

KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

17 August 2025



SWASHBUCKLING

"engaging in daring and romantic adventures with bravado or flamboyance"

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 assistance by Artificial Intelligence.

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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.

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

The Greeting

An Introit: Lord, we beseech thee

Adrian Batten (1591-1637)

The Call to Worship:

We light a candle in the name of Jesus Christ, a light in the world. **JESUS, THROWING HIMSELF INTO THE ADVENTURE OF LIFE**;

JESUS, CHRIST OF COURAGE, DEPTH AND PRINCIPLE;

JESUS, BRAVE, WONDERFUL AND TRUE!

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.





- Your hand, O God has guided your flock from age to age; the wondrous tale is written, full clear, on every page; your people owned your goodness, and we their deeds record; and both of this bear witness, one Church, one Faith, one Lord.
- 2. Your heralds brought glad tidings to greatest, as to least; they bade them rise, and hasten to share the great King's feast; and this was all their teaching, in every deed and word, to all alike proclaiming: one Church, one Faith, one Lord.
- 3. Through many a day of darkness, through many a scene of strife, the faithful few lived bravely to guard the gospel's life.

 Their gospel of redemption, sin pardoned, life restored, was all in this enfolded: one Church, one Faith, one Lord.
- 4. Your mercy will not fail us, nor leave your work undone; with your right hand to help us, your victory shall be won; and then, by all creation, your name shall be adored, and this shall be our anthem, one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Edward Hayes Plumptre (1821-1891) alt.

Prayer of Approach

It is indeed a wondrous tale, stretching through the ages, of deeds of faith and courage. IT IS AN INSPIRATION.

It is indeed a prevailing against the strife, a pushing back of darkness, a glad tiding bringing strength to the arm. IT IS A STIRRING OF THE HEART.

And generation by generation it's done by ordinary people, caught by the Christ flame, fired to do remarkable things.

AS THEY ARE EMBOLDENED, WE ARE ENCOURAGED.

And so, mentored by the story, we now take *our* place within the song of the bold and brave: **ONE CHURCH, ONE FAITH, ONE LORD.**

Silence

Is there now, though, O God, a hesitation?

Do we feel, perhaps, a seed of impostor syndrome?

For we have not crossed the Red Sea.

We have not beaten back Philistines with the jawbone of an ass.

Sometimes we feel that we haven't even believed.

Pause

Being a bit close to our insecurities, a bit "immediately acquainted" with our failings, we shrink back a bit, and say,

Lord have mercy.

CHRIST HAVE MERCY.

Lord have mercy.

Assurance and Response

You are forgiven and you are free. THANKS BE TO GOD.

The Theme Prayer:

God of the great cloud of witnesses, in every age you have called people through Christ, and gifted them to serve not just with faith, but also with a love that mends the world.

LIBERATE US FROM OUR FEAR OF FAILING.
ASSURE US THAT SMALL DEEDS CAN SERVE GREAT PURPOSE,
AND MAKE US A PEOPLE OF YOUR TRANSFORMING LOVE.

For 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.

An Introduction: Influencers and Mentors

The First Lesson: Hebrews 11:29 - 12:2

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

Reflection: Heroes and heroines

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 this sermon being practised is available from 10:00am today: https://youtu.be/17HtaF2bKb8

Knox Singers: The Lord is my shepherd

Howard Goodall (b. 1958)

The Gospel Lesson: John 13: 31-35

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Reflection: Was Jesus a Swashbuckler?

Hymn:



- If one could speak the very words of angels, yet not in love that eloquence declare, then all our words, like sounding brass and cymbals, discordantly would jangle in the air.
- If all our words drew power and inspiration, and if our faith could make the mountains move, if we could know the secrets of creation, it would be nothing if we have no love.
- 3. For love is patient, kind and undemanding, forsaking wrong, rejoicing in the truth. While passing is the gift of understanding, love is triumphant in eternal youth.

4. Now all we see in shadows dimly casting — the fleeting glimpses of the world to be: though faith and hope are prophecy outlasting, love is the greatest, ever, of the three.

Peter Haskins (b. 1948) Based on 1 Corinthians 13

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Murray Winn

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

Food we offer

FOR THE COMPLETING OF THE TABLE.

Money we offer

FOR THE MAKING OF GOOD THINGS TO HAPPEN.

Love we offer

FOR THE FULFILMENT OF HUMANITY.

Bless all that is offered, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, WHOSE LOVE IS GREAT, AMEN.

Notices



 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: Lobe den Herren, o meine Seele

Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)



NOTICES

This Week: 17 August – 23 August

Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship

Wednesday 10.00 am Bible Study

Next Week: 24 August - 30 August

Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship

11.30am Shalom

Wednesday 10.00 am 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.

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.

Spring edition of Knox Life – Any material for inclusion of the next Knox Life please forward to the office. Knox Life will next be published in September. office@knoxchurch.co.nz

HINEWAI REFLECTIONS - The artwork of Hugh Wilson - Orders are being taken for a 300 page book featuring 170 artworks of birds and plants by Hugh Wilson. Published on fine quality paper, the book includes Hugh's informative and anecdotal comments on each drawing. Profits from sales will go to support Hinewai Reserve, the wonderful area of native bush above Akaroa, where Hugh is the manager. Hugh grew up in Knox Church as his father, Mac Wilson, was a much loved minister here. Hugh is a hugely respected botanist (with several botanical books to his name), as well as an accomplished artist and he has a quirky, humorous way with words. The book is being edited by the writer Sarah Quigley, who is Hugh's niece, and it will be a high quality production. It will be available early next year and advance orders are requested in order to determine the print run. Price will be \$80 which includes packing and postage within NZ. Order forms and payment details are available in the foyer entrance to the church. As only one print run is envisaged this is probably your only opportunity to purchase this wonderfully original book



Calling all Christian Authors & Scribes

Date: Saturday, 30th August 2025
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Venue: Dawn's place – 338 Marine Parade, New Brighton, Christchurch
RSVP by Friday, 22nd August to: verna.mcfelin@gmail.com

Let's gather to inspire one another, share our writing, and honour God with our words.





Christchurch City Choir presents A Night at the Opera, Saturday 23 August, 7.30pm at The Piano. Featuring soloists Rebecca Ryan (soprano) and Kieran Kelly (baritone), conducted by Dr John Linker. An evening of drama, beauty, and timeless melodies,

featuring a rich and varied programme from **Purcell** to **Verdi**, **Mozart** to **Lloyd Webber**, this concert showcases beloved choruses and arias from the operatic and theatrical stage, including **Va pensiero**, the **Queen of the Night** aria, and **Music of the Night** from **Phantom of the Opera**. With talented soloists and dazzling piano accompaniment, this performance promises soaring voices, unforgettable music, and the full spectacle of operatic emotion.



This charity auction has a dress code, and tickets are required. Details can be found on the poster displayed in the Knox Centre foyer.



The Bible readings for next week will be:

Psalm 103: 1-8Luke 13: 10-17

Knox Directory

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Keeping in Touch

Would you like to give our office your contact details so that we can send y	/ou
our quarterly magazine and other Knox communications?	

Name:		
Address:		
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Email:		