



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

22 June 2025



Pātaka - "store house" - how we keep our food safe - a bit like an advanced barn

**WELL-BEING,
PROSPERITY**
a service for Matariki

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.

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.



This is the Matariki constellation - with Matariki near the centre and Hiwa-i-te-rangi at the left. In other parts of the world, the Matariki constellation is called the "Pleiades".

SOME NOTES ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

Māori New Year. This is the third year Knox has observed a Matariki theme on the Sunday closest to "Māori New Year", the day on which the constellation Matariki rises in the skies over Aotearoa New Zealand. We refer to it as "Māori New Year" because it has themes of endings and beginnings, letting go and looking forward. It happens at a time when the earth is sleeping, and when Māori gathered in their homes over the short days and long nights to tell stories around the fire.

Speaking the Names. Part of the story-telling was the speaking again of the names of those who had died during the previous year. Not speaking the names of the deceased after the tangi was part of "proper mourning" for Māori. When photography arrived, it became customary also to turn framed photos of the dead to face the wall. And then, at Matariki, part of what the community did was "shout out the name" and restore the image. Matariki was a time for speaking out again, with love, the names of those who had disappeared. This is part of our Matariki litany, happening later in the service. We've published notices over the last few weeks, encouraging people to consider names they might "shout out". When Matthew invites you to, please feel free to speak any names that come to mind.

Matariki Stars and today's theme. 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.

We are delighted this morning to welcome soprano, Deborah Wai Kapohe, who will sing some special Matariki music. Thank you Deborah!



Te Ātihaunui-a-Pāpārangi, Te Aitanga-a-Māhaki, Ngāti Rua (Te Whakatōhea) and Ngāti Kahungunu.

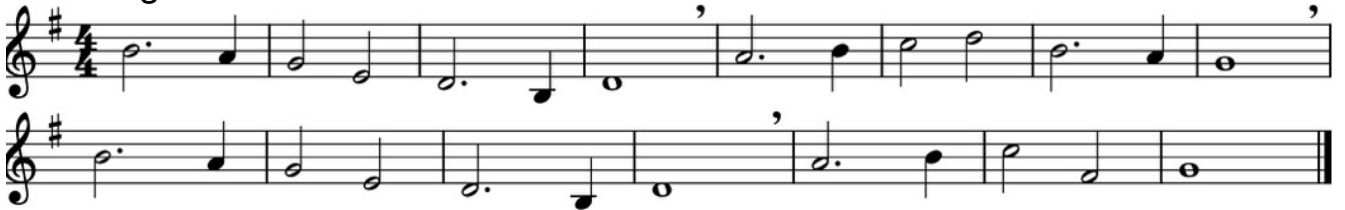
Born in Southland, New Zealand, Deborah has performed in operas, musical theatre, contemporary Māori music, arts festivals, proms, concerts, recitals, self-accompanied guitar and voice recitals, and special events throughout New Zealand and Australia, as well as in the UK, Asia Pacific Region, and South Africa.

The minister will lead
The Call to Worship:

**JESUS, LIVING HIS MORTAL LIFE BENEATH THE TIMELESS STARS;
JESUS, RICH AND WONDERFUL SOURCE OF WELL-BEING FOR ALL;
JESUS, THE MATARIKI CHILD OF GOD'S NEW PROSPERITY.**

Hymn:

traditional Māori himene



1. Tama ngākau mārie
Tama a te Atua
Tēnei tonu mātou
Arohaina mai
2. Murua rā ngā hara
Wetekina mai
Ēnei here kino
Wakararu nei.
3. Takahia ki raro
Tau e kino ai
Kei pā kaha tonu
Ko nga mahi hē.
4. Hōmai he aroha
Mōu i mate nei
Tēnei ra e Ihu
Tākina e koe
5. Tēnei arahina
A tutuki noa
Putā i te pōuri
Whiwhi hari nui.

Prayer of Approach

Since the stars last rose in our skies,
and the earth in our gardens and parks
went to sleep last winter,
can it be that a whole year has gone?
GOD, GIVER OF LIFE,
THANK YOU FOR THE TIME SINCE THEN.

Since we last recited the names of those whom we miss,
can it be that a whole year has gone?

**GOD, IN WHOSE IMAGE WE ARE MADE,
THANK YOU FOR THE TIME SINCE THEN.**

The time since then? . . .

Sometimes we become aware
of the passage of time -
how the stars keep turning,
and the breaths keep breathing,
and the bones keep moving.

**GOD, IN WHOSE TIME THE WRINKLES COME,
AND THE WISDOM GROWS,
AND FAITH TAKES ITS JOURNEY,
THANK YOU FOR THE COMING OF THIS TIME.**

Silence

Today, meditating on the stars of well-being and prosperity,
we will draw on the wisdom of Christ,
AND HIS CHALLENGE TO LIVE WITH TRUST AND FOCUS.

As he calls us to a new assessment of our life
we may well find ourselves
PRAYING PRAYERS OF QUIET CONFESSION -

confession for the way we build our barns
WHILE OTHERS ARE HUNGRY,

confession for the ways we long for lots,
WHILE THOSE AROUND US HAVE LITTLE.

Shrive our way of living in the world, O God,
visit our hearts,
even now as 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:

God, our Treasure,
as we pause at Matariki
to give thanks for many good things,
**YOU OFFER US DEEP WELL-BEING,
AND A NEW UNDERSTANDING OF PROSPERITY.**

Give us the kind of spirit that rises to that offer,
**THAT WE MAY GROW THROUGH THIS WINTER TIME,
EMERGING INTO THE NEW LIFE
THAT COMES IN THE SPRING.**

We pray this in the name of Jesus,
who taught us to pray, together saying:

**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.

Matariki and Hiwa i te rangi - Matariki Reflections

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 these reflections being practised is available from 10:00am today: https://youtu.be/OUj_1Yi-CcQ

The First Lesson:

Psalm 8

In this is the Word of God.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

While, beneath the stars, we feel that we are small,
GOD BRINGS A NEW PERSPECTIVE.

A Video Clip:

Professor Brian Cox, University of Manchester
"A finite, fragile life in an infinite, eternal universe"

A Reflection:

Matariki is the star of well-being
Are we "special"?

Music for Reflection:

Hine e Hine, by Princess te Rangi Pai (1868-1916)
arr. David Hamilton (b. 1955),
Deborah Wai Kapohe and the Knox Singers

The Second Lesson:

Luke 12: 16-21

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

We gather many things into our barns;
GOD SAVE US FROM FOLLY.

The Third Lesson:

Matthew 6: 28-33

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

We eat the bread of anxiety;
JESUS SAYS "SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM".

A Reflection:

Hiwa i te rangi: the promise of a prosperous season
Noticing God's Prosperity

Hymn:

Ar Hyd Y Nos

Welsh traditional melody



1. For the fruits of all creation,
thanks be to God;
for these gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping,
thanks be to God.
2. In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done;
in our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.
3. For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

The Matariki Litany:

This litany is adapted from one produced by the Catholic Diocese of Auckland

E te Atua, generous God,
by the light of the Southern stars, te marama o ngā whetu,
you guided the great traveller Kupe to Aotearoa,
a land teeming with life and steeped in natural wonder.

**YOU ARE KIND IN ALL YOUR WAYS,
YOUR MERCY KNOWS NO END.**

E te Atua, generous God,
by the light of the Southern stars, te marama o ngā whetu,
you guided the voyaging waka to this land,
a land rich in food and natural resources.

**YOU ARE KIND IN ALL YOUR WAYS,
YOUR MERCY KNOWS NO END.**

E te Atua, generous God,
by the light of the Southern stars, te marama o ngā whetu,
you guided the ship Endeavour and all who followed her to these islands,
islands that nursed the hopes and dreams of many travellers.

**YOU ARE KIND IN ALL YOUR WAYS,
YOUR MERCY KNOWS NO END.**

E te Atua, generous God,
by the light of the Southern stars, te marama o ngā whetu,
you guided all who travelled here,
making of this place a home that is abundant
with the promise of new beginnings.

**YOU ARE KIND IN ALL YOUR WAYS,
YOUR MERCY KNOWS NO END.**

Some weeks from now, Matariki will set.
It will not rise again the next evening.

There are people we love, whose lives have set, who have died,
and whom we miss deeply. We remember their name (pause),
their face (pause),
their presence (pause),
how they blessed us (pause).

Just as Matariki now rises,
let it be a reminder to us, that so too, our loved ones rise to new life.
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

We call out their names

Please call out the names of your loved ones who have died since last Matariki

Kia whakapaingia te Atua,
te Matua o to tatou Ariki, o Ihu Karaiti.
Na tana mahi tohu i whanau hou ai,
ki te tumanako ora,
i a Ihu Karaiti
ka ara ake nei i te hunga mate.

trans.

*Blessed be God
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
By his act of mercy we are born again
to a living hope
in Jesus Christ
who has risen from the dead.*

1 Peter 1:3

Music for Reflection: Auld Lang Syne
Deborah Wai Kapohe

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Linda Wilkins

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

The foolish person, blessed with plenty of food,
made extra barns to protect his wealth.

WE BRING OUR FOOD TO BE GIVEN TO OTHERS.

The foolish people worried about amassing security.

WE BRING MONEY TO BE GIVEN AWAY.

Continue to "worry away" at our values, O God,
and our capacity to be generous,

**UNTIL WE MAKE AN OFFERING
THAT IS FULL OF CHRIST,
AND OVERFLOWING WITH LOVE.**

We pray this in the name of Jesus,

AMEN.

Notices

Hymn:

Dunedin

Vernon Griffiths (1894-1985)



1. With life and light, with grace and peace,
with burdens shared, and grief released,
with all that Christ to us would give,
we go from here, our life to live.
2. Behind we leave the heavy weight,
the weary loads of human state,
for Jesus smiled, and we were healed,
the laws of death, by love repealed.
3. Yes, life is gift, and God is good,
and to our days, bring grace we would,
that when our days one day have passed,
we may in love be held full fast.

Matthew Jack (b. 1963)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Introduction and Finale from Kiwi Fireworks
Paul Spicer (b1952)

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

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NOTICES

This Week: 22 June – 28 June
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

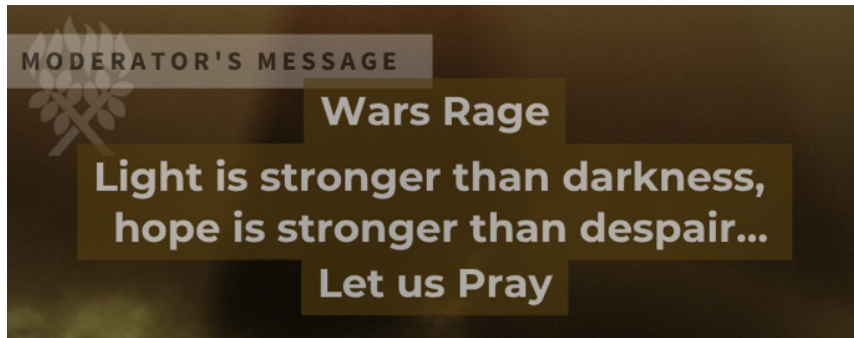
Next Week: 29 June – 5 July
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
11.30am Shalom
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Shalom – Please note date change. On Sunday 29 June, Bronwyn Wiltshire will cover the interesting topic 'The Berlin Wall and Me' - a personal view of the events before and after it came down and the effects on people's lives. 11.30am in the Lounge - all welcome.

Bus Trip to Kaiapoi - Thursday 26 June - Another bus trip is planned for Thursday 26 June, weather permitting. If it's raining, we won't go. We'll catch the #1 bus from Victoria Street, opposite Knox and travel to Kaiapoi for lunch at a cafe and maybe a wander around the town before returning by bus to Victoria Street. You should be able to leave your car in the Knox carpark while you are away. Be at Knox by 10.30am to catch the bus at approximately 10.40am. Arrive at Kaiapoi at about 11.15am. Bring your Gold Card to travel free. No need to notify anyone - just be there on the day. Buses to Christchurch depart from Kaiapoi at 1.10, 1.40, 2.10 and 2.40pm. Janet Wilson, Pastoral Committee

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.



Tēnā koutou katoa

I write to you at a time when the world is experiencing much trauma. We are living in very troubled times, with war raging in so many places around the world. There are armed conflicts with Israel-Iran, Israel-Palestine, Russia-Ukraine, and civil wars in Myanmar and Sudan, and ongoing conflicts in many other places. Although physically distant from us, this terrible suffering and destruction is brought home to us on our television screens, online, and in our newspapers.

Many people are being killed, injured, persecuted, confined, dispossessed of their homes, many have little or nothing to eat or drink. We find it difficult to imagine how terrifying it must be to be on the ground in these places with such horror, bloodshed, fear, grief and worry all around. We feel deeply for those showing great courage in all that they are enduring. Such cruel inhumanity. The world feels broken.

We are living through a time of mounting anxiety and danger, and so in hope through Jesus, who came that all may have life in all of its fullness,

Let us pray

for a de-escalation of war and tension

for successful dialogue and negotiation

for reconciliation between enemies

for provision of food and supplies for those in need

for wise, courageous and compassionate leadership

for healing and hope

for medical staff and hospitals who are caring for the wounded

for agencies providing help and provisions

for comfort and care for those who are suffering

for peace and for justice

We pray as people of resurrection hope – knowing that through Christ's resurrection that the light is stronger than the darkness, and hope is stronger than despair.

Yours in Christ

Right Rev Rose Luxford

Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand



A Matariki message to the Church from Te Aka Puahou

Kupu a Te Motoreta Rev Tamiana Thrupp ki ngā Pāriha o Te Aka Puahou – Perehipitiriana

Tēnei e mihi kau ana ki ō tātau mate katoa tangi o te ngākau. Me mihi ki ō tātau marae, kāinga kia koutou katoa o tātau whānau, hapū, iwi ō toi te kupu o Matariki whakaeke hau o te tau hou.

Ko Matariki

Ka eke mai a Matariki 2025, e tau ana tōna māramatanga ki runga i te ngahere tapu o Te Urewera, ka whakahoungia e Te Aka Puahou tana kawenata ki te ao hou tipu. Ko Matariki kei te ārahi mai i te wairua o Te Hāhi Perehipitiriana. Ka huihui mai tātau katoa ki te hā o te tau hou, hei whatu anō i te whakapono, te reo me te māramatanga. Hei para huarahi poropiti mō 2025 me 2026, mā te hiringa ō tātau tīpuna me ngā wawata o nāianeī.

As Matariki 2025 ascends, scattering light across the sacred forest of Te Urewera, Te Aka Puahou renews its covenant with creation. Guided by Matariki and the wairua of Te Hāhi Perehipitiriana, we gather in and breathe the hā o te tau hou, to weave faith, language, and māramatanga anew, charting prophetic pathways into 2025 and 2026 with tīpuna resolve and contemporary aspirations.



Presbyterian Church
of Aotearoa New Zealand

A Climate Change Survey

Kia ora,

Are you interested in climate change but wonder if your actions make a difference?

Participants are invited to take part in a study exploring how feelings like helplessness and self-compassion relate to climate change engagement as part of a postgraduate psychology research project at the University of Canterbury.

If you are interested in climate change and how psychological factors influence action, you are warmly invited to complete a short online survey. Participation takes approximately 10-15 minutes, and all responses will remain confidential. Participants will also go in the draw to win one of two \$50 supermarket vouchers.

https://canterbury.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5jBTzFZiVoVeGuW

If you have any questions about the study, please contact eve19@uclive.ac.nz. This project has received approval from the University of Canterbury Human Ethics Committee (HREC).

Ngā mihi nui!

Rosa Verkasalo (she/her)

Public Health Policy Advisor | Kaitātari Kaupapa hauora ā-iwi

Planning, Policy & Performance, Te Waipounamu | National Public Health Service | Waitaha

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My regular hours of work are (may vary slightly week to week): Monday and Tuesday 8.30am - 5pm, and Wednesday 11am – 3.30pm

The logo for Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora. It features the text "Health New Zealand" in a large, white, sans-serif font, with "Te Whatu Ora" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white geometric shapes (triangles and diamonds) on the right side.

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

Services in July - Basic Human Rights

Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), says that every human being has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including . . .

. . . including food



. . . including clothing



. . . including welfare in times of need



. . . including access to Health Services



6 July

Matthew 14: 13-21

Noticing the presence of many people who have no food, the disciples urge Jesus to send them away. He responds "**you** give them something to eat". We celebrate communion

13 July

Genesis 3: 8-14, 21.

Having experienced shame in their nakedness, Adam and Eve receive garments from God

Matthew 22: 2-14

The curious case of the under-dressed wedding guest.

20 July

John 19: 23-27

One of the last things Jesus did was make sure that John would take care of Mary - his last priority was to care for who's left.

Acts 2: 43-47

The believers shared all they had according to the needs of each.

27 July

John 5: 2-9a

The man blocked for years from healing, because he's not quick enough to reach the miracle pool.

John 11: 28-37

Through a lack of access to what could have saved him, Lazarus dies. But the late-arriving love of Jesus turns the story around.



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- 1 Kings 19: 15-16, 19-21
- Luke 9: 51-62

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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