



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

16 March 2025



SLAVE TO THE HARDENED HEART

a service for the second 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.

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, WHOSE HEART WAS BRAVE AND OPEN TO GOD;
JESUS, WHOSE FAITH COULD MOVE A MOUNTAIN;
JESUS, WHOSE CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP RINGS IN OUR EARS.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Carlisle

Charles Lockhart (1745-1815)



1. Have faith in God, my heart,
trust and be unafraid;
God will fulfill in every part
each promise he has made.
2. Have faith in God, my mind,
though oft your light burns low;
God's mercy holds a wiser plan
than you can fully know.
3. Have faith in God, my soul,
his cross for ever stands;
and neither life nor death can pluck
his children from his hands.
4. Lord Jesus, make me whole;
grant me no resting place
until I rest, heart, mind and soul,
the captive of your grace.

Bryn Austin Rees (1911-1983)

Prayer of Approach

Heart, mind and soul, O Lenten Lord -
all of these were within you
as you made your journey to Jerusalem.
LORD JESUS, MAKE US WHOLE.

In the realm of the soul,
maybe it was knowing
that your journey rested in the call of God,
the character of God,
the goals of God.
LORD JESUS, MAKE US WHOLE.

In the realm of the mind,
maybe it was knowing
that you were abreast of the issues of the day:
the politics, the slavery, the philosophy,
the mood of the age,
the signs of the times.
LORD JESUS, MAKE US WHOLE.

In the realm of the heart . . .
Ah, there's the thing!
That's where perhaps you knew
that nothing would be simple.
Suspensions and resentments,
grudges and unsettled scores -
but also tenderness and love,
and need . . . the need of the heart.
LORD JESUS, MAKE US WHOLE.

On our second Sunday in Lent,
we step into a strange story of Moses and Aaron
dealing with a Pharaoh's heart,
described as having been made "hard".
And also, we will find Paul trapped within a battle
between a heart that would be true
and something else that enslaves it.
LORD JESUS, MAKE US WHOLE.

We confess that while,
well enough we understand the structures of our world,
and how they enslave people,
and while we think we know what ought to be done
to fix it,
often there is a failure of heart and courage.
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:

What a complicated thing, O God,
is this realm of the heart!
To negotiate it, we need courage,
presence of mind,
and calmness of spirit.
As Moses found composure
before the hardness of heart he met in the Pharaoh,

and as Paul found salvation
in the tempest of his feelings,

**SO, AS WE MOUNT OUR CAMPAIGN
AGAINST THE FORCES OF SLAVERY IN OUR TIME,
MAY WE FIND OUR LENTEN COMPOSURE,
AND BE USEFUL SERVANTS IN YOUR FREEDOM.**

We pray this in the name of Jesus,
whose words we remember, as together we pray,

**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.

The First Lesson: Exodus 7: 1-7

Moses and Aaron encounter the hardened heart.
SOFTEN OUR HEARTS, O GOD.

The Second Lesson: Romans 7: 14-25

Paul's heart is at war with itself,
and finds rescue through Christ, the Lord.
THANKS BE TO GOD.

Hymn:

Franconia

William Henry Havergal (1793-1870)



1. Blest are the pure in heart,
for they shall see our God;
the secret of the Lord is theirs,
their soul is Christ's abode.
2. The Lord who left the heavens
our life and peace to bring,
to dwell with us in lowliness,
our pattern and their King;
3. still to the lowly soul
he will himself impart,
and for his cradle and his throne
chooses the pure in heart.
4. Lord, we your presence seek;
this blessing now renew:
give us a pure and lowly heart,
a temple fit for you.

John Keeble (1792-1866), alt (vv 1, 3), and others

Sermon: Last week it seemed almost simple

*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/4cBLmnNhv4M>*

Music for Reflection: Jesu, meine Freude, BWV 610
JS Bach (1685-1750)

Hymn:

Darwall's 148th

John Darwall (1731-1789)



1. Who will there be to sing
if we do not sing well,
if all we know as true
has now no sounding bell?
Let's sing, my friends!
We make the choice
in disarray
or with one voice.
2. Who will there be to know
the Story in the song,
the soul food of our life
that makes the church stand strong?
Sing from our hearts
to tell and teach
by tune and text
where faith may reach!
3. Who will there be to hear
if we do not sing plain
that want of peace and bread
creates the world's deep pain?
Sing justice, friends,
to right the scales
where powers oppress
and greed prevails!
4. Who will there be to speak,
when silence is our song,
to state the Gospel truths,
provoke the powers of wrong?
Sing out, each voice!
One band, one choir,
be instruments
of God's desire

Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Linda Wilkins

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

Moses was not sure he had what was required
to be an effective agent of faith.

Paul was running back and forth
around the spinning of his heart and will.

**YET BOTH WERE HELPED TO CONTRIBUTE GREATLY
TO THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE.**

We now offer what we have,
as bravely as we can,
and in great hope.

**WILL YOU ACCEPT OUR GOOD WILL,
AND USE WHAT WE PRESENT HERE
TO THE FREEING OF THE PEOPLE,
AND THE GLORY OF YOUR NAME?
AMEN.**

Notices

The Lenten Litany:

O Christ,
you had a mind for how things work
in the complicated world of human interaction.

You had a heart that spoke to other hearts,
and set them free.

Along the Lenten path,
LEAD US LORD JESUS.

O Christ,
give us just a portion of your faith, hope and love,
that we might have something fit
to bring to the hardened hearts of our world.

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:

Woodlands

Walter Greathouse (1877-1949)



1. Stand tall in Christ, all people of our God,
no other idol will suffice this hour.
In Jesus Christ all captives are set free,
all hurts are healed and hope is born anew.
2. Stand tall in Love, all people who would dare
be reconcilers where divisions lie;
in love will pain and loneliness be eased
and rainbows hung in all our hearts again.
3. Stand tall in Peace, all people who love life,
whose lives are candles in earth's darkest place,
who plead for justice and support the weak
that all might live in hope and harmony.
4. Stand tall in Faith, all people who would share
as trusting partners in God's enterprise,
whose lives would speak in deeds, not just in words,
of grace, forgiveness and a generous heart.

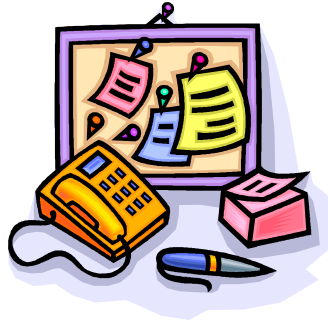
Margaret Kouvelis (b. 1949)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Herzliebster Jesu, was hast du verbrochen
Gabriel Jackson (b. 1962)

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

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NOTICES

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

Next Week: 23 March – 29 March
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
11.30am Shalom
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Bus Trip to Rangiora - If you'd like to take a little trip out of the city, please join us on Thursday 27 March as we head off to Rangiora on the Number 1 bus. Be at the bus stop in Victoria Street opposite Knox - by the barber's van - at 10.30ish in the morning. The bus is due at 10.40am but could be early. It arrives in Rangiora at about 11.30am. You are free to wander around or stop at a café as you wish. Buses return to Victoria Street departing Rangiora at 12.22, 12.52, 1.22, 1.52 and so on. Carparks will probably be available in the Knox carpark.
Janet Wilson

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.

Lent 2025

Slavery - Longing for Freedom

23 March - 10:00am

Lent 3

Slave to the Father of Lies



In an argument with the Pharisees, who insist that, being children of Abraham, they are free, Jesus disagrees. He tells them that they are in fact enslaved children of the "Father of Lies" - [John 8:31-44](#). We look at the power of the lie, and how truth sets free.

30 March - 10:00am

Lent 4 - A Slave's Tale



We look at the letter of freed slave Jourdain Anderson to his one-time Master, responding to the latter's invitation to return to "service". Jourdain outlines some of what he's enjoying about his new freedom. We look at Paul's famous request to Philemon to give freedom to his run-away slave, Onesimus - [Philemon 1-22](#). For Paul, the life of Christ is the beginning of the end of slavery.

6 April - 10:00am

Lent 5

The Manifesto - flags of dawn



When Jesus announces the beginning of his ministry in Nazareth, [Luke 4:16-21](#), he calls upon the concept of the "year of the Lord's favour", which in Jewish thought involved the returning of land to its traditional owners and the setting free of all who had been sold into servitude. While these practices were seldom observed in Israel's life, Jesus seemed confident that his "way" would do better. Was he right?



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- John 8: 31-38
- John 8: 39-44

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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?

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