



# KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service

3 August 2025



# PEACE 1

## "IT'S UP TO ALL OF US"

A COMMUNION SERVICE  
ON PEACE SUNDAY

## 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.

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, WHO LOOKED UPON THE PEOPLE WITH COMPASSION;  
JESUS, WHO CALLED HIS DISCIPLES TO JOIN IN HIS WORK;  
JESUS, WHOSE WILL FOR THE WORLD IS PEACE.**

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

**MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.**

### Hymn:

Old 100<sup>th</sup>

Melody from Genevan Psalter 1551



1. All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing out your faith with cheerful voice:  
delight in God whose praise you tell;  
whose presence calls you to rejoice.
2. Enter the sacred gates with praise,  
with joy approach the temple walls;  
extol and bless our God always,  
as people whom the Spirit calls.
3. Proclaim again that God is good;  
whose mercy is for ever sure;  
whose truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall from age to age endure.

*William Kethe (d.1594) alt.*

### **Prayer of Approach**

"It is up to all of us . . ."

All people who dwell upon this earth have a song to sing,  
a delighting presence to bring.

**IT IS UP TO ALL OF US.**

All people who dwell upon this earth have a place in our common home,  
blessed together,  
imperilled together,  
called together.

**IT IS UP TO ALL OF US.**

All people who dwell upon this earth are fed by the same earth,  
are given the twenty-four hours of this day.

**IT IS UP TO ALL OF US.**

On this Peace Sunday,  
we will consider the daunting scale  
of the task given to each one of us -  
to work for the peace of this world we share.

**IT IS UP TO ALL OF US.**

Because often we shrink from this task,  
and often we forget that we are not alone  
(forgetting the brothers and sisters who labour with us in good faith),  
we may find ourselves wanting to confess:  
our acquiescing to injustice,  
our fear of the tin gods of our time,  
our melting into our couches.

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:**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you looked upon the people of your world  
and saw in them a flock harassed and helpless.  
It moved you to compassion.  
**AS WE LOOK UPON THE PEOPLES OF OUR WORLD,  
WE ARE DAUNTED BY THEIR NEED OF PEACE.**

Help us take our part  
in the building up of the labour force  
that will labour for peace in the world,  
**TO THE RELIEF AND LIBERATION OF ALL PEOPLE,**  
for we pray it in your name,  
**AMEN.**

### **The Notices**

**A Comment:** A human of New York considers the scale of the problem

**An Audio Clip:** Former United States President, Barrack Obama,  
speaks to an audience at Hamilton College, New York State,  
3 April 2025.

**Knox Singers:** O for the wings of a dove  
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847),  
Soloist: Elizabeth Christensen

**The Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 9: 35-38

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

The harvest is great; but the labourers are few;  
**THEREFORE ASK THE LORD OF THE HARVEST  
TO SEND MORE LABOURERS.**

## **Sermon:**

Praying for labourers

*Generally, sermons are posted on the sermon page of our website shortly after the service. 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/QNOG\\_NvzbJk](https://youtu.be/QNOG_NvzbJk)*

## **Prayers for Others and Ourselves**

To the minister's words "In your compassion",  
you are invited to respond "**CALL US TO THE HARVEST**".

**. . . 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:

St Columba

Irish traditional hymn melody



1. Put peace into each other's hands  
and like a treasure hold it;  
protect it like a candle flame,  
with tenderness enfold it.
2. Put peace into each other's hands  
with loving expectation;  
be gentle in your words and ways,  
in touch with God's creation.
3. Put peace into each other's hands  
like bread we break for sharing;  
look people warmly in the eye:  
our life is meant for caring.
4. Put peace into each other's hands  
he is love's deepest measure;  
in love make peace, give peace a chance  
and share it like a treasure.

*Fred Kaan (1929-2009)*

*We sit for*

**The Invitation** and **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:**

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 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.
3. 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:** The peace may be exchanged  
from "Rubrics", Dan Locklair (b.1949)

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

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# **NOTICES**

## **This Week:**

Sunday

## **3 August – 9 August**

10.00am

Morning Worship

4.00pm

Film Group – Sione's Wedding

Wednesday

10.00am

Bible Study



**Next Week: 10 August – 16 August**  
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship  
11.30am Shalom  
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

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

**Sunday 3 August at 4pm in the lounge: Film Group** - In honour of our TAT neighbours, the film is **SIONE'S WEDDING** (2006). It is a delightful, funny and energetic film about a young man who is getting married but there are problems with his best mates. Set in Auckland and is a great Kiwi comedy.

**Sunday lunch 17 Aug** – 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.

## A Second Peace Sunday

While it is usual for Peace Sunday to be observed on a single day (the Sunday closest to Hiroshima Day - 6 August), this year I'm pursuing the "peace theme" into a second Sunday - next week.



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

The late Peter Matheson calls us to "wake from our sleep" (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).

**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](mailto:office@knoxchurch.co.nz) ph: 379 2456.**



MODERATOR'S  
MESSAGE 2025  
3 AUGUST

# PEACE SUNDAY

## ***Peace Sunday, 3 August***

About 10 years ago I sat in a hotel in Waimate having lunch with my mother who had worked in the town during the war years. She told me that this particular hotel had been at the centre of the street party celebrations when the end of WW2 was announced. She described the day and how they could hardly believe it, and the outpouring of relief and joy that came as that small town at the bottom of the world reacted to the thought of peace, after so many years of war and the devastation and grief that came with it. And we can only try and imagine how the news reverberated the world over, especially in the lands in which war and horror were a daily experience.

Peace...

Of course, not long before that, on 6 August, there was the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, with tens of thousands of people killed and then thousands more dying later of radiation poisoning. Horrific. Devastating. Unprecedented. And this Peace Sunday date is intentionally chosen to coincide with this anniversary.

Peace...at what cost...

In essence, Peace Sunday serves as a powerful reminder of the devastating consequences of war and violence, and a call to action for individuals and communities to work towards a more peaceful and just world. We also acknowledge the inter-generational trauma that comes for those who have experienced such horror, and how the effects of it continue to impact families and our societies. At this time in the life of our world, when we look at the carnage, inhumanity and violence all around, how desperately we need peace... a just peace.

We run with longing to embrace peace - yet maintaining a true and just peace is no soft option.

Today we are no longer reliant on radio and newspapers as my mother was, our many devices and social media bring war zones and sites of conflict before us wherever we are switched on and at any time of the day - we hear and see terrible accounts of death and suffering. It can be overwhelming, yet we do not want to turn our backs on those enduring horrors in the Israel-Hamas war; Russia Ukraine war; Thailand Cambodia conflict; civil wars in Myanmar; Sudan; Ethiopia; Syria; Yemen and many other places across the globe. It is confronting, but we can and do find ways to seek out the truth, to be informed and aware, and help in whatever small way we can to promote peace.

I am reminded of the words of the Trappist monk, Thomas Merton:

*"Peace demands the most heroic labour  
and the most difficult sacrifice  
It demands greater heroism than war  
It demands greater fidelity to the truth and  
a much more perfect purity of conscience."  
[From *The Nonviolent Alternative*.]*

We speak of Jesus as the 'prince of peace' and also recall his words from John 14: 27:

*"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."*

As followers of Jesus, we are called to walk in the ways of peace. To be bearers of that peace that Jesus gives. This is necessary, demanding, challenging and ongoing.

Let us take up the challenge to work towards peace, not just on Peace Sunday, but always.

Grace and peace

Rose

***Right Rev Rose Luxford***

Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

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Presbyterian Church  
of Aotearoa New Zealand



### The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Judges 6: 11-21
- Romans 5: 1-5

## 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?

Name:

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