



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

25 October 2026

THE GOOD LEADER?

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, INSPIRING THE PEOPLE TO WALK TOWARDS THEIR GOD;
JESUS, FULL OF LOVE, INSPIRATION AND CHARACTER;
JESUS, RULER OF THE ROLLING SPHERES.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Diademata

George J. Elvey (1816-1893)



1. Crown with your richest crowns the Christ upon the throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of Christ who rose for you,
and to your risen Saviour bring your thanks for life made new.
2. Crown Christ whose love has flowed down hands and feet and side.
Look past the peak of Calvary's road to Christ the glorified.
The sun that lights the sky is pale before that sight.
At prayer we glimpse then turn the eye from mysteries so bright.
3. Crown Christ who rules in peace, whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise;
Christ's reign shall have no end, for 'round those wounded feet
a fragrant garden shall extend forever green and sweet.
4. Crown Christ who holds the years, embracing space and time,
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime:
all hail, Redeemer, hail, for your great love for me;
your praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

Matthew Bridges (1800-1894) and Godfrey Thring (1823-1903) alt.

Prayer of Approach

"Christ's reign shall have no end", we sing.
We hold it to be true that time and space
are held within careful, skilful and loving hands.

PRAISE TO THE GOD OF YEARS!

Christ's power sways the sceptres of this world,
unmasks the pretenders,
and guides the people to their promised land.

PRAISE TO THE GOD OF "WELCOME HOME".

At worship, it is easier to believe in progress,
in the forward momentum of spirit and truth.

**THEN WE CONSIDER THE REALITIES
OF THE GOVERNING OF THIS WORLD.**

There are tin gods,
and crack pots.
There are despots
and evil-doers.
And also, for the lucky,

there are opportunities
to elect leaders for the people,
TIMES OF RESPONSIBLE DECISION.

Today we will hear of the people farewelling Moses, their leader.
We will hear Paul speaking of his leadership credentials.

**BLESS US AS WE LISTEN,
AND SEARCH OUR HEARTS.**

Pause

Indeed, as our well-searched hearts bump into our sins,
our stupid things
insensitive things,
the ways in which we have hurt one another,
MEET US WITH YOUR GRACE,

even as we say together

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:

God of the journey,
in wisdom and faithfulness
you provided leaders for your people,
so that they could find your purposes
and move towards their fulfilment.

**BLESS US AS WE LISTEN TO THE STORIES
OF MOSES AND OF PAUL,**

that we might find wisdom
as we exercise our own leadership responsibilities

**AND BE GOOD CITIZENS
IN A TIME OF ELECTION.**

For we pray this 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: Deuteronomy 34: 1-12

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

Reflection: Dick and Moses

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/AwYEJ6B76DQ>

Music for Reflection: Chant de Paix
Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

The Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
MAY GOD BLESS OUR LISTENING.

Reflection: Different Credentials

Hymn:

St Leonard's

Arthur Cyril Barham Gould (1891-1953)



1. May the mind of Christ my Saviour
live in me from day to day,
by his love and power redeeming
all I do and say.
2. May the Word of God dwell richly
in my heart from hour to hour
so that all may see I triumph,
by his love empowered.
3. May the peace of God, Creator,
guide my life in everything,
that I may be calm to comfort
sick and sorrowing.
4. May the love of Jesus fill me
as the waters fill the sea;
him exalting, self denying,
this is victory.
5. May I run the race before me
strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus
as I onward go.

Katie Barclay Wilkinson (1859-1928), alt.

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Andrew Johnston

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

While we do not sit in parliament,

WE EXERCISE POWER IN OUR OWN DOMAINS.

To each of us have been given gifts
TO BE USED FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

So we offer not just this food and money,
BUT ALSO OUR AVAILABILITY FOR THE GOOD.

Bless what is offered here,
**IN THE NAME OF JESUS,
AMEN.**

Notices

Hymn:

Cwm Rhondda

John Hughes (1873-1932)



1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.
2. Open now the crystal fountain
whence the living waters flow;
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs and praises,
I will ever give to thee.

William Williams (1717-1791)

Tr. Peter Williams (1722-1796) and William Williams

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Prelude and Fugue in A minor, BuxWV 154
Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

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

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NOTICES

This Week:	25 October – 31 October
Sunday	10.00am Morning Worship
	11.30am Shalom
Wednesday	10.00am Bible Study

Next Week:	1 November – 7 November
Sunday	10.00am Morning Worship
	4.00pm Film Group
Wednesday	10.00am Bible Study

Film Group: Sunday 1 November at 4pm in the Lounge - **Tina (2024)**. You may have seen this fabulous film when it first came to the cinema. It tells of Tina, a Samoan lady who loses her job because of the February 2011 earthquakes in Christchurch and ends up teaching at a wealthy private school. She forms a choir, which enables her to empower her students and through it, she regains her own passion as a teacher and mother. It is well worth seeing this absorbing and inspiring film again.

Key looking for its owner: If you have lost a key with a can/bottle opener attached to it ("Rheineck" inscribed on bottle opener) please contact Touchstone Trustees, 148 Victoria Street, Ph: 377-6767.

Pillars - For the first three Sundays of November we will be collecting Christmas treats and gifts for Pillars, as we have done for many years now. Pillars is an organisation which supports the families of people in prison. They greatly appreciate our donations of Christmas gifts and food which are distributed to their families in the festive season. They currently work with children between the ages of 0-17. We hope you find the following suggestions for gift ideas helpful:

- Toiletries for teenage boys and girls
- Card games
- Board games
- Outdoor toys/games.

Please note, that with many people struggling financially, we will also continue collecting our regular food donations for Te Whare Roimata. Thank you for your support of both these organisations and the needy people they serve.

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.

This is the prayer that Matthew offered at the annual Peace Bell event, held by the Canterbury Inter-faith Society on Sunday 18 October.

In 1872, the Christian poet, John Greenleaf Whittier, wrote these words:

"Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Let us pray.

Dear God, Maker of us all, we release to you the strains and stresses
that sometimes make a home in our hearts and hurt the world.
Order our lives, master our strivings, that beautiful peace might come.
Amen.

Congratulations to our friends at Moana Vā

On Thursday, the Chair and General Manager of Moana Vā Navigators of Pacific Pride were standing in the rain for six hours, directing traffic and helping erect gazebos for their Taste of the Pacific Night Market in Ōtautahi Christchurch.

By Friday evening, they had swapped their raincoats for their “glad rags” and were in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, collecting national honours at the 2026 New Zealand Rainbow Excellence Awards, hosted by Pride Pledge at SkyCity.

Moana Vā are thrilled to share that they took home two prestigious awards and one extraordinary placing:

- Winner – SkyCity Community and Advocacy Award
- Winner – Pride Pledge Non-Commercial Sector Award
- Second Place – Pride Pledge Supreme Award, with Air New Zealand taking the top honour.

For a grassroots Pacific Rainbow+ charity to finish second overall in a national awards programme celebrating some of Aotearoa's largest and most influential organisations is nothing short of remarkable.





Family History Society of New Zealand

Te Rakau Whakapapa O Aotearoa

Sunday, November 1, 2026

Uncover Your Family Story

Join the Family History Society of New Zealand for a family history research event.

Supported by the Canterbury Genealogy Society.

1:30pm : Open to public

1:45pm : Welcome / Jill Lord Award

Keynote Speakers: (20 minutes plus questions)

2:00PM

**Canterbury
Genealogy
Society**

Keynote speaker

2:30PM

**Professor
Greg Ryan**

“Fit Only for Savages:
Death, danger and
debate in New Zealand
rugby 1875 to 1905”

Learn how to find
out about how your
ancestors died

3:15PM

**Associate
Professor
Lyndon Fraser**

“Rituals of Death
and Dying”

Learn how to find
out about how your
ancestors died

3:45PM

Kevin White

“David Cosgrove...
A lifetime of service”.

This will detail Mr
White’s research into
early NZ Scouting
History.



Check out the displays and find out about our
new award:

**The Jillian Lord Memorial Award
for family history research**

1.30pm to 4.30pm

Knox Church

Cnr Bealey Ave / Victoria Street

(parking in Bealey Ave Carpark for Presbyterian Social
Services and Knox church patrons)

\$5 entry fee

Contact: familyhistory.nz@hotmail.com. Follow Family History Society of NZ on Facebook.

For more information: <https://sites.google.com/view/familyhistorynz/home>



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Acts 16: 6-10
- Hebrews 12: 1-2

Knox Directory

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<http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/>



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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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