



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

20 July 2025



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- NZ Super - go to [Apply for NZ Super](#)
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**3/4 IN A SERIES OF SERVICES ON
UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS**

**WELFARE
IN TIMES OF NEED**

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 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 Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, WHOSE ALMOST FINAL DEED WAS TO CARE FOR A WIDOW;
JESUS, WHOSE LIFE INSPIRED A COMMUNITY OF SHARING;
JESUS, WHOSE PEOPLE LOOK PAST THE CHURCH'S DOOR.**

Kia noho a Ihowa ki a koutou. God be with you.

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Leoni

Thomas Olivers (1725-1799)



1. Community of Christ,
who make the Cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life
for God alone:
the God who wears your face,
to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race
and every song.
2. Community of Christ,
look past the Church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry,
and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed,
the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash
your neighbour's feet.
3. Community of Christ,
through whom the word must sound --
cry out for justice and for peace
the whole world round:
disarm the powers that war
and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish
into joy.
4. When menace melts away,
so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace
and Christ its Sun;
our currency be love
and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one
for evermore.

Shirley Murray (1931-2020)

Call to Prayer:

God says:

Treat the alien in your land well,
for do not forget that once you were a refugee -
the child of a wandering Aramean.

And do not forget that once you were a slave -
a person under hard labour in Egypt.

And do not forget that you, yourself,
have known poverty and hardship,
depending on manna that forms on the ground.
You have benefitted from the gift of daily bread.

That is what God says.

So, let us pray.

Prayer of Approach

Gracious and loving God,
God of an over-flowing heart,
we have sung a song that calls upon all people of Christian faith
to look past the door,
and respond to what we see:

**THE HUNGRY,
THE POOR,
THE MOTHERS TRYING TO FEED THEIR BABIES.**

We have sung of taking up the towel
and the bowl of water,
TO WASH THE FEET OF OUR NEIGHBOURS.

We have sung of turning bombs into bread,
and turning the currency around which our world revolves
INTO LOVE AND KINDNESS.

Would this not be a crazy revolution, O God?
**WE MARVEL AT THE KIND OF WORLD
YOU ENCOURAGE US TO IMAGINE.**

Silence

Just this side of your allowing us to imagine a better world,
we make our confession.

Often our response to need is blame.
Often our response to poverty is resentment.
Often our response to misfortune is a turning away.
We are not sensitive to your injunction
to remember that we ourselves
are beneficiaries of goodness and grace.

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:

God of grace in times of trouble,
God whose Christ lived and moved among the poor,
lifting up their lives,

**GIVE US A PORTION OF HIS SPIRIT,
THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH DEEPER UNDERSTANDING,
GREATER GENEROSITY,
AND A LIVELY DESIRE TO BE KEEPERS
OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.**

For we pray this in the name of Jesus,
whose encouragement 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 United Nations Declaration of Universal Human Rights

Article 25

Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself [sic] and of his [sic] family, including . . . **the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.**

Introduction: Metiria's Mistake

Sermons are posted on our website: <http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/sermons.html>
Hard copies are available – ask the person at the door. A video of this sermon being practised is available from 10:00am today: <https://youtu.be/d5mWnN7pq34>

The First Lesson: John 19: 25b-27

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

At the request of Jesus,

JOHN TOOK MARY INTO HIS HOUSE.

First Reflection: Mary was a widow

Knox Singers: O how amiable
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

The Second Lesson: Acts 2: 43-47

In this is the Word of God.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

A community based on generosity -

HOW EVER WILL THIS WORK?!

Second Reflection: Disbursement Criteria

Hymn:

Servant Song

Richard Gillard (b. 1953)



1. Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace to
let you be my servant too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey,
we are trav'lers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christ light for you
in the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
'till we've seen this journey through.
5. When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.
6. Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Richard Gillard (b. 1953)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Ian Bayliss

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

Taxes are paid by all;

OFFERINGS ARE BROUGHT BY SOME.

If faith has moved us to give more than we need to,
then we are pleased about this.

**BLESS WHAT WE BRING,
THAT IT MIGHT HELP OUR NEIGHBOURS IN NEED,
AND MAKE THE WORLD A MORE GRACIOUS PLACE. AMEN.**

Notices

Hymn:

Laast Uns Erfreuen

from Geistliche Kirchengesäng 1623



1. From all who dwell below the skies,
let the Creator's praise arise;
Hallelujah!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung,
through every land, by every tongue.
Hallelujah!
2. Eternal are your mercies, God,
eternal truth attends your word:
Hallelujah!
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore,
till suns shall rise and set no more.
Hallelujah!

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Bolero di Concert, op. 166
Louis Lefebure-Wely (1817-1869)

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

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Next week

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 his [sic] family, including

. . . access to Health Services



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.

Peace Sundays 2025

It is usual for Peace Sunday to be observed on the Sunday closest to Hiroshima Day (6 August). This year, as I've juggled peace-material for Knox, I've found myself with two Peace Sundays (3 & 10 August).



3 August - Peace Sunday, "It's up to all of us".

A statement from an unnamed Human of New York.

An audience with Barrack Obama
Jesus says the harvest is great, but the labourers are few (Matthew 9: 35-38).
The pre-activism spiritual discipline of praying for labourers.



10 August - After Peace Sunday, "How long, O God?"

The late Peter Matheson calls us to "get on with it" (Judges 6: 11-21), then we stall.
As we long for peace, is there a creative use for the stalling of time?
St Paul floats a theory (Romans 5: 1-5).



NOTICES

This Week: **20 July – 26 July**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
 12.00pm Lunch at Black & White Café
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: **27 July – 2 August**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
 11.30am Shalom
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Recipe books: A generous member of our Knox community has shared with us the magnificent array of recipe books, most in mint condition, which you can see on the table. Please take away as many as you would like.

Shalom - Next Sunday (27 July) the Shalom Group will consider “Whether paying tax should be a Gospel Priority?” Brian Turner will lead the session @ 11.30am in the Lounge. All welcome.

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.

SERENADE TO MUSIC

Toi Toi Opera's 6th Birthday Soirée

Join us and our remarkable patron Patrick Power ONZM as we celebrate Toi Toi Opera's wonderful first six years. An exquisite evening of opera featuring highlights from seasons past, a sneak peek of seasons yet to come, and a rare performance of Ralph Vaughan Williams' shimmering 'Serenade to Music.' Cake will follow in the Atrium, with paid bar service available.

**FRI 1 AUGUST 2025,
7.30PM**

The Philip Carter Family Concert Hall
The Piano: Centre for Music and the Arts
156 Armagh Street | Christchurch
Tickets \$50: toitoiopera.com
All proceeds to support our forthcoming opera seasons.



A statement written by Metiria Turei, MP and co-leader of the Green party of Aotearoa New Zealand; Thursday 20 Jul 2017 - The Guardian

Last weekend I revealed a lie, a lie that I decided to talk about because of the situation we as a society find ourselves in.

I am the co-leader of the Green party of Aotearoa New Zealand – the third biggest political party in our small democracy. We are two months from our general election, and we're in a tight tussle to change the government.



Over the weekend, at our party's AGM, we launched an incomes policy which would create the most significant changes to New Zealand's welfare system in a generation. It's a comprehensive piece of work that rolls back many of the benefit cuts and sanctions that have been put in place by successive governments in New Zealand (some of which are mirrored in other countries).

I decided this weekend I would tell supporters, the media and the country that two decades ago I lied to a government ministry while I was receiving a benefit.

This is why I did it.

I had my daughter, Piupiu, at 22. I was a single, young mum with no formal education qualifications. After she was born, I knew I needed to forge a career for myself so that I could financially support us and give my girl the best life possible. I made the choice to go to law school.

Over five years, I received a training incentive allowance (a benefit that has since been ditched by our current government), as well as a payment for single parents. I also had help from my family, and my daughter's father's family.

Despite all that support, which is much more than many people in similar circumstances have, I did not have enough money to pay the rent and put food on the table. And so, like many – but not all – people faced with that choice, I lied to survive . . .

You can read the rest of Metiria's statement here:

<https://www.theguardian.com/global/commentisfree/2017/jul/20/lie-claim-benefits-mp-tell-you-why-new-zealand>



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- John 5: 2-9a
- John 11: 28-37

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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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