

KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

22 November 2026

IN HER HEART, SHE SANG TO GOD

- a service for St Cecilia's Day -

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.

A special welcome this morning to **Thomas Woodfield**, who will sing the Introit and direct the Knox Singers in the anthem

The Greeting and Welcome

Introit: King David
Herbert Howells (1892-1983).

King David was a sorrowful man: no cause for his sorrow had he; and he called for the music of a hundred harps to ease his melancholy. They played till they all fell silent: played and played sweet did they; but the sorrow that haunted the heart of King David, they could not charm away. He rose, and in his garden, walked by the moon alone; a nightingale hidden in a cypress tree jargoned on and on. King David lifted his sad eyes into the dark-boughed tree. "Tell me, little bird that singest, who taught my grief to thee?" But the bird in no-wise heeded, and the king in the cool of the moon hearkened to the nightingale's sorrowfulness, till all his own was gone.

- Walter de la Mare

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

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

JESUS, LIVING IN PERFECT HARMONY WITH HIS GOD;
JESUS, FILLING OUR PSALMS, HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS;
JESUS, TO WHOM WE SING OUR PRAISE.

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

<u>Hymn</u>:

Angel Voices — Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)



1. Angel voices, ever singing
round thy throne of light,
angel harps, for ever ringing,
rest not day nor night:
thousands only live to bless thee
and confess thee
God of might.

2. Lord, we know that thou rejoicest
o'er each work of thine;
thou didst ears and hands and voices
for thy praise design:
craftsman's art and music's measure
for thy pleasure
all combine.

3. Honour, glory, might and merit
thine shall ever be,
Great Creator, Son and Spirit,
blessed Trinity;
of the best that thou hast given
earth and heaven
render thee.

Francis Pott (1832-1909)

Prayer of Approach

As poets speak of angel voices,
WE TAKE OUR PLACE AMONG THE ANGELS.

As thousands of souls throng the place of worship,
WE TOO OFFER OUR SONG OF PRAISE.

Receive our silent worship.

Silence

While poets speak of ears and hands and voices
being fashioned for praise,
WE LIVE IN A WORLD OF SHOPPING LISTS,
INSTRUCTION BOOKLETS
AND HOUSE WORK.

Also,
you call us to harmony;
AND WE BRING DISCHORD.

You call us to sing;
AND WE BRING DRONING.

Lord have mercy.
CHRIST HAVE MERCY.
Lord have mercy.

Assurance and Response

People of God,
bring to God a new song,
Leave behind you the dirges of regret,
bringing instead, through the life of Jesus,
a hymn of faith and liberation,
through the forgiveness of your sins.
Indeed,

. . . In the name of Christ, I say to you:
You are forgiven and you are free.
THANKS BE TO GOD.

The Theme Prayer:

O God of creativity and song,
as we celebrate the arts,
FILL OUR VOICES WITH JOY AND LIFE,
THAT WE MIGHT WORSHIP YOU AS YOU DESERVE,

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.

An Introduction: Encouraged to sing

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/jPAyIYNKayw

Hymn:

Castlewood — Richard Proulx (1937-2010)



1. Come to us, creative Spirit, in the Maker's house;
   every human talent hallow, hidden skills arouse,
   that within your earthly temple,
   wise and simple may rejoice.

2. Poet, painter, music-maker, all your treasures bring;
   crafter, actor, graceful dancer, make your offering;
   join your hands in celebration,
   let creation shout and sing!

3. In all places and forever glory be expressed
   to the Christ, and the Creator, and the Spirit blessed:
   in our worship and our living,
   keep us striving for the best.

   David Mowbray (b. 1938), alt.

Lesson: Psalm 96: 1-6, 11-12

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

A Reflection: Cecilia sings

Lesson: Psalm 137: 1-6

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

A Reflection: How can songs be sung?

A Pause

A Reflection: Human creativity

Lesson: Colossians 3: 12-17

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

A Reflection: Singing to one another

Anthem: A Hymn for St Cecilia
Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Sing for the morning's joy, Cecilia, sing, in words of youth and phrases of the Spring, walk the bright colonnades by fountains' spray, and sing as sunlight fills the waking day; till angels, voyaging in upper air pause on a wing and gather the clear sound into celestial joy, wound and unwound, a silver chain, or golden as your hair.

Sing for your loves of heaven and of carth, in words of music, and each word a truth; marriage of heart and longings that aspire, a bond of roses, and a ring of fire.

Your summertime grows short and fades away, terror must gather to a martyr's death ; but never tremble, the last indrawn breath remembers music as an echo may.

Through the cold aftermath of centuries Cecilia's music dances in the skies, lend us a fragment of the immortal air, that with your choiring angels we may share, a word to light us thro' time-fettered night, water of life, or rose of paradise so from the carth another song shall rise to meet your own in heaven's long delight.

Ursula Vaughan Williams

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Len Pierce

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

We sing, we imagine, we create,
AND OFFER IT TO GOD.

We compose, we rhyme, we paint,
AND OFFER IT TO GOD.

May God bless what is offered,
IN THE NAME OF JESUS,
AMEN.

Notices

Hymn:

Hyfrydol — Rowland Huw Prichard (1811-1887)



1. For the music of creation,
for the song your Spirit sings,
for your sound's divine expression,
burst of joy in living things:
God, our God, the world's composer,
hear us, echoes of your voice:
music is your art, your glory,
let the human heart rejoice!

2. All the voices of the ages
in transcendent chorus meet,
worship lifting up the senses,
hands that praise and dancing feet;
over discord and division
music speaks your joy and peace,
harmony of earth and heaven,
song of God that cannot cease!

Shirley Murray (1931-2020)

Benediction and **Sung Amen**

Postlude: War March of the Priests from Athalia
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Following the service, morning tea and coffee are served in the Lounge of the Knox Centre.

Music printed in this order of service is covered under a OneLicence.net music copyright licence agreement: LicenSing #604802.



NOTICES

This Week:	**22 November – 28 November**	
Sunday	10.00am	Morning Worship
Wednesday	10.00am	Bible Study

Next Week:	**29 November – 5 December**	
Sunday	10.00am	Morning Worship
Wednesday	10.00am	Bible Study

Bus Trip - On Thursday 3 December you are invited to catch the Number 95 bus in Victoria Street opposite Knox to travel to Pegasus for a cafe lunch there by the lake. No need to book - just be at Knox by 10.35am ready to catch the bus at 10.49am. We will reach Pegasus at 11.52am and there will be a short walk to the cafe. Buses depart at five minutes before each hour for the return trip.

Meditation: Come along and experience Mediation at 10am on Saturday 5 December in the Chapel.

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.

After today's St Cecilia service

Since today's service has been themed around St Cecilia, the patron saint of music, we'll follow the service with a delightful wee and free concert in the church. Pick up your tea and coffee in the Knox Centre Lounge, and come back for some music.



You are Invited to:

West Papua's National Day

"Morning Star" Flag Raising

12 noon, Tuesday 1 December 2026
Bridge of Remembrance, Cashel St West

Keynote Speaker: Catherine Delahunty

National Spokesperson
for West Papua Action Aotearoa

☆ Stand in solidarity with suffering West Papuans

For those available, we assemble at 11.15 am at Aldersgate Centre, 309 Durham St before marching to the Bridge of Remembrance for speeches & flag raising at 12 noon. We then return to Aldersgate for refreshments and Q & A with Catherine.

Organised by: West Papua Action Canterbury
Co-cordinator: Brian Turner - 021 129 4305 / bhturner41@gmail.com

CHRISTCHURCH CITY CHOIR | CSO

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

A timeless masterpiece celebrating the Christmas story.

Carleen Ebbs - **Soprano**
Thomas Woodfield - **Alto**
LJ Crichton - **Tenor**
Kieran Kelly - **Bass**



SCAN ME TO GET YOUR TICKETS!

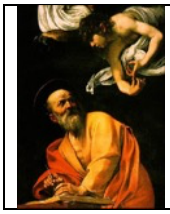
SATURDAY
5 DECEMBER 2026, 7:30pm

CHRISTCHURCH TOWN HALL

Proudly supported by

MITRE 10 MEGA FERRYMEAD

Pub Charity Limited



The Bible reading for next week will be:

- Mark 13: 24-37

Knox Directory

28 Bealey Ave,
Ōtautahi Christchurch 8013

Secretary: Lynda Gerken,
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

Pastoral Visitors:
Rev Norman and Linda Wilkins
g8m8zinbayst@gmail.com
+64 272499741 (Linda's mobile)
+64 220667626 (Norman's mobile)

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: