



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service 10 September 2023



GOD WHO HAS SHAPED AND SUSTAINED ALL CREATION

a service for Spring Flower Sunday

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.

Toilets are available through the door on the lectern side of the sanctuary.

Please don't leave any items unattended around the church;
they may cause alarm.

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:

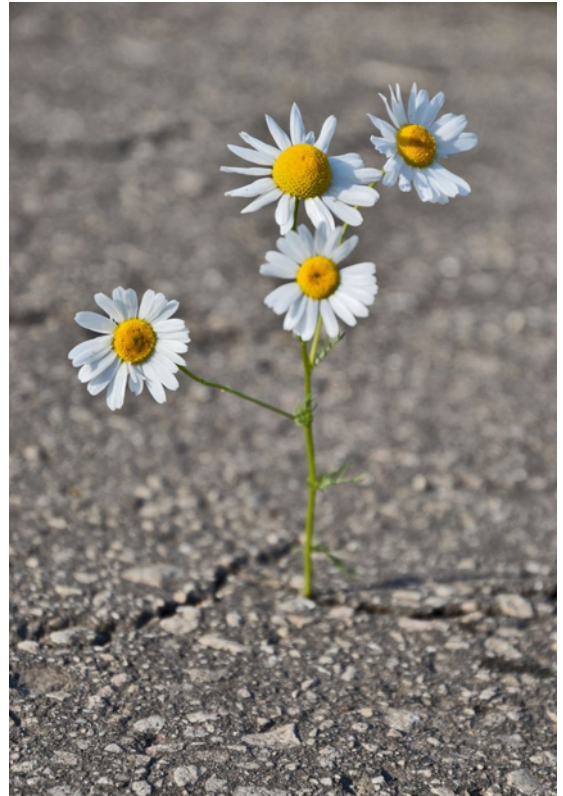
You, Springtime Jesus,
just as I'd settled down for winter,
you broke into my heart
and danced your love right across it
in a mad excess of giving.
Just as I'd got comfortable
with bare branches and unfeeling,
just as my world was neatly black and white,
there you were,
kicking up flowers
all over the place.

Springtime Jesus,
I tried to find a way to tell you
that there were places



where you could or would not dance.
I wanted to guide you on my paths
and have you sign the visitors' book;
but you laughed right through my words
and sang to me your melting song,
causing sap to fire the branches,
causing the flames of buds
to flicker into green bonfires,
causing a windquake of blossom,
causing burstings, searings, breakings,
causing growth-pain,
causing life . . .

. . . Teach me, Jesus, how to move with you,
step for step, in your love dance.
Touch my fears with your melting song.
Gift me with your laughter,
and, in the mystery of your Springtime,
show me the truth of the blossoming Cross.



Joy Cowley

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

**PRAISE GOD FOR THE BEAUTY OF SPRING,
THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS,
AND THE ON-GOING GIFT OF LIFE.**

Hymn:

Lobe Den Herren

Stralsund Gesangbuch, 1665



1. Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sustains all creation!
Sing praise, my soul, in profound and complete adoration!
Spring of delight
succeeds the winter of night,
warming the earth's exultation.
2. Praise God, our guardian, who lovingly offers correction,
Who, as on eagle's wings, saves us from gloom and dejection.
Have you observed,
how we are always preserved
by God's parental affection?

3. Sing for God's saints who have travelled faith's journey before us,
who in our weariness give us their hope to restore us;
in them we see
the new creation to be,
spirit of love made flesh for us.

4. Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God commending.
All that have life and breath join you, their notes sweetly blending.
God is your light!
Soul, ever keep this in sight;
amen, amen never ending.

*V 1, 2 & 4, Joachim Neander 1650-1680,
tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878),
alt. Madeleine Forell Marshall (b. 1946)
and Matthew Jack (b. 1963), V 1
V 3. Kathryn Galloway (b. 1952)*

Prayer of Approach

Singing praise for the God who has shaped all creation -
the great expanses of ocean,
the high peaks of the mountains,
the petal shapes of the flowers.

PRAISE TO THE GOD WHO BRINGS LIFE.

Singing praise for the God who sustains all creation -
the Summer and Autumn,
the Winter and Spring,
the air, the light, the warmth.

PRAISE TO THE GOD WHO BRINGS LIFE.

Singing praise for the God who opens our eyes to the growth -
the stretching of the branches,
the rising of the tender shoots,
the faith where once there only was fear.

PRAISE TO THE GOD WHO BRINGS LIFE.

Singing praise for the God who faithfully comes -
whether we be wise or foolish,
focussed or distracted,
worshipping or working.

PRAISE TO THE GOD WHO BRINGS LIFE.

Singing praise for the God who gives us this very day,
a time in which to rejoice in beauty,
and to rest well in that which is good.

**SING PRAISE, MY SOUL,
GOD IS YOUR LIGHT!
SOUL, EVER KEEP THIS IN SIGHT;
AMEN, AMEN NEVER ENDING.**

Silence

On a day when we rejoice in the beauty of creation,
and perhaps notice its delicacy,
we are moved to confess.
For the belching chimneys
and the broken earth,
for the smelly Bromley wastewater treatment plant,
and the plastics in the oceans,
not to mention the treatment of our neighbours,
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.

Theme Prayer:

O God, you renew the earth,
you renew our lives.
You fill our world with beauty
and good news of resurrection.
In Jesus, you call us to a new perspective
on the days we live together.
**ENABLE US, NOT JUST IN SPRINGTIME,
BUT IN ALL TIMES,
TO RECOGNISE THE SIGNS IN OUR WORLD
OF YOUR LOVE, GRACE AND GOODNESS.**

We pray this in the name of Jesus,
using the words he gave us, 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 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.

A Prayer of Blessing for the Flowers:

O God, your goodness is stamped on creation.
Its beauty echoes yours.

WE THANK YOU FOR THESE FLOWERS.

O Christ, you spoke of the flowers of the fields.
You said if God clothed them, who neither toiled nor worried,
then how much more would God clothe us.

**WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR FAITH IN GOD'S GOODNESS.**

O Spirit of God, bless these flowers,
that, as they are handed to people today,
they may become signs of divine love
and human caring.

Brighten the homes to which they will go,
**AND FILL ALL OUR HOMES
WITH PEACE.**

We pray this in Jesus' name.
AMEN.



A Series of Readings, Reflections and Hymns

Generally, sermons are posted on our website shortly after the service at:
<http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/sermons.html> Hard copies of the sermons are
available before and after the service – ask the person at the door. A video of
these reflections being practised is available from 10:00am today:
<https://youtu.be/DrIFol1ZsY0>

Introduction: Springtime - a revelation of the "force towards life"

We remain seated to sing

Hymn:

Sine Nomine

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)



1. Give thanks for life,
the measure of our days,
mortal, we pass through
beauty that decays,
yet sing to God our hope,
our love, our praise,
Alleluia!

*Shirley Murray
(1931-2020)*



A Reading: Luke 24: 1-9

A Reflection: Springtime -
not just for the planet

We remain seated to sing

Hymn:

Sine Nomine

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

2. Give thanks for hope,
that like the wheat, the grain
lying in darkness
does its life retain,
in resurrection
to grow green again.
Alleluia!

Shirley Murray (1931-2020)



A Reading: 2 Corinthians 4: 6-10, 16-18

A Reflection: Springtime -
not just for Jesus

We remain seated to sing

Hymn:

Sine Nomine

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

3. Give thanks for those
who made their life a light
caught from the Christ-flame,
bursting through the night,
who touched the truth, who
burned for what is right,
Alleluia!

Shirley Murray (1931-2020)

A Reading: Genesis 1: 27-31

A Reflection: Springtime Response - worship and the caring for Creation

We remain seated to sing

Hymn:

Sine Nomine

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

4. And for the Spring, a sign
our world's not dead,
thanks for the love by
which our life is fed,
a love not changed by time
or death or dread,
Alleluia!

*Shirley Murray (1931-2020),
alt. Matthew Jack (b. 1963)*



Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Stephen Best

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

Bless all that we offer in faith, O God,
**THAT THE WORLD MIGHT FIND COLOUR,
NOURISHMENT,
SHELTER AND LOVE.**

We pray this in the name of Jesus,
AMEN.

Notices

Hymn:

Laast Uns Erfreuen

from Geistliche Kirchengesäng 1623



1. From all who dwell below the skies,
let the Creator's praise arise;
Hallelujah!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung,
through every land, by every tongue.
Hallelujah!
2. Eternal are your mercies, God,
eternal truth attends your word:
Hallelujah!
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore,
till suns shall rise and set no more.
Hallelujah!

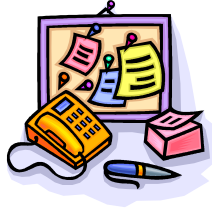
Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Waltz of the Flowers, from "Nutcracker"
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893), arr. Woodside

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

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NOTICES

This Week: 10 September – 16 September
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
11.30am Winter Book Study with Len Pierce
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: 17 September – 23 September
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
12.00pm Lunch at Black and White Café
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

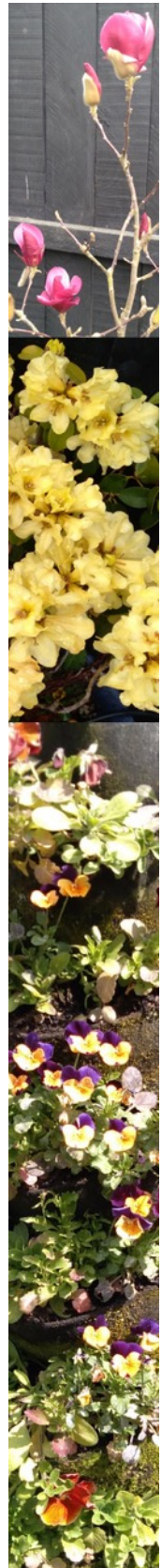
Spring Sunday Today - Thank you to those who contributed posies. Cards in named envelopes are available on the small table for those who are able to make deliveries. Spare posies and cards are available for additional recipients.

Annual General Meeting - The Annual General Meeting of Knox Church will be held on Sunday 24 September immediately following the morning service. Copies of the Annual Report and Financial Performance Report are available at the entrances to the Church.
N.B. Daylight Saving begins on 24 September.

Sunday Lunch 17 Sep – Join us for lunch and a friendly chat at the **Black and White Café, 45 Merrin St, Avonhead**. Meet at around 12 pm. Please, make sure you add your name to the attendance list at the church entrance. Or send an email to jannekenyuysink@gmail.com, no later than Wednesday the 13th.

Winter Book Study-The Heart of Christianity – 2nd and 4th Sundays of July through September with Len Pierce at 11.30am til 1pm in the Lounge.

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. 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.



Tax fairness

Election 2023 tax forum

**Act, Labour, Greens,
National, New Zealand First,
Te Pāti Māori and TOP reps
have been invited**

**Thursday 14th September, 7pm
Aldersgate, 309 Durham Street North**

Chair **Jill Hawkey**, Executive Director
Christchurch Methodist Mission.



Organised by Ecu Action

From the Christchurch City Council Community weekly e-noticeboard



Take part in the Big NZ Climate Action Survey

People often talk about climate action being urgent, as well as about the possibility that adequate climate action might require significant social change. This research from Victoria University of Wellington is exploring how these questions shape people's decision-making for climate action, in the hope that it can support reflection and discussion about effective and just climate action in Aotearoa.

The research involved a survey that is open to anyone living in Aotearoa New Zealand who is at least 16 years old and who takes any sort of action to respond to climate change. The more people who complete the survey, the more useful the findings will be for supporting climate action in Aotearoa, so please spread the word!

The survey has two main sections. The first of these asks about the social change you think is needed to respond to climate change, and the second asks about the forms of climate action you think can most effectively achieve the needed social change.

The survey will take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. Doctoral candidate Jonathan Oosterman hopes that you find that completing it provides you with a valuable opportunity to reflect on how you engage with and think about climate change and climate action.

Everyone who completes the survey has the option of going into a draw to win one of twenty \$20 supermarket vouchers.

[Find out more about the Big NZ Climate Action Survey](#), including how to get involved. This research has been approved by the Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington Human Ethics Committee (application 000030934). Research findings will be used in a PhD dissertation, conference presentations, articles, books, and reports. Contact Jonathan Oosterman if you have any questions about the research (jonathan.oosterman@vuw.ac.nz).



Muthamizh selvi comes from a long line of traditional fish workers. When she finished school at the end of standard one, she started helping her family process the fish. At 20, she married Rananujam, a small scale fish worker. Eventually, they built a simple home and bought a boat and nets. In 2015, it was washed away by severe flooding in 2015 and they were heartbroken.

Over the last 28 years, the couple has raised three daughters and watched the coastal landscape change. The Government moved thousands of fishing people away from the coast after the 2004 tsunami. Bigger boats and nets catch many more fish, leaving little catch for them. Large power plants, shrimp farms and other industries block access to the sea and pollute its waters. Rising sea levels are eroding the coast.

Small scale fish workers like Muthamizh selvi have tried to stand up for the ocean but they have been ignored by Government and big business. The coastline and the fish are disappearing – who will speak for the sea and the people who depend on it for their livelihoods? Our partner the Legal Aid to Women Trust has worked alongside fish workers for years. When the cyclone hit the Cuddalore coast where Muthamizh selvi lives, staff distributed tarpaulins, cooking utensils, stoves and emergency lights. They helped families register for government support and set up cooperatives and vendor groups so the women could make money by selling spice mixes, candles and other items when the rations ran out. Over the last eight years, income the women earn through the cooperatives has met household needs while fish stocks continue to decline.

Will you stand up for the ocean
and [make a gift](#) today?



The "Jesus laughing and loving" project was created by the Church of Scotland in 2004. By way of envelope, filing cabinet, and lost shuffled paper, the material came to Matthew, who's releasing the paintings and reflections one by one until the papers run out.

NUMBER FIVE OF THIRTY FIVE

"Joy in fellowship ", by Mark J Cazalet, London, England.

Tuhis image shows Jesus and Peter on a public ice skating rink with Peter slipping and being caught in Christ's arms. Both are in that high spirited state of hilarity that being slightly out of control on ice produces.

It is a painting that I hope shows the joy of fellowship, delight in our physical being and the phenomenon of the created world.

It also gently refers to the Peter's fallibility, the slippery nature of the disciple's pilgrimage of a life lived in faith, and to Peter sinking into the water when he tried to emulate Christ's walking on the Sea of Tiberius.





The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Psalm 103: 8-13
- Matthew 18: 21-35

Knox Directory

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Visit our website
www.knoxchurch.co.nz

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Church Council Clerk: Janet Wilson,
ph. (03) 338 7203

Organist: Jeremy Woodside,
jeremy.woodside89@gmail.com



website



Keeping in Touch

Please help us get acquainted with you by filling in this form
and putting it in the offering bag.

Name:

Contact details