



# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service

18 May 2025

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## In-Groups Out-Groups

## 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.

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.

### **Welcome:**

The peace of God be with you. **And also with you.**

We keep a moment of silence.

**Introit:** Almighty and Everlasting God - Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

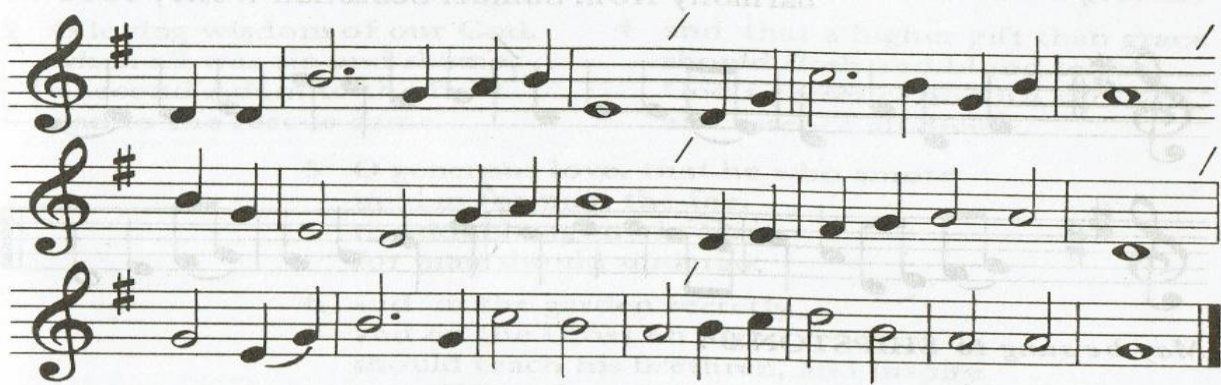
### **The Call to Worship:**

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

Having given us, for our well-being.....,  
.....Let us worship God.

**Hymn:** HYMN WOV 77

"For the beauty of the earth"



Frederick A. Styles *Worship For An Easter People* 'Volume 5' (Ontario: enThusia Enterprises 1995) p. I-21.

1. For the beauty of the earth,  
for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies,

*Christ, our God, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.*

2. For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light,

3. For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight.

4. For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild,

5. For each perfect gift of thine  
to our race so freely given,  
graces human and divine,  
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,

6. For the church that evermore  
lifteth holy hands above,  
offering up on every shore  
her pure sacrifice of love

## **Prayer of Praise and Adoration**

Within the awesome power and grandeur of creation is the mystery of divine love that values all of creation

**Divine love that gives a place for every living organism within a chain of interdependence and cycles of life, death, and regeneration.**

Within this vast procession of life humanity was given the strength of a loving community and a caring responsibility for the ongoing viability of life.

**As overcrowding and fear caused conflict and domination the loving creator called out leaders, sages, and prophets who called communities out of slavery and onto great migrations across the globe**

Lack of understanding drew people to imagine a jealous and frightening god of favour, exclusion and rigid restrictions that gave power to a few at the expense of the many.

**So the divine mystery came and lived among us as Jesus Christ.**

Jesus walked the journey of the marginalised and suffered the violence of the powerful.

**In Jesus Christ we see love, lived to the full, and an image of divine love that embraces all.**

In worship this morning we give thanks for our place in the world and the opportunity to love others as God loves us. Amen

## **Lament**

Yet today's world seems full of conflict and love for others is seen as weakness.

**Concern for the less fortunate is often perceived as a threat to the free market and encouraging weakness.**

Having so recently remembered the lives lost and sacrifices made in the great wars of the past.

**We remember the numerous wars around the world at this time and lament the lives lost and despair at the seemingly unstoppable violence.**

Natural empathy is discouraged in a competitive world.

**Justice is understood as punishment rather than rehabilitation and 'closure' is sought through vengeance and retribution.**

## **Assurance and Response**

The call to new beginnings  
is the calls to love one another  
as Christ loves us.

Through Christ the past is finished and gone  
and love makes all things new

**Thanks be to God.**

We conclude our prayers with the prayer we believe Jesus taught his disciples.

**The Lord's Prayer:**

**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**

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

*We exchange a sign of peace with one another.*

**Introduction to the First Reading:**

**The First Lesson:** Acts 11: 1-18

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

**Knox Singers:** Anthem: Be still for the presence of the Lord - David  
Evans arr. Richard Shephard

**Introduction to the Second Reading:**

**The Gospel Lesson:** John 13: 31-35

This is the gospel of Christ.  
**PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.**

**Hymn:** (Tune Franconia WOV 376)      What Image Shall I Use



1 What image shall I use  
to give a face to God?  
A mother with a suckling child?  
A king with fiery sword.

2 A herdsman driving beasts?  
A gardener in God's farm?  
The one who dominates the earth  
or shields it from all harm?

3 A feudal lord who rules?  
A servant Christ who shares?  
The one who intervenes with force  
or one who bleeds and cares?

4 A God of ransom deals,  
who buys us, heart and mind,  
or one who waits in hope to give  
what we ourselves must find?

5 From doctrines we have learnt  
to images we own,  
the journey takes us on to find  
the many who is one.

6 Beyond the imaged God,  
the wondrous mystery dwells;  
where reason cannot prove or know,  
hearts drink from inner wells! *Words: Bill Wallace Copyright Bill Wallace Used by permission.*



**Sermon:** In-Groups Out-Groups

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.

**Hymn:** WOV 558 When I needed a neighbour

And the creed and the co - lour and the  
name won't mat - ter, were you there?

1. When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?

*And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
were you there?*

2. I was hungry and thirsty, were you there, were you there?  
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?

3. I was cold, I was naked, were you there, were you there?  
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?

4. When I needed a shelter, were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a shelter, were you there?

5. When I needed a healer, were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a healer, were you there?

6. When they put me in prison, were you there, were you there?  
When they put me in prison, were you there?

7. Wherever you travel, I'll be there, I'll be there,  
wherever you travel, I'll be there.

Sydney Carter

## Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*led by Len Pierce*

### The Offering and Dedication

*We stand for the dedication of the Offering.*

### Notices

**Hymn: AA156**

**Where the road runs Out**

**Tune: Columbus**



- 1 Where the road runs out and the signposts end,  
where we come to the edge of today,  
be the God of Abraham for us,  
send us out upon our way.

*Lord, you were our beginning,  
the faith that gave us birth.  
We look to you, our ending,  
our hope for heaven and earth.*

- 2 When the coast is left and we journey on  
to the rim of the sky and the sea,  
be the sailor's friend, be the dolphin Christ,  
lead us on to eternity.



3 When the clouds are low and the wind is strong,  
when tomorrow's storm draws near,  
be the spirit bird hovering overhead  
who will take away our fear.

*Colin Gibson  
Used by permission*

**Benediction and Sung Amen**

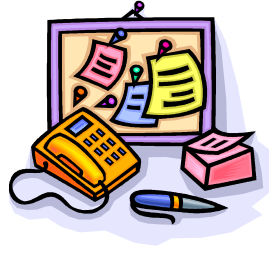
Dorothy McRae-McMahon, *Echoes of our Journey: Liturgies of the people* (Melbourne: The Joint Board of Christian Education 1993) p.74.

**Postlude**: Preludio from Sonata no. 6 in E flat minor –  
Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)

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

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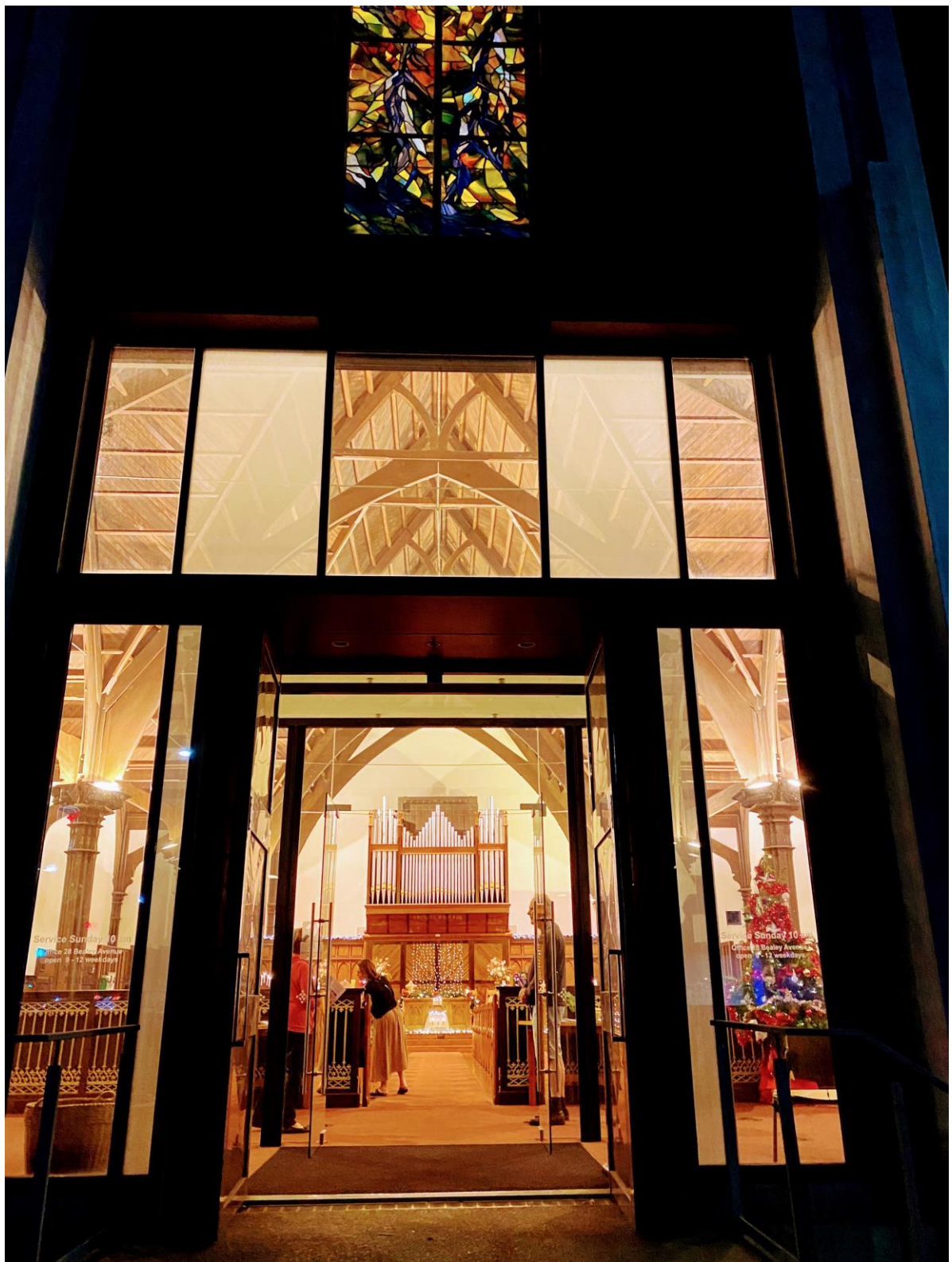




## NOTICES

<b>This Week:</b>	<b>18 May – 24 May</b>
Sunday	10.00am Morning Worship
	12.00pm Lunch at Black & White Café
Wednesday	10.00am Bible Study
<b>Next Week:</b>	<b>25 May – 31 May</b>
Sunday	10.00am Morning Worship
	11.30am Shalom
Wednesday	10.00am Bible Study

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](mailto:office@knoxchurch.co.nz) ph: 379 2456.





### The Bible readings for next week will be:

- TBA
- TBA

## Knox Directory

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Visit our website  
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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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