



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

7 September 2025



THE AXOLOTL DOES NOT SCAR

the first service in a series of four for the Season of Creation (the animals)

A COMMUNION SERVICE

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, WHOSE HEAD ONCE WAS ONCE CROWNED WITH THORNS;
JESUS, RECEIVING A BRAVE NEW CORONATION;
JESUS, PRESENTING HIMSELF TO HIS OWN, WITH SCARS INCLUDED.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

St Magnus

probably by Jeremiah Clarke (c.1673-1707)



1. The head that once was crowned with thorns
is crowned with glory now;
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty Victor's brow.
2. The highest place that heav'n affords
is his, is his by right,
the Name of names and risen One,
and heav'n's eternal Light:
3. The joy of all who dwell above,
the joy of all below,
to whom he manifests his love,
and grants his name to know.
4. To them the cross, with all its shame,
with all its grace, is giv'n;
their name an everlasting name,
their joy the joy of heav'n.
5. They suffer with the Lord below,
they reign with him above;
their profit and their joy to know
the myst'ry of his love.
6. The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him;
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme.

Thomas Kelly (1769-1855)

Prayer of Approach

We sing, O God,
of a head that once was wounded,
and which in the realm of Christian imagination
now is found in totally a different state -
no longer crowned with injury,
but with a sacrifice-informed wisdom that informs our life.

**GOD OF SCARS AND HEALING,
HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

We sing of a Christ who gathered scars, and stories through the scars,
and prayers, and hopes for things better still to come.

**GOD OF SCARS AND HEALING,
HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Now into our picture comes an animal most curious -
the axolotl.

It has a winsome smile -
and when it loses an important limb,
it just grows another.

No drama,
no record of the past -
it just grows another.

**GOD OF SCARS AND HEALING,
HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

This morning, most gentle and knowing God,
we will ponder the gifts of the axolotl -
her invitation to us to consider how not to grow old scars,
but to grow new capacities instead.

**GOD OF SCARS AND HEALING,
HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Alongside this, though,
we feel we must frame our confession:
we foster our scars,
we nurture them.
We feed them with visions of those whom we resent.
And sometimes,
when opportunities to heal present themselves,
we turn slightly away,
busy with our building of scars.

. . . 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, whose pleasure it was
to join us in our "here and now"
through Jesus from Nazareth;
on his way through his interaction with us
he picked up many bruises and scars.

**SAVE US FROM TURNING OUR SCARS INTO UGLINESS,
OUR BATTLE MARKS INTO CANCERS,
AND OUR HEALING MOMENTS INTO ENDS THAT ARE DEAD.**

Help us in our playful engagement with the idea of the axolotl,
**THAT WE MIGHT RISE FROM HERE,
HOPEFUL TO GROW NEW THINGS.
AMEN.**

The Notices

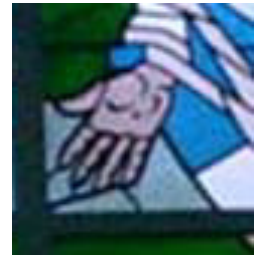
An Introduction: The axolotl grows new parts

The Gospel Lesson: John 20: 19-20, 24-28

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

Reflection: He showed them his hands and side

Generally, sermons are posted on our website's sermon page 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/_1V4_YQBNxU



Meditation: The wounds of Takapuna



Music for Reflection: Voluntary in A minor
Thomas Weelkes (1576-1623)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

To the minister's words "Injuries and scars",
you are invited to respond "**HOPE AND NEW CAPACITY**".

. . . **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:

Abbots Leigh

Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991)



1. Healing river of the Spirit,
bathe the wounds that living brings.
Plunge our pain, our sin, our sadness
deep beneath your healing springs.
Weary from the restless searching
that has lured us from your side,
we discover in your presence
peace the world cannot provide.
2. Wellspring of the healing Spirit,
stream that flows to bring release,
as we gain our selves, our senses,
may our lives reflect your peace.
Grateful for the flood that heals us,
may your Church live out your grace.
As we meet both friend and stranger,
may we see our Saviour's face.
3. Living stream that heals the nations,
make us channels of your power.
All the world is torn by conflict;
wars are raging at this hour.
Saving Spirit, move among us;
guide our winding human course,
till we find our way together,
flowing homeward to our Source.

Ruth Duck (1947-2024)

We sit for

The Invitation, 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:

Diademata

George J. Elvey (1816-1893)



1. Crown with your richest crowns the Christ upon the throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of Christ who rose for you,
and to your risen Saviour bring your thanks for life made new.
2. Crown Christ whose love has flowed down hands and feet and side.
Look past the peak of Calvary's road to Christ the glorified.
The sun that lights the sky is pale before that sight.
At prayer we glimpse then turn the eye from mysteries so bright.
3. Crown Christ who rules in peace, whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise;
Christ's reign shall have no end, for 'round those wounded feet
a fragrant garden shall extend forever green and sweet.
4. Crown Christ who holds the years, embracing space and time,
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime:
all hail, Redeemer, hail, for your great love for me;
your praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

Matthew Bridges (1800-1894) and Godfrey Thring (1823-1903) alt.

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Wir glauben all' in einen Gott, BWV 680
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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

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NOTICES

This Week: 07 September – 13 September

Sunday	10.00am	Morning Worship
	4.00pm	Film Group
Wednesday	10.00am	Bible Study

Next Week: 14 September – 20 September

Sunday	10.00am	Morning Worship
	11.30am	Shalom
Wednesday	10.00am	Bible Study

Linda and Norman will be away from 1-13 September. We are going to Cairo to see my brother and family. Colin is seriously ill with liver cancer. We would appreciate your prayers and thoughts. Many thanks.

Film Group: Sunday 7 September, 4pm in the Lounge - 2025 marks 250 years since Jane Austen was born. In honour of this, our September film is **Persuasion** (2007). The main character, Anne Elliot, is considered to be the closest character to resemble Jane herself. The acting is fabulous and the film is very moving.

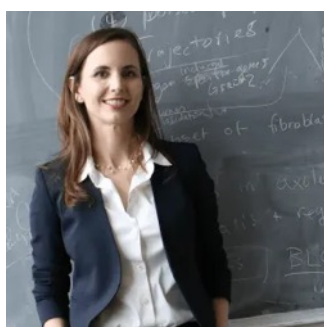
Shalom (14 September) - Janet Wilson will review a book (or 2) and then, as a group, we will check out the extensive Knox library. Please come and join us in the Lounge at 11.30am.

Sunday lunch 21 Sep – 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.

Bus Trip - Another bus trip is being planned for Thursday 18 September. We'll go to Lyttelton this time, catching the Number 1 bus from close to Knox in Victoria Street, then transferring to Number 8 at the bus exchange. We'll leave the bus close to London Street, the main shopping area in Lyttelton, and find a cafe to have a coffee/lunch together. Feel free to look at the shops before heading down to Norwich Quay to catch a bus back to the bus exchange again, and then a Number 1 back to Victoria Street. Both buses run frequently - about every 15 minutes. Meet at Knox at 10.15am to catch the bus around the corner in Victoria

Street at about 10.27am. Janet Wilson - NB: This trip does involve a little walking down hill to get the bus back to town with Lyttelton being perched, as it is, on the hillside.

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.



Jessica Whited

Associate Professor
of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology
at Harvard University

Te Reo Irirangi o Aotearoa's interview with Professor
Whited, can be heard at

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/saturday/audio/2018987570/axolotls-lending-a-hand-to-human-limb-regeneration>

A PIANO LOOKS FOR A GOOD HOME

Hello Knox Community,

This piano has been part of our family for generations. It originally belonged to my grandparents, Massey and Myrtle Clapp, who were faithful Knox parishioners in the 1950s–1970s, and later to my aunt Lynn Wright. Since then, it has been lovingly cared for by various members of our family.

The instrument is now ready for a new home, and we wondered if someone in the Knox community might like to have it. In exchange, we would be grateful for a donation towards the Knox Choir, a group very close to my grandfather's heart.

Thank you - Liza Sparrow. Anyone interested can contact the office for more details.



The Season of Creation, 2025

7 September The Axolotl



The axolotl has piqued the curiosity of medical researchers because it has the capacity to grow new body parts. Seemingly, a major part of how it does this is to avoid growing scar tissue. What is the place of the scar in Christian spirituality? Does any of us not actually have one kind of scar? Are some scars beautiful? Or, inspired by the axolotl, what new thing ought we to seek to grow, instead of our familiar scars? What might the new limb do?

14 September The Octopus



Recently, it has been discovered that octopuses are more intelligent than previously had been appreciated. In light of this, calls have been made for greater octopus care and management. While recognition of intelligence, and a commensurate recognition of new responsibility for welfare seems good, does our emphasis on intelligence reveal some of our blind spots re. other important aspects of living things? Is intelligence the only thing to be valued? How to approach the "dumb" octopus.

21 September Blessing of the Animals



In our annual service of the blessing of the animals, we include the industrial animals who serve our economy well, but also the animals at home who teach us much about love. We'll do an audit of which animals are most economically productive, and why we persist in caring for those who are "unproductive".

Photos of pets who can't be with us on the day (either because they like to be at home, or because they're not with us anymore, **can be sent to the office by 12:00 noon on Wednesday 17 September.**

28 September The Kennel



The kennel becomes a motif for a "home for the animals". We'll look at how the degradation of various delicate environments has affected the welfare of vulnerable species, and we'll revisit the idea of human dominion that sits on the edge of the Creation. What responsibility do human beings have to preserve a home for the non-human animals of the world? What do we let slip in the phrase "dog house"?



When I was a volunteer walk-about guide at Orana Wildlife Park (2014-2019), it was my job to encourage members of the public to move around the park in coordination with the "talks" and "feeding demonstrations" that occurred. The schedule left little time for getting from the thrilling feeding of the lions to the super-popular public hand-feeding of the giraffes. Between the lion enclosure and the giraffe platform was the yak enclosure. Pressed for time, people rarely stopped to enjoy the yaks. The yaks, to their blame I suppose, hardly did anything to arrest the attention of those who rushed by. They made no noise, and tended just to stand there on their large, featureless hillside (a perfect recreation of their natural home). In the "public excitement" stakes, yaks under-performed hugely.

I found out many endearing facts (if not exciting facts) about yaks, and developed a lightning quick address called "Matt's Yak Chat". It developed a sort of cult following among the staff, but never received massive support from the public. Domestic cows (which don't set the room on fire) are bigger than yaks. They're noisier than yaks. In this economy, they're more relevant than yaks. In *their* home environment, though, yaks are race horses. They're cleverly designed for their cold and high altitude environment. Yaks make pooh that can be burned in yurts and keep people from dying of cold. Though "boring", yaks are brilliant.

To my lover: Lions and giraffes are exciting, but yaks are strangely satisfying.

To my God: Help us not be so quick to the excitement, that we miss the cool.

2 pm Sunday 7 September 2025

(till approx 3 pm)

Christchurch Choral Festival

Church Choirs Community Choirs

Youth Choirs Concert Choirs

***a concert celebrating
joy in singing together***



FREE CONCERT!

All Welcome!

Catholic Pro-Cathedral

373 Manchester Street, Christchurch

The St. Albans Community Choir

~ together with guests ~

under the direction of Heather Gladstone QSM

~ and ~

The Christchurch Accordion Orchestra

under the direction of David Thorne

Invite you to join us for

Kilts, Celts and More

Sunday 21st September at 5.00pm

**St. Paul's Parish Church
1 Harewood Road, Christchurch**

All welcome - Admission by donation

**A light supper will be served
at the conclusion of the concert**

For enquiries contact: Heather 021 644 092 or John 027 484 9109

Printing proudly supported by ~~Harcourts~~ gold Parklands



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Psalm 139: 13-17
- 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

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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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