



# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service

10 August 2025

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Peter Matheson, late of Ōtepoti

# PEACE 2

## HOW LONG, O GOD?

## 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, CALLING KNOWLEDGE AND PEACE TO WALK AS ONE;  
JESUS, WHOSE PROGRESS IN OUR LIVES SOMETIMES IS HIDDEN;  
JESUS, WHOSE KINGDOM FLAGS ALREADY ARE ON OUR HILLS.**

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

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

### Hymn:

Irish

From Collection of Hymns and Sacred Poems, Dublin, 1749



1. "Your kingdom come!" - on bended knee  
the passing ages pray;  
and faithful souls have yearned to see  
on earth that kingdom's day.
2. But the slow watches of the night  
not less to God belong;  
and for the everlasting right  
the silent stars are strong.
3. And lo! already on the hills  
the flags of dawn appear;  
gird up yourselves, you prophet souls,  
proclaim the day is near:
4. The day in whose clear shining light  
all wrong shall stand revealed,  
when justice shall be throned with might,  
and every hurt be healed:
5. When knowledge, hand in hand with peace,  
shall walk the earth abroad, -  
the day of perfect righteousness,  
the promised day of God.

*Frederick Lucian Hosmer (1840-1929)*

### **Prayer of Approach**

Hope calls us to pray,  
dear God of promise and vision,  
**YOUR KINGDOM COME.**

Hope calls us to pray,  
and bolsters us with the idea  
that the flags of dawn already have appeared on the hills,  
**PROCLAIMING THAT THE DAY IS NEAR.**

Flags say  
it won't be long -  
peace is coming;  
**ALL SHALL BE WELL.**

Well, from our place in the world,  
we have our Port Hills.  
We have our Southern Alps.  
They've had their scattering of snow.  
**BUT WHERE HAVE BEEN THE FLAGS OF DAWN?**

Today, we join those of the long-suffering faithful,  
who have looked to you  
for your reign to emerge,  
and for justice, peace and love to prevail.

How long, O God?

**HOW LONG?**

The vision is clear,  
**BUT THE PROGRESS IS SLOW.**

We make our confession:  
When affliction has come upon us,  
we have not responded with endurance or character.  
We have either withered and died,  
or become violent.

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:**

O God, whose Son Jesus,  
in his quest for freedom and peace for the people,  
met many set-backs and barriers,  
yet remained faithful to the end,

**GIVE US A PORTION OF HIS SPIRIT,  
THAT WE MIGHT TURN AFFLICTION INTO ENDURANCE,  
ENDURANCE INTO CHARACTER,  
AND CHARACTER INTO HOPE,**

for we pray this in the name of Jesus,  
who taught us together to pray, 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.*

**Background:** Peter preached

**The First Lesson:** Judges 6: 11-21

In this is the Word of God  
**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

**An Audio Clip:** The late Reverend Emeritus Professor, Dr Peter Matheson, speaks to an ecumenical congregation at Ōtautahi Christchurch Anglican Cathedral, on Peace Sunday, 1990.

**Short Comment:** 35 years

**Music for Reflection:** Fantasia  
John Ambrose (1520-1545)

**The Second Lesson:** Romans 5: 1-5

In this is the Word of God  
**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

**Sermon:** Creative impatience?

*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/5tX5nqzNPBE>*

## Hymn:

Slane

Irish traditional melody



1. Be now my vision, O God of my heart,  
nothing surpasses the love you impart -  
you my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, your presence my light.
2. Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;  
ever within me, my soul is assured;  
Mother and Father, you are both to me;  
now and forever your child I will be.
3. Be my protection, my inspiring light,  
giving me dignity, and great delight;  
be my soul's shelter, my strong highest tower:  
raising me heav'nward, O Power of my power.
4. Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,  
you my inheritance, now and always:  
you and you only are first in my heart,  
great God, my treasure, may we never part.
5. Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

*Irish hymn dating from c. 8th cent*

*Translated: Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931)*

*Versified: Eleanor Henrietta Hull (1860-1935), adapt.*

## Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*led by Len Pierce*

### The Offering and Dedication

*We stand for the dedication of the Offering*

We offer not only food and money,

**BUT ALSO ENDURANCE,  
CHARACTER AND HOPE.**

Grow our capacity, O God,  
to offer such things,  
**TO THE BLESSING OF THE WORLD.**  
**AMEN.**

## Notices

### Hymn:

Thaxted

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)



1. O God beyond all praising, we worship you today  
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;  
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,  
at blessings without number and mercies without end:  
we lift our hearts before you and act upon your word,  
we honour and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.
2. Then hear, O gracious Saviour, accept the love we bring,  
that we who know your favour may serve you as our king;  
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,  
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:  
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,  
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

*Michael Perry (1942-1996)*

## Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Allabreve in D, BWV589  
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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

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## NOTICES

### **This Week: 3 August – 9 August**

Sunday	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

**Congregational Meeting** – A meeting to present the 2025-2026 Knox budget will be held immediately after the morning service on Sunday 17 August 2025. Copies of the budget are now available to the congregation and a hard copy can be found at each entrance to the Church.

**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.

**Shalom** - Today's Shalom topic is on the use of fossil fuels as our main energy source. Due to the impact on climate change how to transition from this. All welcome.

**Spring Flower Sunday August 31** - To celebrate Spring it is intended to deliver small bunches of Spring flowers to our shut in and older Senior members after the service. Would you let Jennifer McKinnon know if you are able to bring Spring flowers already bunched for distribution. Also needed will be volunteers to deliver the flowers. This is an opportunity to connect with other church people.

**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**





## Emile Donovan's interview

with Peter Dunne about Tanya Unkovich and political principle (mentioned in the sermon) is at:



<https://www.rnz.co.nz/search/results?q=emile+Donovan+peter+dunne&commit=Search>

### **Peace Question: Unless we find another way, how are we going to get over this?**



Last week, Israeli forces reduced my family house to dust. What once stood as a warm shelter filled with life, laughter, and generations of memories is now a pile of shattered concrete and twisted metal. This wasn't just a building. It was where my first steps echoed on tiled floors, where my mother's cooking filled every corner with comfort, where my siblings and I whispered dreams under candlelight when the power was out.

It held the scent of jasmine in spring, the sound of our grandparents' prayers at dawn, and the worn-out

doorknob we never replaced because it reminded us of our childhood games. Every room held a chapter of our lives now erased in seconds by a missile.

This house was more than bricks. It was our legacy. Our history. Our safety. A place we always returned to, no matter how far life took us. But now it's gone.

We did not build this home with weapons. We built it with love, sweat, and hope. We did not threaten anyone. We simply existed, and for that we were punished.

To the world: Please don't look away. We are not numbers. We are not headlines. We are families, hearts, and dreams turned to ashes. Our home may be destroyed, but our spirit remains. And from the ruins, we will continue to speak — until justice hears us.



**You are Invited by West Papua Action  
Canterbury to a:**

## **FILM EVENING**

# **FEATURING THE LAND & OTHER STRUGGLES OF WEST PAPUANS**

**Friday 15 August, 5.30 pm for 6 pm**

**Aldersgate Centre**

**Cnr Chester St West & Durham Street**

*(Free parking available at Aldersgate Centre, access from Chester St West)*

**5.30 pm Soup & buns**

**6.00 pm films & discussion on West Papua**

**Koha please to support:**

## **'Papuan Doctors Without Borders'**

**These are medical practitioners providing free help to Papuans in need**



**Organised by: West Papua Action Canterbury**

**Coordinator: Brian Turner - 021 129 4305 / [bhturner41@gmail.com](mailto:bhturner41@gmail.com)**





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

- Hebrews 11:29 - 12:2
- John 13: 31-35

## 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:

Address:

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