



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

12 May 2024



LIFTED UP, OUT OF THEIR SIGHT

A SERVICE FOR THE SUNDAY FOLLOWING ASCENSION

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, FORTY DAYS WORKING WITH THE EASTER PEOPLE;

JESUS, SUDDENLY HIDDEN FROM THEIR SIGHT;

JESUS, WORTHY OF BLESSING, HONOUR, GLORY AND POWER!

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Bonnie George Campbell

Scottish Folk Melody



1. Blessing and honour and glory and power,
wisdom and riches and strength evermore
give to the Lord who our battle hath won,
whose are the Kingdom, the crown, and the throne.
2. Into the heaven of the heavens hath he gone;
sitteth he now in the joy of the throne;
weareth he now of the Kingdom the crown;
singeth he now the new song with his own.
3. Soundeth the heaven of the heavens with his name;
ringeth the earth with his glory and fame;
ocean and mountain, stream, forest, and flower
echo his praises and tell of his power.
4. Ever ascendeth the song and the joy;
ever descendeth the love from on high;
blessing and honour and glory and praise, -
this is the theme of the hymns that we raise.
5. Give we the glory and praise to the Lamb;
take we the robe and the harp and the palm;
sing we the song of the Lamb that was slain,
dying in weakness, but rising to reign.

Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)

Prayer of Approach

"Ever descendeth the love from on high".
Ever descending, because ever forming,
ever moving, ever committing, ever saving,
never failing, never dying,
never ceasing, never tiring.

From an ascended heart,

EVER DESCENDETH THE LOVE FROM ON HIGH.

"Ever ascendeth the song and joy".
For those who are abiding in the vine,
are nurtured to praise.
For the birth and for the life,
for dying and the rising,
for the appearing and the returning,
from a worshiping heart,

EVER ASCENDETH THE SONG AND THE JOY.

From the dust of the earth,
and the life shared together in faith,
to the growing of hope
and the rising to life,
**JESUS CHRIST BLESSES THE PEOPLE,
PROMISES THE SPIRIT,
AND IS LIFTED UP FROM OUR SIGHT.**

Blessing and honour and glory and power,
wisdom and riches and strength evermore
**GIVE TO THE CHRIST, WHO OUR BATTLE HAS WON,
WHOSE ARE THE KINGDOM, THE CROWN AND THE THRONE.**

Silence

We confess that the Ascension of Jesus
plays with our minds.
We know that it is an attempt to speak about the vindication of Christ,
his having transcended
all the things of the world which would kill him
and us.
But often we take it as a signal that he has left this world,
has nothing more to say to it,
has no work to which we now might be directed.
Often we live as if he were absent,
so love and justice wither on our watch.
Therefore 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:

Ascended Lord Jesus Christ,
anxiety for the Roman Empire,
and a menacing hope in the hearts of the believers,
you are removed from our sight,
but present in and over our lives.
FREE US FROM GORMLESS STARING INTO HEAVEN;

**RATHER GIVE US THE COURAGE AND VISION
TO CATCH THE HEM OF YOUR GARMENT,
BEING SWEEPED UP INTO THE LIFE OF OUR GOD.**

For we pray this, even as you taught us to,
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: Acts 1: 1-11

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

Knox Singers:

Ave Maria
J.S. Bach (1685-1750) / Charles Gounod (1880-1893)

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 24: 44-53

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

Hymn:

Coe Fen

Kenneth Nicholson Naylor (1931-1991)



1. How shall I sing that majesty
which angels do admire?
Let dust in dust and silence lie;
sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.
Thousands of thousands stand around
thy throne, O God most high;
ten thousand times ten thousand sound
thy praise; but who am I?
2. Thy brightness unto them appears,
whilst I thy footsteps trace;
a sound of God comes to my ears,
but they behold thy face.
They sing because thou art their Sun;
Lord, send a beam on me;
for where heav'n is but once begun
there alleluias be.
3. Enlighten with faith's light my heart,
in flame it with love's fire;
then shall I sing and bear a part
with that celestial choir.
I shall, I fear, be dark and cold,
with all my fire and light;
yet when thou dost accept their gold,
Lord, treasure up my mite.
4. How great a being, Lord, is thine,
which doth all beings keep!
Thy knowledge is the only line
to sound so vast a deep.
Thou art a sea without a shore,
a sun without a sphere;
thy time is now and evermore,
thy place is everywhere.

John Mason (c.1645-1694)

Sermon: Rome, zero; Church, ten thousand times ten thousand

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/reE3j6mZ7DM>

Hymn:

Easter Hymn

later form of melody from Lyra Davidica, 1708



1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!
2. Let the Victor's people sing,
where, O death, is now your sting?
Dying once, Christ lives to save,
where your victory, O grave?
3. Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won;
vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell.
4. Soar we now where Christ has led,
following our exalted Head;
made like Christ, like Christ we rise:
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Murray Winn

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

God, is it time now, indeed,
for the Kingdom to be restored?

**IF SO, USE THE MONEY WE OFFER
AND THE TALENTS WE HAVE.**

**BLESS ALSO THE FOOD,
TO END HUNGER IN ONE SMALL PART OF THE WORLD.
AMEN.**

Notices

The Litany for Mothers' Day:

All who are part of this service
are sons or daughters.

**WE PRAISE GOD FOR THE
WOMEN WHO GAVE US LIFE.**

For mothers brave, strong,
compassionate, full of wisdom
and grace,

**WE GIVE GOD THANKS AND
PRAISE.**

For mothers vulnerable, worried,
frustrated, and hurried,

WE PRAY FOR PEACE.

With those who are preparing
emptier nests,

**WE BOTH CELEBRATE AND
MOURN,
HOPING THEIR WINGS ARE
AS STRONG AS THEIR ROOTS
ARE DEEP.**

For mothers who have died, who
live no longer with us,
but whose light shines on in our hearts and memories,

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN,
AND GIVE GOD THANKS FOR LIFE ETERNAL.**

For the mothers, sisters, daughters in our midst and around the world,
for the women who, created in the image of God,



give not just life, but abundant life,
WE GIVE GOD THANKS AND PRAISE.
AMEN.

Adapted from Rev. Robb McCoy's Litany, <http://fatpastor.me>

Hymn:

Nun Danket

Later form of melody by Johann Crüger (1598-1662)



1. Now thank we all our God,
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom the world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.
2. O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us.
God, keep us in your grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.
3. All praise and thanks to God
our Maker now be given,
to Christ and Spirit too,
our help in highest heaven:
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be ever more.

*Martin Rinkart (1586-1649), tr. Catherine Winkworth
(1827-1878), alt*

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Toccata, from Symphony No. 5
Charles Marie Widor (1844-1937)

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

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NOTICES

This Week:	12 May – 18 May
Sunday	10.00am Morning Worship
	11.30am Shalom in Committee Room
	11.30am Shared lunch in Lounge
Wednesday	10.00am Bible Study
Next Week:	19 May – 25 May
Sunday	10.00am Morning Worship
	12.00pm Lunch at Black & White Café
Wednesday	10.00am Bible Study

Shared Lunch – today in the Lounge. Bring a small plate of finger food which can be left in the Lounge before Church or brought with you after coffee/tea in the Church. If you forgot but would like to attend, please come along anyway as there is always enough to share. All are welcome. Yvonne Barnes

Sunday lunch 19 May – Join us for lunch and a friendly chat at the **Black and White Café, 45 Merrin St, Avonhead**. Meet at around 12 pm. Please, add your name to the attendance list at the church entrance if you are planning to join us, or, send an email to jannekenyuysink@gmail.com no later than Wednesday 15th.

Knox Life - June 2024 edition - It's already time to be thinking about the next edition of Knox Life which is due out in June. Doesn't time fly?! Thank you so much to our regular contributors and also to some new ones. How about giving it a go this time around? Can't think of anything? Well, it might be how you came to be at Knox, it might be a nice recipe, it might be a great trip you've just been on or perhaps your thoughts on the proliferation of road cones. Don't be shy, give it a go and please send your contributions to Lynda in the office office@knoxchurch.co.nz.

Monday 3 June (King's Birthday public holiday), Town Hall Auditorium 2.30pm annual organ curator's **FREE concert with Martin Setchell (organ)**. Admission FREE. Book direct online at <https://organconcert2024.eventbrite.co.nz>.

Next Sunday is the Day of Pentecost - why not wear something red?

The story of the Day of Pentecost features the appearing of flames of the Spirit on the heads of the believers. So, the liturgical colour for Pentecost is red. In playful spirit, in recent years we've been encouraging people to wear something red to church for Pentecost.





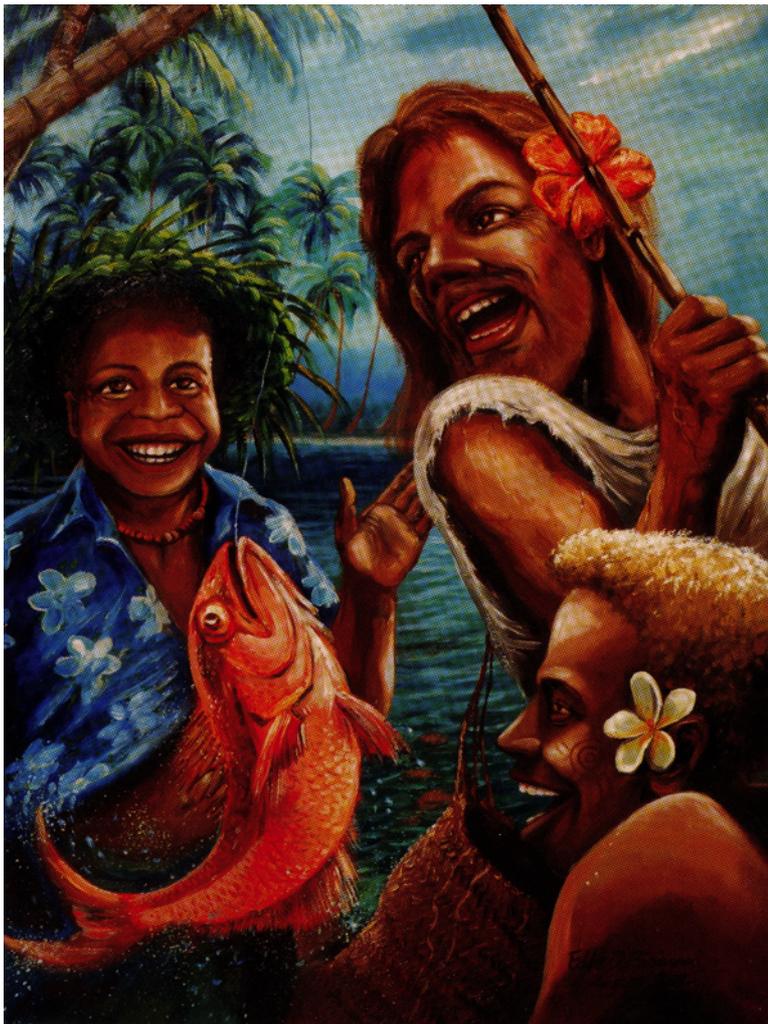
As we head into winter, Tangata Atumotu Trust (TAT) is experiencing a high demand for beds to help Pacific families in Canterbury and Mid Canterbury. If you or someone you know have a bed that is no longer needed, please contact Sina (s.vaele@tat.org.nz) TAT are happy to arrange pick up at a time that is suitable to you.

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.

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 THIRTY FOUR OF THIRTY FIVE

"The Fishing Adventure", by Eddie Daiding Bibimauri, Malaita, Solomon Islands.



Catching fish with children is a very exciting, enjoyable activity in the islands. Jesus is seen here with two children fishing on the reef. Jesus is always portrayed as a Hebrew in the islands, and would not be accepted as a Melanesian character.

However, Jesus would be down to earth with people, enjoying fishing in particular.

This is also a parable of evangelism. Solomon Islands is a nation with a very high population of young people (65%), and if Jesus was here, he would be spending much of his time with young people in evangelism, to bring them into the kingdom.



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Acts 2:1-21
- John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

Knox Directory

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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