

KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

8 November 2026



LIGHT THE LAMP

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.

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

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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.

<u>The Call to Worship</u>:

We light a candle in the name of Jesus Christ, a light in the world.
JESUS, WHOSE LIGHT THE WORLD HAS NOT OVERCOME;
JESUS, TELLING STORIES OF LAMPS RUN OUT OF OIL;
JESUS, CALLING US TO SEEK AND WELCOME HIM.

Kia noho a Ihowa ki a koutou. God be with you.
MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Christ, be our light — Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)



1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
   Longing for truth, we turn to you.
   Make us your own, your holy people,
   light for the world to see.

   Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
   Shine through the darkness.
   Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church
   gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
   Longing for hope, many despair.
   Your word alone has power to save us,
   make us your living voice.
   Christ, be our light . . .

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
   Longing for water, many still thirst.
   Make us your bread, broken for others,
   shared until all are fed.
   Christ, be our light . . .

4. Longing for shelter people are homeless.
   Longing for warmth, many are cold.
   Make us your building, sheltering others,
   walls made of living stone.
   Christ, be our light . . .

5. Many the gifts, many the people,
   many the hearts that yearn to belong.
   Let us be servants to one another,
   making your kingdom come.
   Christ, be our light . . .

   Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)

Prayer of Approach

Waiting in darkness, longing for light,
WE REJOICE IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST.

Many the gifts, many the people;
CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT!

Silence

Jesus, whom we love, follow,
and from whom we seek inspiration,
TODAY WE ENTERTAIN A PARABLE WHICH YOU TOLD.

Ten people are called to welcome the bridegroom to the wedding;
FIVE ARE WISE, WITH OIL IN THEIR LAMPS,
READY TO SHINE AND SHARE THE LIGHT.

Five are foolish, with no oil,
SO PROVIDING NO WELCOME OR LIGHT.

Your parting words are a call for us not to be drowsy in life,
BUT TO KEEP AWAKE . . .

Is that awake to the wonder of life,
TO THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GOOD THAT PRESENT THEMSELVES,

to the devotion of the bridegroom to us,
MANIFEST IN THE HUMAN LOVE AROUND US?

Pause

We confess, O Christ,
that sometimes we become casual about our responsibilities,
blind to our opportunities,
dull to the emerging of the kingdom of God.
AND IN THE DULLNESS,
SOMETHING PRECIOUS DRIFTS AWAY.

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:

Lest, O God, our lamps go out,
so that the celebration of your love for us
might fall into darkness,
or be completely missed,
BLESS US, PROMPT US,
THAT THERE MAY BE OIL IN THE LAMP,
FOR THE SHARING OF THE LIGHT,

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 78: 1-7

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

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 25: 1-13

This is the gospel of Christ.
PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Hymn:

Bow Brickhill — Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947)



1. God of ages, by whose hand
through years long past our lives were led,
give us new courage now to stand,
new faith to find the paths ahead.

2. You are the thought beyond all thought,
the gift beyond our utmost prayer;
no farthest reach where you are not,
no height but we may find you there.

3. Lift up our hearts, and set us free
from wild alarms and trembling fears;
in your strong hand eternally
rests the unfolding of the years.

4. Though there be dark uncharted space,
with worlds on worlds beyond our sight,
still may we trust your love and grace,
and wait your word, 'Let there be light.'

Elizabeth H Burrowes (1885-1975)

Two Reflections:

1. I have this most beautiful lamp
2. Dark Ages

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/RKsp_T6Obd8

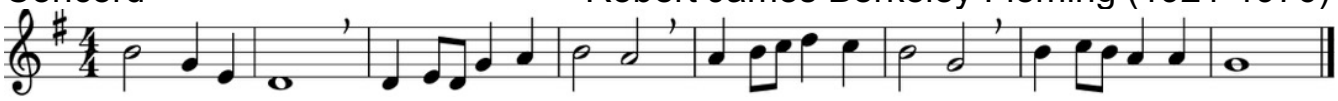
Music for Reflection: Voluntary in A minor
Matthew Locke (1621-1677)

Two More Reflections:

3. "Give us your oil!"
4. Meeting the opportunity

Hymn:

Concord — Robert James Berkeley Fleming (1921-1976)



1. Let there be light,
   Let there be understanding,
   Let all the nations gather,
   Let them be face to face.

2. Open our lips,
   Open our minds to ponder,
   Open the door to concord
   Opening into grace.

3. Perish the sword,
   Perish the angry judgment,
   Perish the bombs and hunger,
   Perish the fight for gain.

4. Hallow our love,
   Hallow the deaths of martyrs,
   Hallow their holy freedom,
   Hallowed be your name.

5. Let there be light,
   Open our hearts to wonder,
   Perish the way of terror,
   Hallow the world God made.

Frances Wheeler Davis (b.1936)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Ian Bayliss

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

We offer this money for the Church,
this food for Te Whare Roimata,
and these gifts for Pillars.
WE ALSO OFFER OUR REFUSAL TO BECOME DROWSY BEFORE THE OPPORTUNITIES YOU GIVE US, O GOD.

May all that is offered be blessed,
FOR WE PRAY IT IN JESUS' NAME.
AMEN.

Notices

Hymn:

Moscow — Felice Giardini (1716-1796)



1. God whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight,
hear us, we humbly pray,
and, where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light!

2. Saviour, who came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
now to all humankind
let there be light!

3. Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy Dove,
speed on your flight!
Move on the waters' face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light!

4. Gracious and holy Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far and wide
let there be light!

John Marriott (1780-1825) alt.

Benediction and **Sung Amen**

Postlude: Postlude in C
Henry Smart (1813-1879)



NOTICES

This Week:	**8 November – 14 November**	
Sunday	10.00am	Morning Worship
	11.30am	Shalom
Wednesday	10.00am	Bible Study

Next Week:	**15 November – 21 November**	
Sunday	10.00am	Morning Worship
	12.00pm	Lunch at Urban Eatery
Wednesday	10.00am	Bible Study

Shalom at 11.30am today will be led by Ken Shields JP.
Justices of the Peace - from Reading the Riot Act to Certifying Certificates - What a JP can do for you.
"When am I likely to need the services of a JP?"
"What do I need to take with me when I visit a JP?"
"How much will it cost me and what advice will I get from a JP?"
"What's the difference between Citizens Advice Bureau and JPs?
"Who appoints JPs and how do I become a JP?"
And more .....

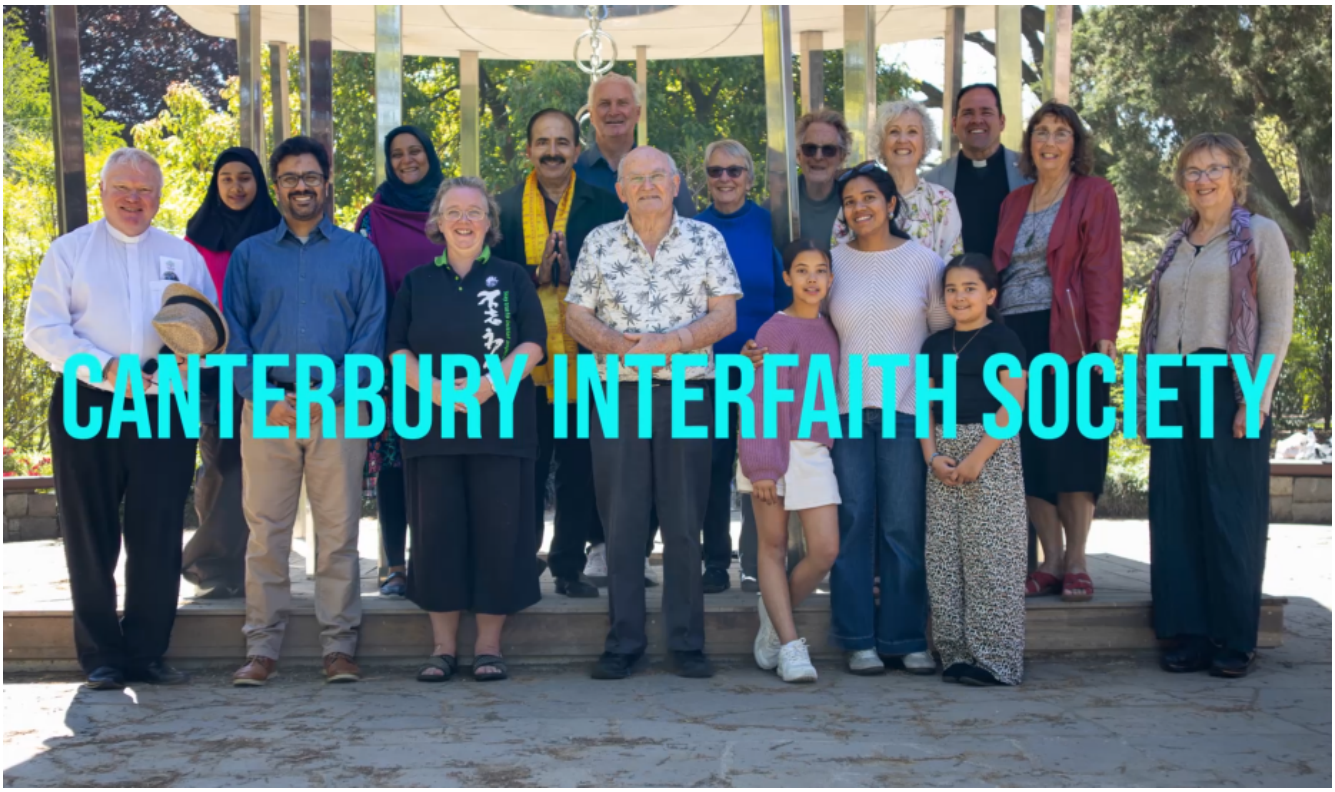
Sunday lunch 15 Nov – Join us for lunch and a friendly chat after church at **Urban Eatery (Oderings, Barrington**). We meet at around 12pm. Please, add your name to the attendance list at the church entrance. To confirm numbers with the venue it would be appreciated if names were in by Wednesday the 11th. **Please note**: due to the third Sunday in December being the "Lessons and Carols" Sunday, there will be **no lunch** at Urban Eatery in December. All things going to plan, we **will** be meeting there again in January.

Knox Life: I know it seems early but please think about what you might like to produce for the Christmas edition of Knox Life. Send to the office – the sooner the better.

Books: If anyone is going to or through Oamaru sometime soon, and would be prepared to deliver a box of books to the Slightly Foxed Bookshop, please contact Bronwyn Wiltshire.

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.

Canterbury Interfaith Society



On Sunday 18 October, Matthew attended the Interfaith Society's annual "prayers for peace" at the Peace Bell in the Botanic Gardens, and led a prayer on behalf of Knox. A video was taken of the event, and you can view it here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GbqLdMLNFBbdDz_8hk5ZxIJRWUJZ4rz-/view?usp=sharing

Kahu and Erik

Huge congratulations to our two Knox choral scholars, Kahu Gray and Erik Misnyovszki, who have been selected for the 2027 New Zealand Opera School and the next cycle of the New Zealand Secondary Schools' Choir respectively. A great achievement for both of you.

Trans-awareness Week

As part of our service next week (15 November), we will observe a moment of remembrance for members of the Transgender community who have suffered persecution. This is part of Trans-awareness week.

Join the Interpreting New Zealand Team!

Are you fluent in English and any of these languages?

Amharic female	Fijian	Somali
Arabic female	Korean	Spanish
Assyrian	Niuean	Thai
Bangla female	Oromo	Vietnamese
Bislama	Pashto	Turkish
Cantonese	Portuguese	
Dari	Samoan	

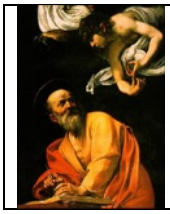
Whether you're an experienced interpreter or just passionate about communication, we'd love to hear from you. We are looking for candidates to join our interpreter team.
Enjoy flexible hours to suit your schedule.

This is a fantastic opportunity to build new skills and make a real difference in your community.

APPLY NOW to join the next training in February
Training is currently free.

Experienced interpreters with existing qualifications (preferably NAATI accredited) are welcome to contact us at any time of the year.

If you would like to become part of our friendly, supportive team, apply online at www.interpret.org.nz (click "Join Us / Apply Online") or email us at canterbury@interpret.org.nz



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Matthew 25: 14-23
- Matthew 25: 24-30

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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