

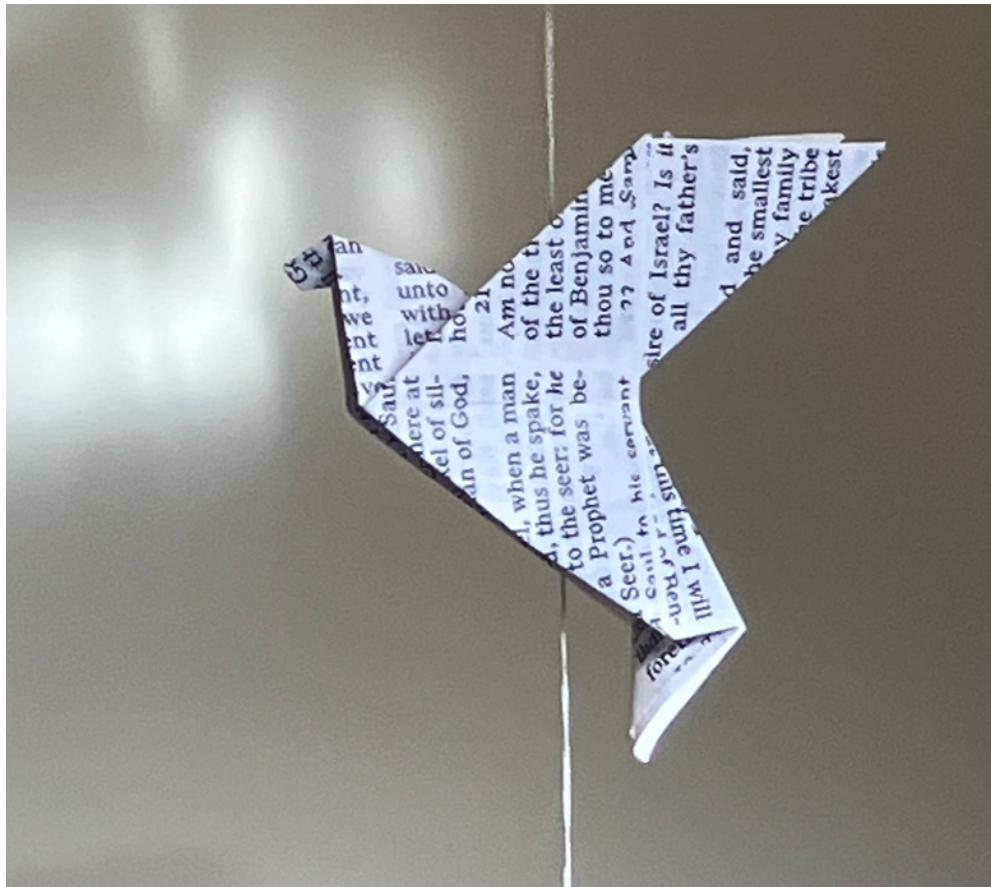


KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

8 June 2025



THE SPIRIT DESCENDS

a service for Pentecost, the first of two services
during which we reflect on artworks by Peter Majendie

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.

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

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 Welcome and Explanation

The Scripture Sentence:

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit".

John 20:19-22

The Introit:

If ye love me
Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

Call to Worship:

We light a candle in the name of Jesus Christ, a light in the world.
**JESUS, UPON WHOM THE SPIRIT DESCENDED AS A DOVE;
JESUS, WHO BREATHED THE SPIRIT UPON HIS PEOPLE;
JESUS, WHOSE PROMISE COMES TRUE AT PENTECOST.**

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

Hymn:

Hereford

Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)



Discerning the coming and covering
of something sacred, celestial,
something completely resonant
with our hearts' deepest desires,
WE OFFER PRAYER AND PRAISE.

We begin with a vision of our Lord
breathing quietly on his disciples
and saying "receive the Holy Spirit";
THE DISCIPLES GATHER.

In this quietness, we come to our Pentecost worship.
As we wait upon you, Holy Spirit of God,
hear our silent prayer.

Silence

In the quiet,
as Holy Spirit speaks to human spirit,
we hear a voice;
it calls us to mourn the hurtful things we have done,
the good things we have failed to do,
and the many ways in which we have damaged one another.

Longing for the coming of your Spirit,
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:

Your wonderful purposes cover our world, O God,
a brilliant mantle,
a fabulous energy looking to earth itself
in the stuff of our lives.

When you come,
all houses are struck,
all homes are filled with your brilliant language.

**THIS PENTECOST,
MAY WE WELCOME YOUR ENERGY,
MAKE FIT HEARTHS FOR YOUR FIRE,
AND LEARN THE "LANGUAGE OF LOVE"
THAT YOU WOULD GIVE US.**

For we pray this in the name of Jesus,
who taught us to pray, together saying

**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

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.

A Word from the Artist: Pete Majendie



A series of Readings, Reflections and Musics

The First Reading: John 1: 29-34

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

Having tip-toed out of Nazareth,
Jesus finds a dove descending on his spirit;
AND QUIETLY, IT ALL BEGINS.



Three large birdcages in the three primary colours - origami doves surround the cages.

The doves are made of pages from Leviticus - Jesus didn't come to abolish the law, but to set it free.

Pete Majendie

Reflection: The dove and the cage.

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/k7H4wAXk3J0>

Knox Singers: Come down, O Love divine
Hilary Tadmán-Robins (b. 1947)

The Second Reading: Acts 2: 1-3

In this is the Word of God.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

The Spirit comes in wind and fire,

A TONGUE OF FLAME FOR EACH ONE.



A large bolt of lightning suspended over a little church and houses with lights in them. The lightning bolt is in the three primary colours - red, blue and yellow. Lightning is natural, unpredictable, dangerous, unharnessed, loud - can spark a fire.

Pete Majendie

Reflection: Above the houses

Hymn:

Abbot's Leigh

Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991)



1. Fire of God, titanic Spirit,
burn within our hearts today;
fill this place - and may your goodness
shine through us in every way:
fan the tiny flame of worship,
drown our doubting, wake our soul;
and through Jesus Christ who claims us,
bless and love us, make us whole.
2. Wind of God, dynamic Spirit,
breathe upon our hearts today;
that we may your power inherit
hear us, Spirit, as we pray:
fill the vacuum that enslaves us -
emptiness of heart and soul;
and, through Jesus Christ who saves us,
give us life and make us whole.

3. Voice of God, prophetic Spirit,
speak to every heart today
to encourage or prohibit,
urging action or delay:
clear the vagueness which impedes us -
come, enlighten mind and soul;
and, through Jesus Christ who leads us,
teach the truth that makes us whole.

Michael Saward (1932-2015)

The Third Reading: Acts 2: 4-13

In this is the Word of God.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

God comes in a cacophony of words,

YET CLEAR TO THE EARS

OF THOSE WHO LONG TO UNDERSTAND.



A tower of letters on a large wooden book - the cramming of words into a book to describe the indescribable. Language. Any number - including maths, music, art, beauty etc.

Hearing in their 'own'. They heard in their own language, then crammed it in a book. We like things in black and white, but they are not necessarily true or understandable. All on a wooden book.

Pete Majendie

Reflection: What is a hymn?

Hymn:

Concord

Robert James Berkeley Fleming (1921-1976)



1. Let there be light,
let there be understanding,
let all the nations gather,
let them be face to face.
2. Open our lips,
open our minds to ponder,
open the door to concord
opening into grace.
3. Perish the sword,
perish the angry judgment,
perish the bombs and hunger,
perish the fight for gain.
4. Hallow our love,
hallow the deaths of martyrs,
hallow their holy freedom,
hallowed be your name.
5. Let there be light,
open our hearts to wonder,
perish the way of terror,
hallow the world God made.

Frances Wheeler Davis (b.1936)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Murray Winn

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

If the Spirit descends upon us,
WE OPEN THE DOORS OF OUR CAGES.

If the Spirit descends upon us,
WE WOULD THAT EVERY HOUSE BE BLESSED.

If the Spirit descends upon us,
**WE WOULD FIND NEW WAYS
TO SPEAK THE GREAT LOVE OF GOD.**

Now the Spirit descends upon us,
WE MAKE THIS OFFERING,
IN THE NAME AND SPIRIT OF JESUS,
AMEN.

Notices

Hymn:

Spiritus Vitae

Mary Jane Hammond (1878-1964)



1. O breath of life, come sweeping through us,
revive your church with life and power;
O breath of life, come cleanse, renew us,
and fit your church to meet this hour.
2. O wind of God, come bend us, break us,
till humbly we confess our need;
then in your tenderness remake us,
revive, restore: for this we plead.
3. O breath of love, come breathe within us,
renewing thought and will and heart;
come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,
revive your church in every part.
4. Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating
while harvest fields are vast and white?
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting,
equip your church to spread the light.

Elizabeth Ann Porter Head (1850-1936)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Fantasia super Komm, Heiliger Geist,
BWV 651 - JS Bach (1685-1750)

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

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Painting of an ear surrounded by a large question mark.
What are we listening to? What do we hear? What if we are deaf?

Next week's Majendie works

In next week's service, where this week's lightning bolts (descending with energy for shared meaning) are turned into ladders (invitations to ascend), we consider how the God of Pentecost, having descended to inspire us, calls us to rise up into the lives of others and into engagement with matters of the Spirit.



This year's Matariki service



Knox will be observing Matariki on Sunday 22 June this year. One of the conventions at Matariki in te Ao Maori is to speak out, in community, the names of those who have died in the last year. We have done this a few times now, and people find it meaningful. Please spend the next while thinking about whether you have a name that comes to mind.

There are nine stars in the Matariki constellation. This year we are focussing on two: (1) Matariki - well-being, and (2) Hiwa-i-te-rangi - - promise of a prosperous season.

This year, we are really pleased to welcome back to Knox soprano, Deborah Wai Kapohe.



NOTICES

This Week: 8 June – 14 June
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
11.30am Shalom
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: 15 June – 21 June
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
12.00pm Lunch at Black & White Café
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

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.

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.



Tēna koutou katoa

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

[John 14: 25-27]

On Pentecost Sunday we read the Scriptures and reflect on the continuing story of our journey of faith with the Risen Christ and the Holy Spirit. We have the promise from Jesus that the Holy Spirit will teach us, lead us deeper into the truth of God, and remind us of the teachings that Jesus has already given us. We will experience the nudgings and the insights of the Holy Spirit in our living, and know the peace that Jesus offers us – a peace that gives wholeness and freedom from fear. There is much to celebrate!

At the time I was preparing to write this message, I spent three days at a women in ministry gathering at Te Maungarongo Marae – our Church's national marae in Ōhope. During our time together there was a workshop on marae tikanga and it was interesting to learn that every marae has its own mauri (life force, essence), and at Te Maungarongo the mauri is the Holy Spirit.

So many people who come to this marae talk of how special it is, of how they feel close to God in this space, how they feel a home-coming, a welcome, an integration, a deep connection. The Holy Spirit is at work and is known. It is also known there through the people of Te Aka Puahou who give such manaakitanga (hospitality), which builds whanaungatanga (relationship). In step with this we think of the relational nature of the Holy Spirit as guide, teacher, advocate, counsellor, comforter. All things come together to provide a holy space.

It feels like Te Maungarongo is similar to what the Celtic Christians call 'a thin place' where the boundary between the material world and the spiritual or divine

is perceived to be particularly thin. Where it is more permeable. A sacred place. What a gift.

In this season of Pentecost, where we reflect more deeply about the work of the Holy Spirit in our individual and corporate life, can we attend to that phrase from the Anglican prayer book which is used after Scripture is read: “Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church”. What do we feel the Spirit is saying to us, the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, at this time? Can we be attentive to the nudgings of the Holy Spirit, within and around us?

As we prepare for General Assembly in October, let us adopt a posture of listening to what the Holy Spirit is saying to us so that we can be all that God desires for us, individually and as a national Church. Discerning. Integrated. Energised. Engaged. Hopeful.

May the warmth and the promptings of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Rose

Right Rev Rose Luxford

Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand





The Bible readings for next week will be:

- John 1: 1-5, 10-14
- Matthew 14: 22-32
- Luke 10: 1-12

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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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