



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

25 May 2025



HEADING FOR HOME?

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.

A special vote of thanks this morning to Russell Kent, who is playing the organ while Jeremy is away. Thank you, Russell.

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, MYSTERY MAKING HIS HOME WITHIN THE HUMAN FAMILY;
JESUS, CALLING HIS FOLLOWERS TO JOURNEY FAR;
JESUS, WHOSE WELCOME IS EVERLASTING AND EVERYWHERE.**

Kia noho a Ihowa ki a koutou. God be with you.
MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Blaenwern

William Penfro Rowlands (1860-1937)



1. Faith has set us on a journey
past the landmarks that we know,
taking risks with no insurance
but the Word that tells us "go!"
Friend or job or home or lover
we may need to leave behind,
outworn truths and ways of thinking,
baggage to the past consigned.
2. Some are swags of easy conscience
who with others hitch a ride,
some are tourist package Christians,
dollar-safe, with book and guide.
There are others on this journey,
those who long and pray and search,
heave the stones to free the structures,
love the Christ and free the church.
3. We are this unlikely people
in the body knit as one,
company of clowns and cripples,
some are wise and some can run.
Prophets are our travel agents,
gospel-makers lay this road:
to the place of peace and promise
faith will take us into God.

Shirley Murray (1931-2020)

Prayer of Approach

It may well have been a lyric in the minds of those on the boat, O God:
"faith has set us on a journey" -
the Apostle Paul,
and the ones he'd called to join him,
sailing off into the West,
home behind them,
looming before them a world they didn't know:
FAITH HAD SET THEM ON A JOURNEY.

Meanwhile, somewhere out West,
a woman is making a good living
out of luxury goods -
furnishing a well-painted house
with all that a prosperous person could want.

Somewhere, within the clay of her soul,
something stirs and says "this is not enough".

FAITH HAD SET HER ON A JOURNEY.

Will the two journeys meet?

Will they find in the welcoming and being welcomed,
in the giving and receiving,

a more pronounced sense of being at home in God?

HAS FAITH SET THEM ON A JOURNEY THAT IS ONE?

ONE HEART?

ONE GOD?

ONE HOME?

In scripture and in prayer,
break open to us, O divine One,
the mystery of your being with us,

AND OF OUR BEING AT HOME.

Silence

If we were to be true to our own consciences,
and to the God whom we follow,
we would confess that we do not welcome people home.

Sometimes we are suspicious.

Sometimes we are jealous.

Sometimes we are territorial.

Sometimes we say "you do not belong".

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:

Your missionary Paul

left the region

where he was an informed and capable person,

to become a stranger among strangers,

vulnerable to need,

and having "no fixed abode".

YOU LED HIM TO A HOUSE OF WELCOME.

You taught him what Christ had taught his disciples before:
that you are their home, and they need not fear.

**GIVE US COURAGE TO ENTER WHAT IS UNFAMILIAR,
KNOWING THAT IN EVERY PLACE AND TIME
WE ARE HELD WITHIN YOUR LOVE,
AND SO HAVE A HOME.**

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

**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: Acts 16: 9-15

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

Reflection: An Open Door

Music for Reflection: Chorale prelude on "Humility"
Malcolm Archer (b. 1973)

The Gospel Lesson: John 14: 22-29

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Reflection: May you be at home

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/o0pNfS1ep9U>

Hymn:

St Columba

Irish traditional hymn melody



1. Come Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire;
let us thine influence prove,
source of the old prophetic fire,
fountain of life and love.
2. Come Holy Ghost, for moved by thee
the prophets wrote and spoke;
unlock the truth, thyself the key;
unseal the sacred book.
3. Expand thy wings, celestial Dove;
brood o'er our nature's night;
on our disordered spirits move,
and let there now be light.
4. God, through yourself we then shall know,
if thou within us shine,
and sound, with all thy saints below,
the depths of love divine.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Josiah Tualamali'i

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

When Paul and his friends were far from home,
and so were depending on the love and faith of others,
**LYDIA WAS MOVED BY FAITH
TO PROVIDE A WELCOME.**

When the disciples felt precarious
and worried about tomorrow,
**JESUS ASSURED THEM
THAT THEY HAD A HOME THAT WOULD NOT PERISH.**

May the offering we bring
give security and belonging
to those who are anxious or hungry,
**FOR WE PRAY THIS IN THE NAME OF JESUS,
WHO MADE A HOME AMONG US,
AMEN.**

Notices

Hymn:

Cwm Rhondda

John Hughes (1873-1932)



1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.
2. Open now the crystal fountain
whence the living waters flow;
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan
bid my anxious fears subside;

death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs and praises,
I will ever give to thee.

William Williams (1717-1791)

Tr. Peter Williams (1722-1796) and William Williams

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Fantasia on "Cwm Rhondda"
Paul Manz (1919 - 2009)

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

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NOTICES

This Week:	25 May – 31 May
Sunday	10.00am Morning Worship
	11.30am Shalom
Wednesday	10.00am Bible Study

Next Week:	1 June – 7 June
Sunday	10.00am Morning Worship
	4.00pm Film Group - Knives Out
Wednesday	10.00am Bible Study

Film Group 1st June 4pm in the Lounge: A murder mystery with a difference! **Knives Out** is set in a spooky old house, where a famous crime novelist has been found dead. All the family are now suspects. And in the centre calmly sits Daniel Craig (aka James Bond) with an appalling American accent. Of course he solves the crime! The film is superbly acted and lots of fun.

Monday 2 June 2025 (King's Birthday public holiday): Town Hall Auditorium at 2.30pm - annual organ curator's FREE concert with Martin Setchell (Organ), Thomas Eves (Trumpet) and Sea-am Thompson (Organ). Admission FREE (Koha appreciated). Book direct online at nzorgan.com.

Classical Records and CD's – free to a good home. See Bee Bryant.

Knox Life – it's time to think about getting your stories/jokes/articles in for the winter edition. Please send to the office.

Study Books (With love to the world) – if you receive these then your latest book is to be found on the table in the new foyer. Someone didn't collect their Christmas edition. There are three spare copies of the books so if anyone would like to sample one then please help yourself.

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.



John O'Donohue (1956-2008)

A House Blessing.

*May this house shelter your life.
When you come home here, may all
the weight of the world fall from your
shoulders.*

*May your heart be tranquil here,
blessed by peace the world cannot
give.*

*May this home be a lucky place,
where the graces your life desires
always find the pathway to your
door.*

May nothing destructive ever cross your threshold.

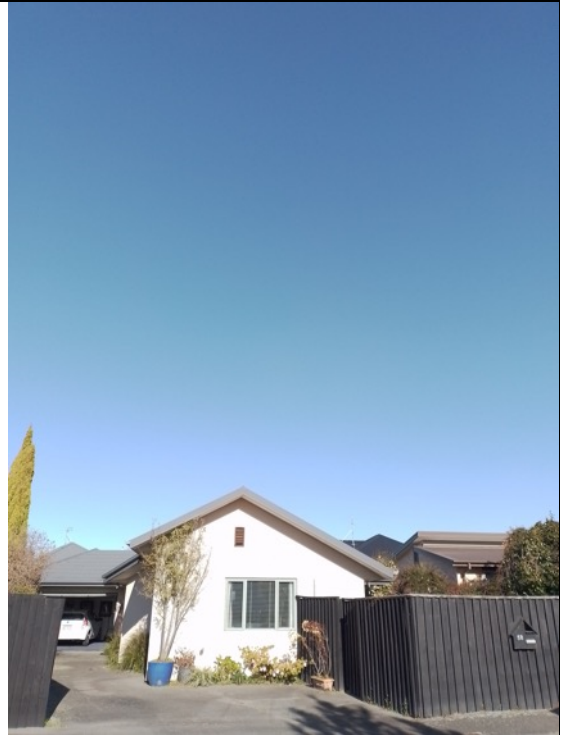
*May this be a safe place, full of understanding and
acceptance, where you can be as you are, without the need
of any mask of pretence or image.*

*May this home be a place of discovery, where the possibilities
that sleep in the clay of your soul can emerge to deepen and
refine your vision for all that is yet to come to birth.*

*May it be a house of courage, where healing and growth are
loved, where dignity and forgiveness prevail; a home where
patience of spirit is prized, and the sight of the destination is
never lost, though the journey be difficult and slow . . .*

*May you have the eyes to see that no visitor arrives without a
gift, and no guest leaves without a blessing.*

John O'Donohue



SERVICES OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS



The Pete Majendie services

For the last few years, we've been thrilled to anchor a couple of services around artworks provided by celebrated artist Pete Majendie (of the 185 empty chairs). This year, Pete is joining us for Pentecost (Sunday 8 June) with lightning bolt works ("energy from above") and provocations to think about the cluttered language we use in our descriptions of faith. The next week (Sunday 15 June), he's turning the lightning bolts into ladders, exploring how we climb into the world with richness and wisdom from our Christian experience.



Matariki

This year, on 22 June, we are looking at two stars: Matariki (well-being) and Hiwa i te rangi (promise of a prosperous season). We will reflect on how stars make us feel both small and special. We will wish one another well-being and prosperity. We also will have our "calling out" of the names of those who have died since last Matariki. With cherishing, please gather the names of those whom you wish to "call out". We'll welcome back the wonderful soprano, **Deborah Wai Kapohe**.



Basic Human Rights

In July, we're exploring Christian understandings of basic human rights. We'll be looking at the right to:

- food (6 July)
- clothing (13 July)
- housing (20 July)
- freedom from war (27 July)



The Bible reading for next week will be:

- Acts 16: 16-34

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?

Name:

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