



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

13 September 2026

WATER

Season of Creation 3 / 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.

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 IN WHOM WE FIND REFRESHMENT;

JESUS, IN WHOM WE EXPERIENCE CLEANSING OF SOUL;

JESUS, PROMISING WATER THAT BUBBLES TO ETERNAL LIFE.

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Wild Mountain Thyme 1

Irish Scottish Traditional



1. Where the green will rise again,
bud and blossom in the breaking,
earth will smile and ease her aching,
drought or flood, through sun or rain,
so the green will rise again.
2. Water, river, clear again,
when, with skill and science blending,
health returns from our befriending;
when we watch and nurture, then,
there the green will rise again.
3. Hands and minds with vision plain,
people with a sense of wonder,
caring lives that do not squander,
plant for futures to sustain,
so the green will rise again.
4. Where the green will rise again,
when God's world knows peace and healing,
common cause and common feeling,
love will make us her domain,
so the green will rise again.

Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)

Prayer of Approach

The Lord Jesus Christ was baptised in the Jordan river -
water as a sign of new beginning.

PRAISE GOD FOR THE GIFT OF WATER.

He walked on the water of the lake -
water as a storm overcome.

PRAISE GOD FOR THE GIFT OF WATER.

He spoke of water bubbling up to eternal life,
water as a promise of plenty.

PRAISE GOD FOR THE GIFT OF WATER.

He fed his disciples an Easter breakfast by the sea -
water as a backdrop to forgiveness, living and life.

PRAISE GOD FOR THE GIFT OF WATER.

Maybe in his mind he kept images of walking beside still waters -
water as an image of peace and the soul restored.

PRAISE GOD FOR THE GIFT OF WATER.

He turned water into wine,
for the gladness of the guests.

PRAISE GOD FOR THE GIFT OF WATER.

When dying, he said "I thirst" -
water as a necessity for life.

PRAISE GOD FOR THE GIFT OF WATER.

On this third Sunday in the Season of Creation,
we come to give thanks for the gift of water.
We locate water as a feature in the life of Christ,
AND WE OFFER SILENT PRAISE TO GOD.

Silence

If water serves as a symbol for your life
and loving kindness, O God,
then perhaps we could feel embarrassed by our treatment of it.
Polluted waterways,
clogged rivers,
dirty clouds and acid rain.
Perhaps this physical degradation
is an expression of a wider lack of care
for the life that is your gift to us.
If so,
we are moved to 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, who breathed on the waters of chaos
AND BROUGHT ORDER;

you who pushed forth the waters of the Red Sea,
THAT THE PEOPLE COULD WALK TO FREEDOM;

you whose Son's baptism in the Jordan
EXPRESSED YOUR SOLIDARITY WITH HUMANITY,

bless us as we explore the gift of water,
**AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CARE FOR IT,
THAT WE MIGHT BECOME BETTER CUSTODIANS OF CREATION,**

for we pray it 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.

The First Lesson: Psalm 1: 1-3

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

Introduction: A Water Audit

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/TxvC3ihREFw>

Lesson:

Ezekiel 47: 1-12

In this is the Word of God.

THANKS BE TO GOD.Deeper and deeper, water flows from the House of God,
UNTIL ALL THE WORLD COMES TO LIFE.**Music for Reflection:**

Love bade me welcome from 5 Mystical Songs

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Text: George Herbert (1593-1633)

Kahu Gray - baritone soloist

Love bade me welcome, yet my soul drew back, guilty of dust and sin. But quick-eyed Love, observing me grew slack from my first entrance in, drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning I lacked anything. 'A guest', I answered, 'worthy to be here'; Love said, 'you shall be he'. I, the unkind, ungrateful? ah my dear, I cannot look on thee'. Love took my hand and smiling did reply. 'Who made the eyes but I?' 'Truth Lord, but I have marred them; let my shame go where it doth deserve.' 'And know you not', says Love, 'who bore the blame?' 'My dear, then will I serve.' 'You must sit down', says Love, 'and taste my meat'. So I did sit and eat.

Reflection:

Living Water from a context of loss

Hymn:

Oasis

T. Brian Coleman (b. 1920)



1. As water to the thirsty,
as beauty to the eyes,
as strength that follows weakness,
as truth instead of lies,
as song-time and springtime
and summertime to be,
so is our God, the living God,
so is our God to me.
2. Like calm in place of clamour,
like peace that follows pain,
like meeting after parting,
like sunshine after rain,
like moonlight and starlight
and sunlight on the sea,

so is our God, the living God,
so is our God to me.

3. As sleep that follows fever,
as gold instead of grey,
as freedom after bondage,
as sunrise to the day;
as home to the traveller
and all we long to see,
so is our God, the living God,
so is our God to me.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Norman Wilkins

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

Beneath a stained-glass window
of braided Cantabrian rivers,
a Cantabrian people offers to God
not just food and money,
but a willingness to care for creation.

**MAY GOD BLESS ALL THAT IS OFFERED,
THAT ABUNDANT LIFE MIGHT COME TO ALL,**

through Jesus Christ,
AMEN.

Notices

Hymn:

Dam Busters March

Eric Coates (1886-1958)



1. God is our strength and refuge,
our present help in trouble;
and we therefore will not fear
though the earth should change!
Though mountains shake and tremble,
though swirling floods are raging,
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!
2. There is a flowing river,
within God's holy city;
God is in the midst of her -
she shall not be moved!
God's help is swiftly given,
thrones vanish at God's presence -
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!
3. Come, see the power of our maker,
revealed in Jesus' courage:
wars will cease across the world
when is shattered the spear!
Be still and know your Creator,
uplifted in the nations -
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

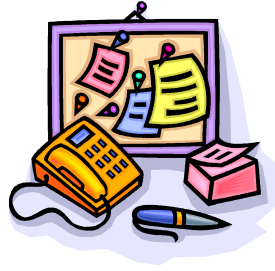
*From Psalm 46,
Richard Bewes (b. 1934), alt.*

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Toccata from Modale Suite
Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

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

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NOTICES

This Week: 13 September – 19 September

Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
11.30am Shalom
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: 20 September – 26 September

Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship – Animal Sunday
12.00pm Lunch at Urban Eatery
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Shalom – Today: 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.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS, 2026

If you would like a photo of your animal to feature in the slide show on 20 September, please send your photos to the office by 12 noon on Wednesday 16 September.

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 that Aotearoa New Zealand is facing. Excellent materials have been provided by the organisation 'Common Grace.'
<https://www.commongrace.nz/thriving>. Churches have found these workshops very helpful.



The workshops, presented as video/slides, comprise key topics that build on each other:

September 23:	Climate Change:	led by Professor Katherine Hayhoe
September 30:	Te Tiriti O Waitangi:	Christian origins & recent developments
October 7:	Cost of Living Crisis:	lived experience videos

Time: 7.00pm to 8.30pm (tea and biscuits from 6.30pm)

Venue: Knox Lounge, 28 Bealey Ave, Ōtautahi Christchurch
Limited parking is available. There is no charge, but a koha is welcome to help cover costs.

Please advise Knox office for planning purposes if you plan to come:
office@knoxchurch.co.nz (or 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.



Christian World Service

ACTION AGAINST POVERTY
actalliance

On the morning of 26 August 2026, a series of flash floods completely destroyed the Gyirong checkpoint on the China–Nepal border and struck dozens of settlements along a 72 km stretch of the Trishuli River in Nepal.

Latest reports reveal at least 1,204 deaths and 3,916 missing persons are confirmed in Nepal with an additional 21 dead and 541 missing in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. The flood carried the bodies of some victims 240 km away into neighbouring India. Collectively the numbers missing are in the thousands.

While China, India and Nepal leapt into immediate rescue and recovery action, the scale of the devastation is overwhelming. As just a small example of the size of the immediate need, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies estimated that 93,000 people were directly impacted by the floods and the United Nations estimated that 65,000 people were in need of emergency water, sanitation and hygiene materials. An estimated 2,600 children younger than 5 required treatment for severe wasting and 10,500 pregnant and breastfeeding women required nutrition assistance.

Our goal is to ensure our local ACT Alliance partner, Nepal Forum, have everything they need to help as many as they can in what is unfolding to be a level of devastation impacting the entire nation of Nepal.

Thank you for your patience while we ensured that the trustworthy pathways for your donations were established in the aftermath of the horrendous Nepal flash floods last week. We now have those pathways set up for your donations to reach our ACT Alliance partner Nepal Forum on the ground.

To donate to the appeal, go to the CWS website:

<https://cws.org.nz/donate-to-the-nepal-flash-flood-appeal/>



Come to meet

CANTERBURY CANDIDATES

standing in the General Election

- **Introduction** Kate Stone, Manager, Better Taxes Campaign
- **Candidates from political parties will engage with groups** featuring Environment and Climate Change; Health and Welfare; Education and Training; Underlying Causes of Inequality
- **Plenary and Q & A.**

When: 7.00 pm
Thursday 8 October 2026
(refreshments from 6.30 pm)

Koha to defray expenses appreciated

Where: Aldersgate Centre
309 Durham Street
Christchurch
(parking behind centre via Chester St West)

Meeting sponsored by the Canterbury Tax Reform Coalition & EcuAction
Further info from: Brian (ph 021-1294305)
or Darryn (E: rolleston.initiative@gmail.com)

COSMIC CREATIONS PRESENTS

A NEW GOSPEL OF CREATION

To celebrate St Francis Day, and in the spirit of Pope Francis' *Laudato Si*, we present a seminar offering a cosmological response to today's existential and environmental crises.

We can walk the labyrinth, and see it as a symbol of the cosmos.

Knox Church, Corner of Bealey and Victoria

Saturday 3 October, 10am to 3pm

Bring own lunch

Koha for labyrinth purchase,

We are a group of Christchurch people who are concerned about the state of mankind and the environment, and who wish to present a raft of existential and cosmological responses.

We are informed by the Creation Spirituality of Matthew Fox, the Sacred Activism of Andrew Harvey, and the Cosmic Mysticism of Teilhard de Chardin.

Our backgrounds include the teachings of St Francis and the centring prayer of Cynthia Bourgault.

Solutions to our predicament are presented by the cosmogenesis teachings of Thomas Berry, Brian Thomas Swimme and Stephan Martin.

We offer a multidisciplinary approach using talks, videos, meditation, lectio divina, chanting and labyrinth walking.

We would love for you to join us on this essential journey for mankind.

Please follow our Facebook page for details and events.

Len Pierce

Rose Isbell rose@thelighthouse.co.nz

 Cosmic Creation (Christchurch)



HAYDN & WEBSTER

Celebrating timeless harmonies
alongside fresh, modern sounds.

SATURDAY
19 SEPTEMBER 2026, 7:30pm

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



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Psalm 150
- Genesis 2: 15-23

Knox Directory

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Ōtautahi Christchurch 8013

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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

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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:

Phone:

Email: