



# KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service

30 March 2025

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## A SLAVE'S TALE

a service for the fourth 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, BRINGING FREEDOM, RATHER THAN CAPTIVITY;  
JESUS, INSPIRING FORGIVENESS, RATHER THAN GRIEVANCE;  
JESUS, GOD'S LOVE TRANSFORMING THE WORLD.**

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

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

### 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.*

### **Prayer of Approach**

At what just might be a fulcrum point in our Lenten journey,  
we sing of love reigning over the universe,  
enfolding the whole world in one embrace,  
grasping ever child of every race.

**ARE WE SEEING, O GOD OF LOVE,  
THE BEGINNINGS OF A CHANGE  
IN THE WAR BETWEEN SLAVERY AND FREEDOM?**

Today we read two letters:  
one from a slave now freed.

Are its cadences a different tune from the old spirituals about sorrow?  
Is its language that of a more liberatedly confident people?

**DO WE HEAR IN IT  
THE SOUNDS OF NEW-WON DIGNITY  
AND FREEDOM?**

A second letter,  
sent in Christian confidence  
that the love of Christ can set us free,  
in a new community of Spirit.

**COMMUNITY BETWEEN PHILEMON AND PAUL,  
BETWEEN PAUL AND ONESIMUS,  
BETWEEN ONESIMUS AND PHILEMON.**

These letters quite possibly, our God,  
may get us thinking about the genuine possibility  
that love does reign over the universe,  
and embrace every child of every race.

**THAT IS OUR HOPE.**

Yet also, these letters may leave us aware  
of how deeply entrenched we are  
in slave and master,  
powerless and powerful,  
lack of agency and possessing all the cards.  
So we say

Lord have mercy.

**CHRIST HAVE MERCY.**

Lord have mercy.

### **Assurance and Response**

People of God,  
God's gift to us is a new mind and a new spirit.  
God's vision of love reigning  
surely can draw us up  
from where we were a defeated people of regret,  
to where we are forgiven and free agents of the new creation.  
Take hold of God's forgiveness,  
drink in God's vision.

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

You are forgiven and you are free.

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

### **The Theme Prayer:**

Through his vision of Christ,  
Paul was inspired, O God,  
to plea for the freedom  
of a slave.

**MAY SUCH A VISION OF CHRIST COME TO US,  
THAT WE TOO  
MIGHT NOT ONLY WORK FOR THE FREEDOM OF ONE OR TWO,  
BUT FOR THE FREEDOM OF ALL GOD'S PEOPLE.**

We pray this in the name of Jesus,  
using the words he taught 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.*

### **A Letter from Jourdan Anderson to Colonel P.H Anderson (1865)**



### Hymn:

Amazing Grace

American Folk Hymn Melody



1. Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)  
that saved one such as me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!
3. Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come:  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.
4. My God has promised good to me,  
whose word my hope secures;  
God will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

*John Newton (1725-1807)*

**The First Lesson:** Philemon: 1-7

**The Second Lesson:** Philemon: 8-22

This is a plea for the freeing of a slave.

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

**Music for Reflection:** Prelude in E flat  
William Harris (1883-1973)

**Sermon:** Another letter and another slave

*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 (including the reading of Jourdan Anderson's letter)  
is available from 10:00am today: <https://youtu.be/MstYZNyGJmU>

**Hymn:**

From strength to strength

E.W. Naylor (1867-1934)



1. Freedom and life are ours  
for Christ has set us free!  
Never again submit to powers  
that lead to slavery:  
Christ is the Lord who breaks  
our chains, our bondage ends,  
Christ is the rescuer who makes  
the helpless slaves his friends.
2. Called by the Lord to use  
our freedom and be strong,  
knowing that in God's healing love  
we truly do belong:  
freed from the law's stern hand  
God's gift of grace to prove,  
know that the law's entire command  
is gladly met by love.
3. Spirit of God, come, fill,  
emancipate us all!  
Speak to us, Word of truth, until  
before his throne we fall:  
glory and liberty  
our Father has decreed,  
and if the Son shall make us free  
we shall be free indeed!

*Christopher Idle (b. 1938), alt.*

**Prayers for Others and Ourselves**

*led by Andrew Johnston*

## The Offering and Dedication

*We stand for the dedication of the Offering*

For the extension of the power of the gospel,  
here is food, here is money,  
here are eyes beginning to see an alternative.

**MAY ALL THAT IS OFFERED  
BRING FREEDOM AND PEACE TO THE WORLD.**

For we pray it in the name of Jesus,  
**AMEN.**

## Notices

### The Lenten Litany:

O Christ,  
to whom Paul considered himself a captive,  
you moved him to plea for the freedom  
at first of just one slave.  
Along the Lenten path,  
**LEAD US LORD JESUS.**

O Christ,  
you call your church to celebrate a new life  
in which there is neither slave nor free,  
but one community of reconciled love.  
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:

Slane

Irish traditional melody





1. Be now my vision, O God of my heart,  
nothing surpasses the love you impart -  
you my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, your presence my light.
2. Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;  
ever within me, my soul is assured;  
Mother and Father, you are both to me;  
now and forever your child I will be.
3. Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,  
you my inheritance, now and always:  
you and you only are first in my heart,  
great God, my treasure, may we never part.
4. Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

*Irish hymn, dating from c. 8th Century*

*Translated: Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931)*

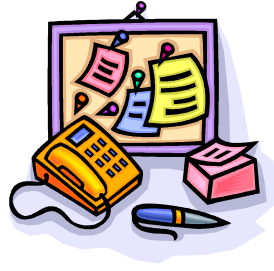
*Versified: Eleanor Henrietta Hull (1860-1935), adapt.*

**Benediction and Sung Amen**

**Postlude:** Amazing Grace (Lay My Burden Down)  
Iain Farrington (b.1977)

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

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## NOTICES

**This Week:**                **30 March – 5 April**  
Sunday                10.00am    Morning Worship  
Wednesday        10.00am    Bible Study

**Next Week:**            **6 April – 12 April**  
Sunday                10.00am    Morning Worship  
                              4.00pm      Film Group  
Wednesday        10.00am    Bible Study

**Sunday 6 April: Film Group 4.00pm in the Chapel.** The early history of New Zealand has so many close ties with Queen Victoria - including her first Prime Minister, Lord Melbourne, who insisted on our treaty in 1840. The film **The Young Victoria** (2009) is set in those tumultuous first years of her reign. Superbly acted (starring Emily Blunt and Rupert Friend) this film is a joy to watch and gives us great insight into this amazing woman. **Note the change of time and venue.**

### **Easter Day Breakfast**

Following on the tradition, we will be celebrating Easter Day with breakfast on Sunday 20 April to be served from 8.30am – 9.15am in the Knox Lounge.

Menu:                Fruit and Cereal, Scrambled Eggs with Bacon, Toast and Spreads, Tea/Coffee. Cost:                \$10 per person. There are clipboards by both doors to be filled in by Sunday 13 April. We need to get an idea of numbers for food ordering but there will be enough food for extras.



**Knitted ANZAC poppies** – available this morning.

Donations would be appreciated and will be forwarded to the RSA.



# DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS NEXT SUNDAY (6 APRIL)

Put your clocks and watches **BACK** one hour  
to avoid arriving at church an hour early next week.

*Charlestown, July 24th, 1769.*

TO BE SOLD,

On THURSDAY the third Day  
of AUGUST next,

A CARGO  
OF  
NINETY-FOUR  
PRIME, HEALTHY

NEGROES,

CONSISTING OF  
Thirty-nine MEN, Fifteen BOYS,  
Twenty-four WOMEN, and  
Sixteen GIRLS.

JUST ARRIVED,  
In the Brigantine DEMBIA, *Francis Bare*, Master, from SIERRA-  
LEON, by  
DAVID & JOHN DEAS.



## The Bible reading for next week will be:

- Luke 4: 16-21

## Knox Directory

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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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