



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

27 July 2025



**4/4 IN A SERIES OF SERVICES ON
UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS**

ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES

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 assistance 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, HEART OF HEALTH AND WHOLENESS;

JESUS, UNTO WHOM THE PEOPLE FLOCKED;

JESUS, A PERSON OF TEARS AND LOVE.

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Angelus

Heilige Seelenlust, Breslau, 1657



1. At even, when the sun was set
the sick, O Lord, around you lay;

O in what divers pains they met,
O with what joy they went away!

2. O Christ, the healer, we have come
to pray for health, to plead for friends.
How can we fail to be restored,
when reached by love that never ends?
3. From every ailment flesh endures
our bodies clamour to be freed;
yet in our hearts we would confess
that wholeness is our deepest need.
4. How strong, O Lord, are our desires,
how weak our knowledge of ourselves!
Release in us those healing truths
unconscious pride resists or shelves.
5. In conflicts that destroy our health
we diagnose the world's disease;
our common life declares our ills:
is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
6. Grant that we all, made one in faith,
in your community may find
the wholeness that, enriching us,
shall reach the whole of humankind.

Verse 1: *Henry Twells (1823-1900)*

Verses 2- 6: *Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)*

Prayer of Approach

The image is
of the evening falling,
**AND GREAT CROWDS OF SICK PEOPLE
GATHERING FOR HEALING.**

The story is
of a quiet Christ
entering the crowd,
finding one person
for whom over a long time
HEALING HAD PROVEN ELUSIVE.

The faith is
that healing waters were not needed,
**BECAUSE THE CHRIST OF GOD
SPOKE A HEALING WORD.**

Silence

The image is of Lazarus dying,
AND GREAT CROWDS COME TO WEEP FOR HIM.

The story is of the late-arriving Christ,
coming to the weeping,
weeping himself,
AND TURNING THE STORY.

The faith is
THAT THIS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Silence

The image is,
the story is,
the faith is . . .

The *question* is
"can this make our world be well?"
CAN THIS MAKE US WELL?

We confess, O God,
that we often rush to the front of queues,
squeezing out those whose needs are greater.

We confess that we think sticking plasters are sufficient for others,
because they are cheap.

We confess that we yet have to be a faith-fed people
who long for the health and wholeness of our neighbours.

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 tears and love,
your Son was a magnet
to those who sought freedom from illness and pain.
With the compassion of a tender heart
he responded well to all
restoring body and soul.

**MAKE US ALSO TO BE A PEOPLE OF TEARS AND LOVE,
THAT ALL WHO COME IN HOPE AND FAITH
MAY FIND IN US
A HEALING WARMTH AND WELCOME.**

For we pray this,
even as Jesus taught us to, 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.

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 . . . **medical care.**

A First-World story of a broken arm

Sermons are posted on the sermon page of our website. 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/ZNeCt5Fi_NQ

Lesson: John 5: 2-9a

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

There's a bottle-neck at the pool.

DO YOU WANT TO BE MADE WELL?

Reflection: Who put all those sick people there?

Music for Reflection: Aria
Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

Lesson: John 11: 28-37

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Lazarus has died;

DROP, DROP, SLOW TEARS.

Reflection: Tears and love

Hymn:

God weeps

Jim Strathdee (b. 1941)



1. God weeps
at love withheld,

- at strength misused,
at children's innocence abused,
and till we change the way we love,
God weeps.
2. God bleeds
at anger's fist,
at trust betrayed,
at women battered and afraid,
and till we change the way we win,
God bleeds.
3. God cries
at hungry mouths,
at running sores,
at creatures dying without cause,
and till we change the way we care,
God cries.
4. God waits
for stones to melt,
for peace to seed,
for hearts to hold each other's need,
and till we understand the Christ,
God waits.

Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Josiah Tualamali'i

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

If what we bring this morning might bring wellness,
hope or healing,

THEN WE ARE PLEASED TO OFFER IT.

If what we bring this morning
might be tears and love
upon that which the Spirit has planted,

THEN WE DEDICATE IT WITHOUT RESERVATION.

Bless us, and all people of faith,
to delve into our tears and love,
and offer what is right,
FOR THE SAKE OF JESUS CHRIST,
AMEN.

Notices

Hymn:

Hyfrydol

Rowland Huw Prichard (1811-1887)



1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.
2. Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave:
thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.
3. Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be,
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Prelude and Fugue in F
Vincent Lubeck (1654-1740)

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

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NOTICES

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

Next Week: **3 August – 9 August**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Shalom - 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.

Mediation Time for You: Saturday 2 August 10.00am - 10.40am in Knox Chapel. See you there. Contact Bobbi Laing - phone number held in the office.

Changes to how Knox documents work - For cyber-security purposes, none of the links in Knox documents are "one click" hyperlinks anymore. If you want to access the "linked" material, you will need to cut and paste into your browser the text that sits where the links used to be.

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.

August Services

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), either side of the 6th.



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).

We welcome a guest choir directed by Charlie Woods.



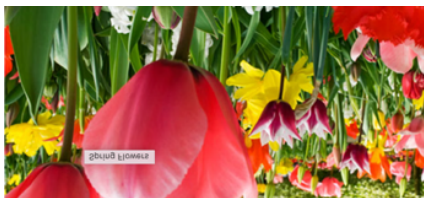
17 August - Swashbuckling and love.

The Book of Hebrews presents an inspiring cast list of heroes and heroines of the faith, swinging on trapezes and doing fabulous deeds, but Jesus says that we shall be known as his disciples by our love for one another. In a spectacle-hungry time, that calls for Christian witness, what do we need to cultivate?



24 August - A meditation on compassion.

We welcome "Resolutions", a choir from Rangiora Girls' School. In Luke 13 10-17, we witness Jesus challenging a crowd to adopt a new set of priorities based around mercy.



31 August - Spring Flower Sunday.

We'll distribute flowers and greeting cards around our community.

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.



The Bethesda Pool,

where Jesus heals the paralytic man in the Gospel of John, is a complex site. It appears to have been a *mikveh*, or ritual bath.

As the spot of one of Jesus' miracles, the Bethesda Pool was built over in subsequent periods with chapels and churches that are still visible today.



The Bible reading for next week will be:

- Matthew 9: 35-38

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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