



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

1 June 2025



Photo of the campus at Harvard University, currently defending its academic freedom

LOVE CRITIQUES FREEDOM

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.

The sermon and prayers in this service were written by Matthew with no assistance by Artificial Intelligence.

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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.

A special welcome to John Linker, Director of Music at Christ Church Transitional Cathedral, who is filling in today while Jeremy is away.

The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, BRINGING TO OUR VISION THE LENS OF LOVE;
JESUS, IN WHOSE NAME MANY HAVE BEEN SET FREE;
JESUS, IN WHOM ALL SHALL BE WELL.**

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

"Love, forever o'er the universe must reign" -
reign over how we offer our worship,
reign over how we live with one another,
reign over how we understand and exercise our freedom.
Love, o'er all these things must reign
BECAUSE YOU, OUR GOD, ARE LOVE.

Sin and death and hell have power;
blindness closes our view;
sorrow wields and iron rod,
under which human flesh and spirit bear bruises.
But love shall triumph,
FOR YOU, OUR GOD, ARE LOVE.

And when human hearts are breaking,
because we are treated as commodities,
because no one has a word that is kind,
or because we have failed in what was given us to do,
a self same aching in another heart assures us of fellow-feeling.
Empathy shall be our company,
freedom and healing shall come,
FOR YOU, O GOD, ARE LOVE.

Silence

In our scripture reading
we will come across some people who own a slave,
and who make good money from her possession.
**WE WILL SEE NO JOY IN THEM
WHEN SHE IS LIBERATED FROM HER AILMENT.**

We will come across a prison guard
who feels that he has failed
**WITHIN A SYSTEM
THAT TENDS TO PUNISH SEVERELY.**

Hoping to learn a song of divine love from their stories,
we make our confession.

We confess that often we are overly severe with one another,
that often we do not rejoice when others are blessed.
Often we are part of that blindness
that affects the heart of our human community -
to the withering of Creation's soul.
So, we say

. . . 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 a single day in the city of Philippi,
two opportunities were given
for people to be free.
On that same day,
two very different responses were given.

**AS WE EXPLORE THESE RESPONSES,
GIVE US GRACE, O GOD,
TO REFINE OUR THINKING ABOUT FREEDOM
AND OUR PRACTICES OF CARING FOR THE FORGOTTEN "OTHER".**

For we pray this in the name of Jesus,
Liberator and Lover,
AMEN.

The Notices

The Scripture Lesson: Acts 16: 16-34

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

Sermon: Two responses to freedom - Part One

*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/XACygU8EN0M>*

Music for Reflection: Improvisation
John Linker (b. 1975)

Sermon: Two responses to freedom - Part Two

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

To the minister's words ". . . how we want our world to work",
you are invited to respond "**GOD OF FREEDOM, SPEAK TO OUR LIFE**".

. . . 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.

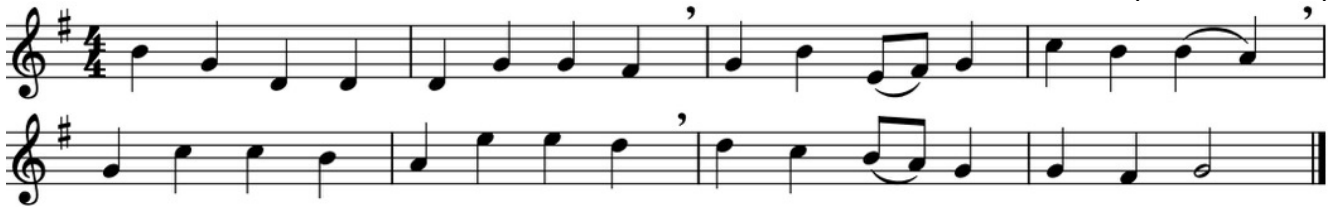
**A KI A KOE ANO HOKI;
AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

We exchange a sign of peace with one another.

Communion Hymn:

Cross of Jesus

John Stainer (1840-1901)



1. Womb of life and source of being,
home of every restless heart,
in your arms the world awakened;
you have loved us from the start.
2. We, your children, gather round you
at the table you prepare.
Sharing stories, tears and laughter,
we are nurtured by your care.
3. Word in flesh, our brother Jesus,
born to bring us second birth,
you have come to stand beside us,
knowing weakness, knowing earth.
4. Christ, you share our human struggles;
Life of life, and Death of death,
risen One, come stand among us,
send the Spirit by your breath.
5. Brooding Spirit, move among us;
be our partner, be our friend.
When our memory fails, remind us
whose we are, what we intend.
6. Labour with us, aid the birthing
of the new world yet to be,
free from status and division,
free for love and unity.

Ruth Duck (1947-2024)

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.*

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:

Sagina

Thomas Campbell (1800-1876)



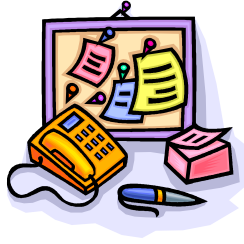
1. And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour's love?
Lived he for me, with joy and pain -
for me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
that thou, O God, shouldst set us free!
2. 'Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies:
who can explore this strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds inquire no more.
3. Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in fear and nature's night:
thine eye diffused a quickening ray -
I woke; the dungeon flamed with light!
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.
4. No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Praeludium C-dur, BWV 547
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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



NOTICES

This Week:	1 June – 7 June	
Sunday	10.00am	Morning Worship
	4.00pm	Film Group - Knives Out
Wednesday	10.00am	Bible Study
Next Week:	8 June – 14 June	
Sunday	10.00am	Morning Worship
	11.30am	Shalom
Wednesday	10.00am	Bible Study

For next week, Pentecost, why not consider wearing something red to church? Red is the liturgical colour for Pentecost, representing the flame that alighted on the heads of those gathered for the festival.

Film Group today - 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.

Monday 9 June 2025 - Cilla Clements presents “NZ Prisoners of War” - from 1.30pm-2.30pm at the Mary Potter Community Centre, 442 Durham Street North, St Albans, Christchurch 8014 - Gold coin donation. Come and hear Cilla Clements talk about NZ Prisoners of War who were based at a little work camp, situated in the Italian Alps, during World War II. Find out about the most successful escape by NZ POW's... that no one has heard about! Cuppa to follow. All ages welcome - bring a friend.

Sunday lunch 15 June – 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.

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.

Hunting – for spare and lonely teaspoons looking for a new home. Any contributions welcome. Drop into the office. Many thanks.

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.



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 rise up 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 **Deborah Wai Kapohe**.



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- John 1: 29-34
- Acts 2: 1-3
- Acts 2: 4-13

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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