



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

9 March 2025



Hieroglyphics depicting slaves at the entrance to the temple at Abu Simbel

SLAVE TO EGYPT

a service for the first Sunday of Lent

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 city side of the sanctuary.

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 Greeting

The Introit: Lent Prose (plainsong)

The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, BEGINNING HIS JOURNEY TO THE CROSS,
JESUS, EXPLORING WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A RANSOM FOR MANY,
JESUS, CALLING US TO LENTEN LIFE.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Mannheim

Friedrich Filitz (1804-1876), ad. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)



1. Lead us, O Creator, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing
if our God our Keeper be.
2. Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us;
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe:
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.
3. Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

James Edmeston (1791-1867), ad.

Prayer of Approach

As the Lenten journey begins,
we pray the light and freedom of God
for our pilgrim path.

**LEAD US, O CREATOR, LEAD US
O'ER THE WORLD'S TEMPESTUOUS SEA.**

For along this path we will hear stories of slavery,
tales of our forbears in faith
crying out for freedom.

**GUARD US, GUIDE US,
KEEP US, FEED US,
FOR WE HAVE NO HELP BUT THEE.**

We will witness Moses discerning
that he cannot be indifferent to the plight of the people,
**BUT NEEDS TO MOVE
WITH COURAGE AND CONVICTION.**

We will hear Jesus calling us
to find greatness through service,
to become like him
AS HE OFFERS HIMSELF AS A RANSOM FOR MANY.

Should we feel frightened by this, O God,
we will need assurance
that this journey leads not only to Good Friday,
but also to Easter's victory over Death.
**SO LEAD US, GREAT CREATOR, LEAD US,
O'ER THE WORLD'S TEMPESTUOUS SEA.**

Silence

We know, O God,
that our world operates unjustly,
and that many people experience oppression.
Workers are under-valued,
greed drives our commerce.
It is not hard to hear the cries for justice and freedom.
**YET WE SHUT OUR EARS
AND HUSH OUR PROTEST.**

The fire burns hot in the bush,
BUT WE ARE COOL IN OUR RESPONSE.

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:

God of Lenten journey and Easter vision,
by calling Moses, you set in motion
the liberation of the Hebrews from Egypt.
By firing the mind and heart of Jesus
with a spirit of service and ransom,
you freed the disciples from the folly of oppressing one another.

**CALL US TO CULTIVATE YOUR SPIRIT WITHIN US, O GOD,
THAT WE MIGHT BECOME A PART
OF HOW YOU BREAK THE CHAINS AND FREE THE PEOPLE.**

We pray this in the name of Jesus,
using the words he gave us,
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: Exodus 3: 1-10

There is fire in that bush,
GOD'S PASSION FOR THE PEOPLE'S FREEDOM.

Knox Singers: Long since in Egypt's plenteous land
Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918)

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 20: 20-28

This is a vision for Easter:
CHRIST'S LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR MANY.

Hymn:

Noël Nouvelet

French Melody



1. Jesus Christ is waiting,
waiting in the streets;
no one is his neighbour,
all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am lonely too.
Make me, friend or stranger,
fit to wait on you.
2. Jesus Christ is raging,
raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals
and real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am angry too.
In the Kingdom's causes
let me rage with you.
3. Jesus Christ is healing,
healing in the streets;
curing those who suffer,
touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I have pity too.
Let my care be active,
healing just like you.
4. Jesus Christ is dancing,
dancing in the streets,
where each sign of hatred
he, with love, defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I should triumph too.
On suspicion's graveyard
let me dance with you.
5. Jesus Christ is calling,
calling in the streets,
"Who will join my journey?
I will guide their feet."
Listen, Lord Jesus,
let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me;
I will follow you.

John Bell (b.1949)

Sermon: . . . a ransom for many

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/3_cf03wmMrk

Hymn:

Leoni

Thomas Olivers (1725-1799)



1. Community of Christ,
who make the Cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life
for God alone:
the God who wears your face,
to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race
and every song.
2. Community of Christ,
look past the Church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry,
and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed,
the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash
your neighbour's feet.
3. Community of Christ,
through whom the word must sound --
cry out for justice and for peace
the whole world round:
disarm the powers that war
and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish
into joy.
4. When menace melts away,
so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace
and Christ its Sun;
our currency be love
and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one
for evermore.

Shirley Murray (1931-2020)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Norman Wilkins

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

May the workers receive due wages;
may the planners have room to plan;
may the creeping forces of slavery be removed from our relationships,
and may this offering find blessing in the sight of God.

**WE PRAY THIS IN THE NAME OF JESUS,
GIVING HIMSELF AS A RANSOM FOR MANY,
TO THE FREEDOM OF ALL,
AMEN.**

Notices

The Lenten Litany:

O Christ,
Moses, and many who went before you
lived with a keen awareness
of those who needed freeing from slavery.
Your God came to them in fire, calling and fatal attraction.
Loud was the cry "Let my people go!"
Along the Lenten path,
LEAD US LORD JESUS.

O Christ,
you framed your life as a ransom -
a setting free of those who had been seized by slavery.
You called us to be with you as people of liberation.
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:

Breslau

Composer unknown



1. "Take up your cross," the Saviour said,
"if you would my disciple be;
forsake the past, and come this day,
and humbly follow after me."
2. Take up your cross; let not its weight
pervade your soul with vain alarm;
his strength shall bear your spirit up,
sustain your heart, and nerve your arm.
3. Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
nor let your doubt and fear rebel;
for Christ the Lord endured the cross
to cancel out all thought of hell.
4. Take up your cross and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down;
for truly all who bear the cross
shall find in grace they wear the crown.

Charles William Everest (1814-1877), alt.

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Fugue in A minor, BWV 543
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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

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



NOTICES

This Week: **9 March – 15 March**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: **16 March – 22 March**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
 12.00pm Lunch at Black & White Café
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Shalom – Due to holding Richard Milne's presentations on Sunday 23 February, then again, on Sunday 2 March there will not be a Shalom meeting on 9 March.

Sunday lunch 16 March – Join us for lunch and a friendly chat at the **Black and White Café, 45 Merrin St, Avonhead**. Meet at around 12pm. Please, add your name to the attendance list at the church entrance if you are planning to join us.

Richard Milne advises that copies of his power point presentations on the 'polycrisis' are available from the office on request. Also, given the interest expressed by some at the recent Polycrisis seminars, Richard is happy to supply more information about the Aotearoa eco-church movement. ecochurch.org.nz. More information from Richard Milne whose mobile phone number is held by the office.

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.

Saunoamaali'i Dr Karanina Sumeo



As she retired from her role as New Zealand's Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner, Saunomaali'i Dr Karanina Sumeo was interviewed (30 November 2024) by Marama T-Pole on the TVNZ programme, Tagata Pasifika.

<https://tpplus.co.nz/news-politics/talanoa-outgoing-eeo-commissioner-saunoamaalii-dr-karanina-sumeo/>

Marama: We're looking at the RSE scheme. Still, changes need to be done there.

Dr Karanina: Yeah, lots of changes need to be done . . . One of the things I'm concerned about is, for example, the ability to charge higher rents. Yeah, I've been in some of those houses with people paying out a120 / 150 a week to share a room with four others. You wouldn't do that to a normal New Zealander, right?

Marama: It's a tough one, right, because our relatives, our family in the islands want to come here for the RSE. But this is exploitation; it's modern-day slavery.

Dr Karanina: It is, it is modern day slavery, and I've gone to the United Nations and lobbied for other countries to call on New Zealand to establish modern slavery legislation . . . It's also an issue that's affecting our Asian and our other migrant brothers and sisters who've come in service of this country.

Marama: It's crazy that it's happening here and now today in New Zealand.

Dr Karanina: Well, it bursts the myth that we are a fair and equal society. It also bursts the myth of how New Zealand talks about the Pacific as our cousins . . . We have a reality that we need to face. And I am wanting our Pacific nations to stand up and demand dignity, and the right of people who come from the Pacific - we're not just here as commodities to be used then cast out when they're not needed.



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Exodus 7: 1-7
- Romans 7: 14-25

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: