



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

20 April 2025



FREEDOM

- THERE HE GOES -

A COMMUNION SERVICE FOR EASTER DAY

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.

This is a communion service. The table at Knox is an open one. Members of any church, as well as any who are seeking God sincerely, are welcome to receive communion here.

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.

At 10:00am

The Easter Narrative

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.

Luke 24: 1-9

The Easter Greeting:

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

The Lord is risen.
HE IS RISEN INDEED!

We stand for

Hymn:

Easter Hymn

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. Love's redeeming work is done; Alleluia,
fought the fight, the battle won; Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!
God has opened paradise; Alleluia!

We remain standing for
The Prayer of Adoration

Visiting the tomb, we hear the news: "He is not here" . . .

. . . So honour and glory,
worship and wonder
are yours, Christ-raising God,
in whose celebration joyfully we sing:

We sing
The Doxology:

3. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia,
following our exalted Head; Alleluia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise: Alleluia;
ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

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.

We sit for

The Notices

Summary of Lent: The Season of Slavery

Music for Reflection: To the Rising Sun
Trytge Torjussen (1885-1997)

Scripture Lesson: 1 Peter 3: 18-22

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

The Easter Sermon

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/PTj65Xwzc_A

An Easter Poem

Maya Angelou: "And still I rise"

Hymn:

Vulpus

Melchior Vulpus (1570-1615)



1. The strife is o'er, the battle done:
now is the victor's triumph won;
O let the song of praise be sung:
Alleluia!
2. Death's mightiest powers have done their worst,
and Jesus hath his foes dispersed;

let shouts of praise and joy outburst:
Alleluia!

3. On the third morn he rose again
glorious in majesty to reign;
let us awake and join the strain:
Alleluia!
4. He closed the frowning gates of hell;
the bars from heaven's high portals fell;
let hymns of praise his triumph tell:
Alleluia!
5. Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee,
from death's dread sting thy servants free,
that we may live, and sing to thee,
'Alleluia!'

*Latin, 17th Century,
trans. Francis Pott (1832-1909), alt.*

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*To the minister's words, "And still I rise",
you are invited to respond, "AND STILL I RISE!"*

**. . . 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 Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering.

Blessed are you, O God of all creation.
Through your goodness, we have this money to offer,
which we have earned using the talents that you have given us.
It will further the work of your kingdom.
BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER.

Blessed are you, O God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER.

Blessed are you, O God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us our spiritual drink.

**BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER,
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, AMEN.**

Without announcement, we sing the

Communion Hymn:

Ellacombe

melody from Mainz Gesangbuch, 1833



1. The day of resurrection!
earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness,
the passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from earth up to the sky,
our Christ has brought us over
with hymns of victory.
2. Our hearts be pure from evil
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light;
and listening to his accents
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own 'All hail' and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.
3. Now let the heavens be joyful
and earth her song begin,
the round world keep high triumph
and all that is therein;

let all things seen and unseen
their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen,
our joy that has no end.

John of Damascus (c.675-749)

trans: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.

We sit for

The telling of God's goodness, and the hallowing of human things

The Great Eucharistic Prayer:

May God be with you.

AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Lift up your hearts.

WE LIFT THEM TO GOD.

Let us give thanks to the world's creator.

IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.

It is right, indeed . . .

The Breaking of the Bread

Lamb of God:

Jesus, Bread of Heaven,

HAVE MERCY ON US.

Jesus, recreating your people where they stand,

HAVE MERCY ON US.

Jesus, foretaste of the new creation,

GRANT US YOUR PEACE.

The Communion

*For the distribution, please come forward to the table,
receive some bread, dip it in the cup, and return to your seat.*

*If you prefer non-alcoholic grape juice, please take communion from the server
with the communion tray. If you prefer gluten free bread, please take it from the
central plinth.*

We stand for

For early morning,
GOD'S NAME BE PRAISED.

For the giving of strength and song,
GOD'S NAME BE PRAISED.

For empty tombs,
GOD'S NAME BE PRAISED.

For glory and light,
GOD'S NAME BE PRAISED.

**FOR NEW BEGINNINGS,
FOR CHRIST ALIVE,
FOR EASTER LIFE
AND LIVING FAITH,
GOD'S NAME BE PRAISED.**

Hear the praises of your Easter people
this Easter morning, and every morning,
**THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD,
AMEN.**

Without announcement, we sing

Hymn:

Heartbeat

Jillian Bray (b. 1939)



1. Christ is alive, and the universe must celebrate,
and the stars and the suns shout on this Easter Day!
Christ is alive, and his family must celebrate
in a great Alleluia, a great Alleluia
to praise the power that made the stone roll away.
2. Here is our hope: in the mystery of suffering

is the heartbeat of Love, Love that will not let go,
Here is our hope, that in God we are not separate,
and we sing alleluia, we sing alleluia
to praise the power that made the stone roll away.

3. Christ Spirit, dance through the dullness of humanity
to the music of God, God who has set us free!
You are the pulse of the new creation's energy;
with a great Alleluia, a great Alleluia,
we praise the power that made the stone roll away.

Shirley Murray (1931-2020)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Grand choeur dialogue
Eugene Gigout (1844-1925)

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



NOTICES

This Week: 20 April – 26 April

Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: 27 April – 3 May

Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
11.30am Shalom
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Concert at Knox - You are all warmly invited to attend a free musical concert at Knox Church on Sunday afternoon 4 May starting at 2pm. The concert is to celebrate Ken Shields' "milestone" birthday and will include performances by Jeremy Woodside (Organ), the Knox Singers, Graeme Wilkinson (Saxophonist), Accord Harmony Singers and Teresa Shields (Soloist). The concert will be followed by afternoon tea in the Knox lounge.

Knitted ANZAC poppies – available this morning.



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

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.



You are invited to a Forum on:

SOCIAL HOUSING

Where are we going with it?

Keynote Speaker: Jill Hawkey
Executive Director
Christchurch Methodist Mission
- Provider of Housing Services
across the Upper South Island

When: 6 pm
Thursday 1 May
(refreshments from 5.30 pm)
Koha please

Where: Knox Centre
cnr Bealey Ave & Victoria St

Organised by EcuAction

*Further info from: Marilyn, ph 021-0613940
Brian, ph 021 129 4305*

Tēnā koutou katoa

Throughout my ministry I have either participated in, or led, an Easter sunrise service, firstly at Mt Albert in Auckland, and more latterly at the Lookout in Oamaru. It is very uplifting to stand in the quiet darkness and then see the sun come up over the city/town and hear the words proclaimed, 'Christ is Risen – He is Risen Indeed!'.



The other Easter tradition of my ministry is to have the dressing of the cross at the Easter Sunday service. As part of the service everyone comes forward with a flower to place on the cross, which gives a visual sign of the change from death, darkness and despair, to life, light and hope. And the hymn is sung, "Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia". Such a joyous day.

With the lockdown that occurred in 2020, Easter Sunday saw me hurrying through the darkened, empty streets of Oamaru to find a vantage point on a hill to see the sunrise over the sea – and there it was, glorious! And members of our parish decorated their letterboxes with flowers to proclaim the Easter message in our town. A different dynamic that year – yet the Risen Christ was honoured and known and celebrated.

Easter is such a significant time in the life of the Church, and in our individual lives. Something to truly celebrate in whatever circumstance we find ourselves.

I have always loved John's account of resurrection morning. "Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb". It is so familiar and yet every year it brings to us afresh the beginning of a chapter in the Christian faith that continues to shape and inform us, here and now. A little later Mary encounters the Risen Christ in the garden. Galvanizing, truth-telling, revolutionary. After a short conversation Mary goes and tells the disciples "I have seen the Lord". The first witness to the Risen Christ.

That Christ rose from the dead opens up the world for those who follow him. Through his death on the cross, Jesus brings us into deeper relationship with the living God. A relationship that is covenantal in its nature, that has an expansiveness about it that takes us into eternity. The empty cross speaks to us of resurrection life. It talks to us of the outstretched arms of Jesus who gathers us to himself through his sacrificial love.

The cross also speaks back to the perceived power and status of the world. The structures and posturing of those who believe they are in control, that they call the shots. Against unimaginable odds, faith wins out. And as followers of Christ, we can live with the posture of hope, love, goodness, for we believe in the power of the Risen Christ, that all things are possible in Christ.

I pray in whatever circumstance you find yourself, that Easter will be a time of renewal and nurture for you, and also a time that re-energises us all in the Church. A time we proclaim with conviction, "Christ is risen – he is risen indeed!".

Rose

Right Rev Rose Luxford

Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

moderator@presbyterian.org.nz



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Acts 5: 27-32
- Psalm 118: 14-23

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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