grace Aotearoa, a registered charity in New Zealand, was co-founded in 2023 by Kate Day and Alex Johnston. Prior to establishing Common Grace Aotearoa, Kate was the Advocacy Enabler in the Anglican Diocese of Wellington and previously worked with Anglican Advocacy in Christchurch. Alex, a climate change campaigner, cut his teeth in student activism before working with Oxfam Aotearoa.

Please indicate your interest with the Knox office for planning purposes: office@knoxchurch.co.nz (phone Lynda on 03 379-2456)

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.

SEASON OF CREATION 2026

Four Essentials



13 September

The third essential - Water

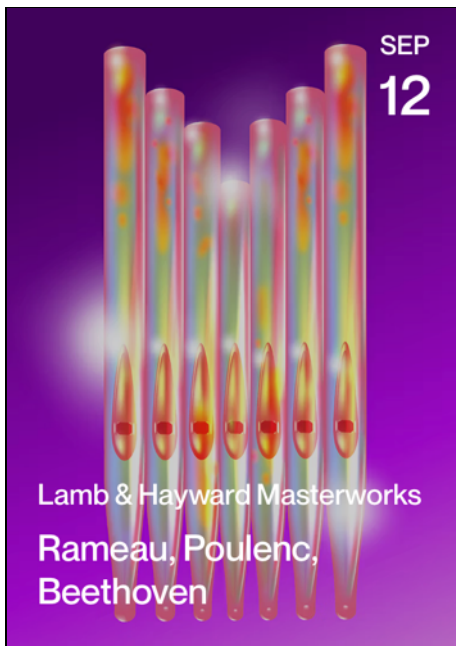
As we note droughting parts of the world, and parts overwhelmed by rain and flood, and rising sea levels, (managed retreat) we explore Ezekiel's image of the living waters (Ezekiel 47:1-12) that bless creation.



20 September

The fourth essential - 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.**



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

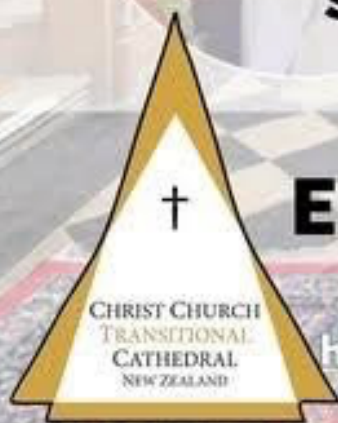
Organ Recital

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:

- Psalm 1: 1-3
- Ezekiel 47: 1-12

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?

Name:

Address:

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Email: