



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

4 May 2025



THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS

A COMMUNION SERVICE

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.

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.

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, you are welcome to use the language that is most natural to you.

We are delighted to welcome Katherine Doig today. Katherine is singing two pieces during today's service. Thank you, Katherine!

The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, WHO SPOKE TO THE HATRED OF SAUL, AND FELLED HIM;
JESUS, WHO SPOKE TO THE FEAR OF ANANIAS, AND MOVED HIM;
JESUS, WHOSE WORD NOW WE SEEK TO HEAR.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Moscow

Felice Giardini (1716-1796)



1. God whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight,
hear us, we humbly pray,
and, where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light!
2. Saviour, who came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
now to all humankind
let there be light!
3. Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy Dove,
speed on your flight!
Move on the waters' face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light!
4. Gracious and holy Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far and wide
let there be light!

John Marriott (1780-1825) alt.

Prayer of Approach

Is it a Word, O God,
that speaks order to chaos,
LIGHT TO THE NIGHT?

Is it a Word
bringing new dawn,
gospel day to the inly blind,
LIGHT TO ALL HUMANKIND?

Is it a Word of truth and love,
a life-giving holy dove,
**SCATTERING ALL
THAT IS IGNORANT AND SMALL?**

God of the intruding Word,
today we enter the story of the famous Saul of Tarsus,
clear in his own mind about whom he needs to kill,
and why, and how mercilessly.
DEAR GOD OF THE INTRUDING WORD.

We hear also of the Word seeking out a much less famous person:
Ananias, just hiding at home,
reluctant to engage.
DEAR GOD OF THE EMPOWERING WORD.

As we follow their stories,
never naturally appointed to work well together,
we will witness a moment of bravery, grace and new beginning.
WE WILL SAY "THANKS BE TO GOD".

Thanks be to God.

Silence

With Saul of Tarsus, we share certainty and violence.
With Ananias of Damascus, we share fear and reluctance.
So the world suffers.

. . . 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:

On the road to Damascus, you tripped up the hater.
In the home of Ananias, you called the frightened.
You called them together
in an act of humility and courage,
sealed in a moment of unifying grace.

BLESS US, O GOD,
TO SET ASIDE OUR HATRED,
TO OVERCOME OUR FEAR,
AND TO FIND YOUR PERFECT MOMENT OF NEWNESS,
TO THE FLOURISHING OF YOUR LOVE.
AMEN.

The Notices

The Bible Lesson: Acts 9: 1-20

In this is the Word of God.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Anthem: I know that my Redeemer liveth (from Messiah)
GF Handel (1685-1759)

Sermon: What are we listening for now?

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/8PBPfPn_7UU

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

In our prayers for others and ourselves,
to the minister's words, "The road to Damascus brings this to a halt";
you are invited to respond **"CALL US TO THE RESET"**.

. . . 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 bring what we have gathered,
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.**

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.

Communion Hymn:

Kingsfold

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)



1. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest,
lay down, O weary one, lay down

your head upon my breast,"
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.

2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.
3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's Light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my Star, my Sun;
and in that Light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.

Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)

We sit for

The Invitation

The Institution

The Setting Apart of the Elements

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
gluten free bread, some is available on the plinth in front of the bread servers.
Non-alcoholic grape juice can be taken from the trays held by the glass servers.*

During communion, Katherine sings Panis Angelicus,
by Cesar Franck (1822-1890)

The Prayer After Communion

Eternal God,
we give you thanks and praise
that while we were still far off
you met us in your Son, and brought us home.
**MAY WE WHO SHARE HIS BREAD
LIVE HIS RISEN LIFE;
WE WHO DRINK HIS CUP
BRING LIFE TO OTHERS;
WE WHOM THE SPIRIT LIGHTS
GIVE LIGHT TO THE WORLD,
THAT ALL YOUR CHILDREN SHALL BE FREE,
AND THE WHOLE EARTH LIVE TO PRAISE YOUR NAME.
AMEN.**

Hymn:

Regent Square

Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)



1. Jesus of Damascus trav'ling,
we have met you on the road;
you have fed us at the table,

spoken your life-changing word,
led us through our fear and danger,
with our hope and joy restored.

2. As we go, surprise our dullness,
make us willing to receive
more than we can yet imagine,
all the best you have to give:
let us find your hidden riches,
know your love, rise up, and live!

Christopher Idle (b. 1938), alt.

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude

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

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While Caravaggio's painting "Conversion on the way to Damascus ", left, (1601) is well known, the artist painted on the same theme a year earlier: "The Conversion of St Paul ". The earlier work features Paul as older (bearded), lightly dressed and covering his eyes (a figure of vulnerability). His horse is in panic. The later work has Paul younger, dressed more militarily, in a calmer situation. I wonder what moved the artist to paint the scene so differently in quite a short time. Apparently, the person who commissioned both paintings didn't really like the first one.



NOTICES

This Week: **4 May – 10 May**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
 2.00pm Concert
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: **11 May – 17 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 this 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.

Sunday lunch 18 May – 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.

Film Group – No film this month.

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.



University
of Otago

BURNS LECTURES 2025 (in theology)

We are thrilled to have Professor Brad Gregory delivering the Burns Lectures: "Christians, Consumption, and Climate Change: Christianity between the Last Ice Age and the Anthropocene." Professor Brad Gregory, Henkels Family College Professor of History, University of Notre Dame, USA.



Brad Gregory is a historian of Western Europe in the Reformation era whose scholarship has analysed the effects of early modern religious disagreement and religio-political conflict, not only in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, but also in the long-term shaping of Western modernity down to the present. He is currently at work on a major project about the relationship between Western Christianity and the long-term formation of our current global environmental realities, the working title of which is *The Way of the World: Power, Wealth, and Civilization from the Last Ice Age to the Anthropocene*.

- Monday 19 May: Lecture 1: Reinterpreting the Past in an Unprecedented Present: History and the Anthropocene
- Tuesday 20 May: Lecture 2: Fortunes for the Few, Misfortunes for the Many: Constructing the Ancient Inhumanities
- Wednesday 21 May: Lecture 3: Enduring the Way of the World: Covenant, Community, and Justice in Ancient Israel
- Tuesday 27 May: Lecture 4: Subverting the Way of the World: The Oblique Radicalism of Jesus of Nazareth
- Wednesday 28 May: Lecture 5: Accommodating the Way of the World: Making Room for Mammon, Making Peace with Rome
- Thursday 29 May: Lecture 6: Extending the Way of the World: Western Christianity from Constantine to the Anthropocene

Time: 5.15pm-6.30pm

All Lectures will be [livestreamed here](#)



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- John 19: 25b-27
- Matthew 12: 46-50

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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