



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

20 September 2026

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Season of Creation 4 /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.

A special welcome to Caroline Turner, cellist, who has come to play during the Music for Reflection. Thank you, Caroline, for coming to be with us today.

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, SHEPHERD OF THE LOST SHEEP;

JESUS, SPEAKING OF MOTHERS HENS, SHELTERING THEIR CHICKS;

JESUS, GOD'S OWN COMPANY TO THE HUMAN RACE.

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

All things bright and beautiful

William Henry Monk (1823-1889)



*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.*

1. The flowers in their beauty,
the mountains strong and tall,
still lakes and flowing rivers,
shy birds with tuneful call:
All things bright and beautiful . . .
2. The cold wind in the winter,
the bright, life-giving sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden –
God made them every one.
All things bright and beautiful . . .
3. The golden sand of beaches,
the clouds and deep-blue sky,
the kowhai, rimu, ponga,
giant kauri towering high:
All things bright and beautiful . . .
4. The sun upon the water,
the creatures of the sea,
the sheep upon the hillsides,
the air so clear and free:
All things bright and beautiful . . .
5. God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God almighty,
who has made all things well:
All things bright and beautiful . . .

*Original words by Cecil Frances Alexander 1818-1895
Adapted for Australian use by Brian Black and others.
Further adapted for NZ use by Lawrie Hampton.*

Prayer of Approach

Given eyes to see all creatures, great and small,
that we might tell how great God is,
WHO HAS MADE ALL THINGS WELL.

We wonder, O God,
that your intricate work,
the detail of the small,
the ant, the aphid, the tiny little midge,
MOVES US TO TELL YOUR GREATNESS.

We wonder, O God,
that your great, broad sweep of the elephant's stride,
the glide of the great blue whale,
the things that dwarf us,
MOVE US ALSO TO FEEL LIKE WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO SPEAK.

You have placed us among all creatures,
great and small,
wise and wonderful,
tiny and passing,
impressive and strange -
**AMONG WHOM WE, OURSELVES,
FRAME A WORD OF WORSHIP.**

In the silence,
WE OFFER OUR PRAISE.

Silence

Finding our voice
within the voices of the other creatures of Creation,
perhaps we feel moved to voice an apology -
for the captivity,
THE CRUELTY,
the hard labour,
THE LACK OF LOVE,
the failure to recognise the uniqueness,
**THE ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE
AND PRECIOUSNESS.**

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:

In the company of our animals, O God,
we bring thanks and praise for their presence in our lives.
We acknowledge that you made us to be social beings,
needing helpers, and partners in the task of bearing your image.

**BLESS US TO BE GOOD CUSTODIANS OF THEM,
AND FINE FRIENDS TO ONE ANOTHER,
THAT NO ONE OUGHT EVER TO FEEL ALONE,**

for we pray this in the name of Jesus,
who taught us to pray together, saying

**E TO MATOU MATUA I TE RANGI,
KIA TAPU TOU INGOA.
KIA TAE MAI TOU RANGATIRATANGA.
KIA MEATIA TAU E PAI AI
KI RUNGA KI TE WHENUA
KIA RITE ANO KI TO TE RANGI.
HOMAI KI A MATOU AIANEI
HE TARO MA MATOU MO TENEI RA.
MURUA A MATOU HARA,
ME MATOU HOKI E MURU NEI
I O TE HUNGA E HARA ANA KI A MATOU.
AUA HOKI MATOU E KAWEA KIA WHAKAWAIA;
ENGARI WHAKAORANGIA MATOU I TE KINO:
NOU HOKI TE RANGATIRATANGA,
TE KAHA, ME TE KORORIA,
AKE AKE AKE.
AMINE.**

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.

Lesson: Psalm 150

In this is the Word of God.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Let every creature praise God.

TOGETHER, LET US MAKE A JOYFUL SOUND!

Meeting the Animals

When the minister says “We give thanks for *N*”,
the people say “**AMEN**”.

*During the singing of the hymn, you are invited, if you would like to,
to light a candle in memory of a beloved pet.*

Hymn:

Ar Hyd Y Nos

Welsh traditional melody



1. For the pets whose love has blessed us,
thanks be to God;
for the way they've opened up us,
thanks be to God;
for the feeding, keeping, holding,
faithful love us all enfolding,
better humans they embolden;
thanks be to God.
2. For the way they know no lying,
thanks be to God;
for their calm when we are crying,
thanks be to God;
for their simple way of caring,
gentle company of sharing,
heaven's nature, yes, declaring;
thanks be to God.
3. For the ones who've worked in service,

thanks be to God;
serving human need and purpose,
thanks be to God;
lifting loads and bearing burdens,
giving help that's always certain,
faithful 'til the final curtain,
thanks be to God.

Matthew Jack (b. 1963)

Introduction: Simon and Chuck

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/1Ys3fehhiko>

Lesson: Genesis 2: 15-23

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

Reflection: It's not good to be alone - the social animal

Music for Reflection: The Swan (Carnival of the Animals)
Camille Saint-Saens (1835-1921)
Caroline Turner - cello

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Linda Wilkins

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

We offer this money, food and personal products
IN HOPE THAT IT WILL HELP.

We offer also our capacity
to provide company,
THAT OTHERS MIGHT NOT BE ALONE.

Bless all that we bring,
**IN THE NAME OF JESUS,
AMEN.**

Notices

Hymn:

Laast Uns Erfreuen

from Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623



1. To you, O God, all creatures sing
and all creation, everything
sings your praises, alleluia!
Your burning sun with golden beam
your silver moon with softer gleam
sing your praises, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
2. Your wind that blows the tempest by,
your clouds that sail across the sky
sing your praises, alleluia!
Your morning rises with a song,
and lights of evening sing along
sing your praises, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
3. Your living creatures, large and small,
diverse and wondrous, one and all,
sing your praises, alleluia!
They, being true to who they are,
express their joy both wide and far,
sing your praises, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
4. Now we who are of tender heart,
forgiving others, take our part,
sing your praises, alleluia!
Christ goes before us to renew
the way that leads us home to you.
Hear our praises, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

William Henry Draper (1855-1933)

*based on Cantic of the Sun, Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)
adapted by Miriam Therese Winter
third verse, Matthew Jack*

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: The Elephant (Carnival of the Animals)
Camille Saint-Saens (1835-1921)

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.



Daylight Saving

Daylight saving begins at 3:00pm this coming Sunday morning (27 September). Remember to put your clock one hour forward before you go to bed on Saturday 26th, or you will arrive at church next week just as the service is ending.



NOTICES

This Week:	20 September – 26 September
Sunday	10.00am Morning Worship – Animal Sunday 12.00pm Lunch at Urban Eatery
Wednesday	10.00am Bible Study
Next Week:	27 September – 3 October
Sunday	10.00am Morning Worship 11.30am Shalom
Wednesday	10.00am Bible Study

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).

Sunday 4 October: 4pm in the Lounge. The classic and timely film this month is **An Inconvenient Truth** (2006). Al Gore, former Vice President of the USA created this telling documentary about the threat from Climate Change. He argued then what we must do to save the planet. You probably saw it at the time - but it is surely well worth reminding ourselves.

Please note the time and venue - we won't change for Daylight Saving.

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.

JAZZ COMMUNION

Jeremy has been working with Naomi Ferguson and Tom Rainey on some jazz hymns, anthems, and other music in jazz style for our communion service on Sunday 4 October. Spread the word among your jazz-loving friends.

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:

- Exodus 17: 1-7
- Matthew 21: 23-32

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:

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