



# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service 17 March 2024



# COVENANT WITH HEART LENT 5

## 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:

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

**JESUS, THE OVERFLOWING LOVE FROM THE HEART OF GOD;**

**JESUS, GOD'S RENEWING OF THE COVENANT OF CARE;**

**JESUS, REVEALING THAT AFFAIRS OF THE HEART ARE COSTLY.**

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

**MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.**

### Hymn:

Corde Natus

Piae Cantiones Theoderici, 1582



1. Of our God's own heart begotten  
when the worlds were yet to be,  
one there was with no beginning,  
one who is eternally,  
source and ending of all things that have been,  
and all things that are to be  
evermore and evermore.
2. By this word was all created  
by this word were all things done:  
land and air and deepest ocean,  
harmony of three in one  
and all growing in the luminance  
shed forth from the moon and sun,  
evermore and evermore.
3. This is One whom seers and sages  
sang of old with one accord,  
whom the voices of the prophets  
promised in their faithful word;  
now Christ shines, the long-expected:  
let creation praise its Lord  
evermore and evermore.
4. In the heights of heaven adore him,  
angel hosts his praises sing,  
all dominions bow before him  
and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
every voice in concert sing  
evermore and evermore.

*Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348 - c.413)*

*tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)*

*Henry Williams Baker (1827-1877) and others*

### **Prayer of Approach and Confession**

One more week into the Season of the Covenant,  
with rainbows behind us,  
and stars in the sky under our belts,  
with commandment life beguiling us,  
and covenant wobbles pulling back the throttle,  
we find ourselves now tip-toe-ing  
onto the ground of the heart.

**MAY GOD BLESS THE HEART.**

One more week into the Season of the Covenant,  
we find ourselves wondering at God's remarkable resilience,  
and inventiveness in every time and age  
to keep the love alive.

**MAY GOD BLESS THE LOVE.**

One more week into the Season of Covenant,  
we think we might see in God  
a conviction of heart,  
that it is in the heart  
that love must do its work.

**MAY GOD BLESS THE INSIGHT,  
THAT WE MIGHT TURN,  
IN PROPER TIME,  
TO OFFER WHAT IS PRECIOUS AND TENDER,**

as in the silence, we do.

*Silence*

I confess to God, and in the presence of God's people,  
that I have sinned in thought, word and deed,  
and I pray God to have mercy on me.

**MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON YOU,  
PARDON AND DELIVER YOU FROM ALL YOUR SINS,  
AND GIVE YOU TIME TO AMEND YOUR LIFE.**

Amen.

**WE CONFESS TO GOD  
AND IN THE PRESENCE OF ALL GOD'S PEOPLE,  
THAT WE HAVE SINNED IN THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED,  
AND WE PRAY GOD TO HAVE MERCY ON US.**

People of God,

. . . In the name of Christ, I say to you:

You are forgiven and you are free.

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

**The Theme Prayer:**

God, who through the prophet Jeremiah declared  
that heaven should be expressed  
not in the realm of dissipating rainbow, cloud-hidden star,  
nor in failed commandment life,  
but through the naked, frightened heart,  
taking the risk of love,

**EMBOLDEN US TO MOVE INTO THE RISK  
OF TRUSTING DEEPLY,  
OF WALKING FAITHFULLY,  
AND OF TRUSTING FULLY  
THAT THE COVENANT KEEPS US CLOSE,**

for we pray it in the name of Jesus,  
whose words guided our praying, together to say

**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.*

## A Reflection on the Front Page Photo

*We remain seated to sing*

### Hymn:

Franconia

William Henry Havergal (1793-1870)



**The Knox Singers:** There is a green hill far away  
June Nixon (b. 1942)  
*based on the hymn tune Horsley*

**The Second Lesson:** John 12: 20-33

This is the gospel of Christ.

**PRAISE BE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.**

**Reflection:** The First Writing on the Heart

*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 this sermon being practised is available from 10:00am today:*

*<https://youtu.be/FIzBH0lcVG4>*

**Hymn:**

Abbots Leigh

Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991)



1. God is love, the heavens adoring;  
God is love, let earth rejoice;  
let creation sing its praises,  
high rejoicing with one voice.  
God who laid the earth's foundation,  
and who spread the heavens above,  
God who breathes through all creation.  
is pure love, eternal love.
2. God is love, and is enfolding  
all the world in one embrace,  
with unfailing grasp is holding  
every child of every race.  
And when human hearts are breaking  
under sorrow's iron rod,  
then they find that selfsame aching  
deep within the heart of God.

3. God is love, and, though with blindness  
sin affects the souls of all,  
God's eternal loving-kindness  
holds and guides us when we fall.  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
o'er us final triumph gain;  
God is love, so love for ever  
o'er the universe must reign.

*Timothy Rees (1874-1939), alt.*

### **Prayers for Others and Ourselves**

*led by Linda Wilkins*

### **The Offering and Dedication**

*We stand for the dedication of the Offering*

We offer, O God, our clear thinking and rational capacity.  
**USE IT AS YOU WISH.**

We offer our planning and calculating.  
**USE IT AS IT BEST MAY SERVE YOU.**

We offer the messy realm of our hearts -  
the feelings, the fears, the wondering and amazement.  
**USE THIS ALSO  
TO BLESS THE WORLD,  
THROUGH JESUS,  
WHOSE NAME IS WRITTEN IN OUR HEARTS.  
AMEN.**

### **Notices**

#### **The Lenten Litany:**

O Christ,  
with the covenant written firmly upon your heart,  
you sought out the hearts of people.  
You knew that this foray into the heartland  
would cost you dearly.  
Along the Lenten path,  
**LEAD US LORD JESUS.**

O Christ,  
the seed falls into the earth,  
the fruit slowly grows from the vine.  
The glory begins to shine,  
and the ruler of this world stumbles.  
Along the Lenten path,  
**LEAD US LORD JESUS.**

God of love,  
as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us,  
so may we give ourselves to you,  
living according to your will.  
**KEEP OUR FEET FIRMLY IN THE WAY WHERE CHRIST LEADS US,  
THIS LENT, AND ALL OUR DAYS.  
AMEN.**

**Hymn:**

Love Divine

John Stainer (1840-1901)



1. Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown:
2. Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
pure unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.
3. Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave:
4. thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

5. Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be,  
let us see thy great salvation,  
perfectly restored in thee:
  
6. changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love and praise.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

**Benediction and Sung Amen**

**Postlude:** Rockingham  
Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)

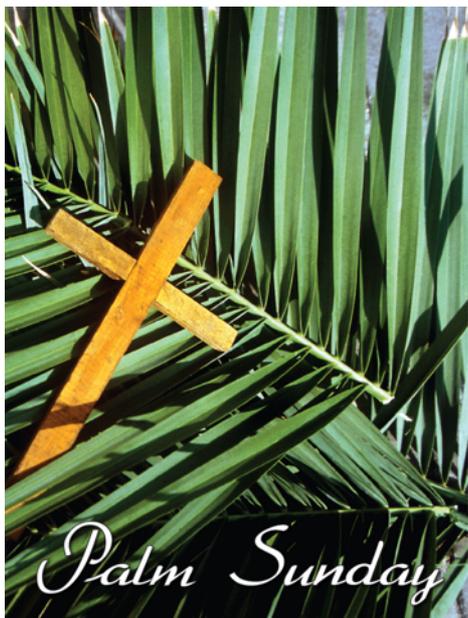
Following the service, morning tea and coffee are served in the church

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## NOTICES

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>This Week:</b> | <b>17 March – 23 March</b>  |
| Sunday            | 10.00am Morning Worship<br>12.00pm Lunch at Black & White Café                  |
| Wednesday         | 10.00am Bible Study   |
| <b>Next Week:</b> | <b>24 March – 30 March</b>  |
| Sunday            | 10.00am Morning Worship<br>11.30am Len's Study Group (Shalom) in Committee Room |
| Wednesday         | 10.00am Bible Study   |



## NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, and we'll begin our service with a Palm procession. Please gather before the service in the Hall of the Knox Centre, where we'll distribute palm branches and do our Call to Worship. Singing our processional hymn "All glory, praise and honour", we'll be led by the Knox Singers outside, to walk along the Bealey Avenue footpath towards Victoria Street, entering the church by the big doors. If you'd like a shorter route, you can enter the church through the new foyer, and if you'd rather not process at all, then feel free not to gather in the Hall, but go straight (as you normally would) to the church.

**ALSO**, for the anthem, the Knox Singers are world-premiering an anthem composed by local musician, James Burt.

## Easter Day Breakfast – 31 March 2024

As we have done in other years, we will be celebrating Easter Day with breakfast on Sunday 31 March. Breakfast will be served from 8.30am – 9.15am in the Knox Lounge.

Breakfast - Fruit and Cereal: Scrambled Eggs and Bacon: Toast and Spread: Tea/Coffee. Cost - \$10 per person.

There are clipboards by both doors to be filled in by Sunday 24 March. We need to get an idea of numbers for food ordering but there will be enough food for extras.

**Study Book** – there is a study book entitled "With Love to the World" going spare. See table in new foyer. If you would like to sample the goods that these bible reading notes offer, please take advantage of this one. Annual cost is \$52.00 to be paid to Knox's bank account. Advise Trudy Heney or the office if you are interested.

**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](mailto:office@knoxchurch.co.nz) ph: 379 2456.

## Flowers for Easter

Sometimes in covenant life, where love has been pledged and defended, and where the errors made have been forgiven, it's good to respond by giving flowers. During the singing of the second hymn on Easter Day, you'll be encouraged to place a flower on the large chicken-wire cross in the sanctuary. We may end up with a crazy floral cross - which could contrast happily with the dried flowers we have used during Lent.

While there will be a basket of flowers from which you can take a flower, you might prefer to bring your own flower/s for the cross. "Say it with flowers".



## Holy Week 2024 in the Season of the Covenant

28 March - 7:30pm  
**Maundy Thursday - Tenebrae**  
**The Covenant Meal**  
Communion



Exodus 12: 1-14 - The Covenant people are instructed to prepare for the flight from Egypt by celebrating a particular meal.

What kind of life are they being called to as they prepare to leave their homes and begin the great trek to freedom and a new home? As we join them, but moved by Christ's revisionist meal, what do we expect? We end the service with the Litany of the Shadows, during which the light in the church is extinguished.

29 March - 10:00am  
**Good Friday**  
**The Covenant Broken**



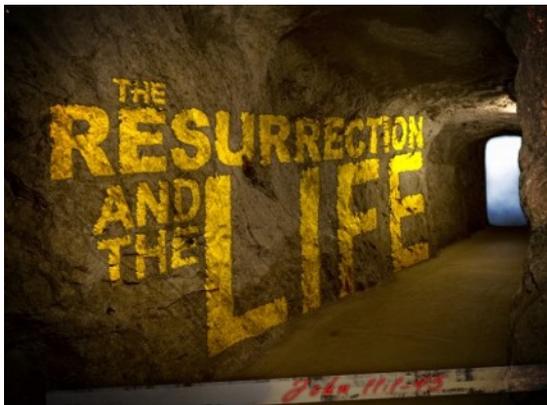
Psalm 22: 1-11 - A reflection on the question "My God, why have you forsaken me", as we consider the death of the Living Covenant Christ. His words speak for all forsaken people.

We read the full Passion Narrative from John's gospel.

## Easter Day 2024

### The Covenant of "the Stone rolled away"

31 March - 10:00am  
**Easter Day Communion**



The service begins with the reading of Matthew's version of the Resurrection story. As the stone is rolled away, a new promise begins.

Romans 6: 3-11 - As the news of the Resurrection is shared with Jesus' people, God's covenant promise to humanity becomes the eternal, never-dying covenant.

We celebrate communion and sing some great Easter hymns.



**CHRISTCHURCH  
CITY CHOIR**

# **JOHN RUTTER'S REQUIEM**

**3PM 23 MARCH 2024  
KNOX CHURCH**



**Sung in memory of Brian Law**

**Conductor Dr. John Linker**

**Featuring Jeremy Woodside (Organ) and Nicola Holt (Soprano)**

**Tickets available through Humanitix, \$25.00 and \$15.00.**

**Or at the door (cash only please).**

*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 TWENTY EIGHT OF THIRTY FIVE**

"Jesus the Worrier", by Gigs Wena, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

Jesus is the worrier has a spear and axe, but no shield. He does not need it.

The other figures are Peter, John and Paul, all big man in the New Testament. They are sheltering behind a shield, but they are happy because they know Jesus will protect them. They do not trust their own strength.





### The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Mark 11: 1-11
- Isaiah 50: 4-9a

## Knox Directory

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Ōtautahi Christchurch 8013

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Monday - Friday, 9.00am-noon

Visit our website  
<http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/>



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Church Council Clerk: Janet Wilson,  
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Organist: Jeremy Woodside  
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## 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