



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

14 September 2025



THE OCTOPUS

- FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE -

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

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.

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.

Today we welcome Micah Yang, who is filling in for Jeremy. Welcome, Micah!

The Call to Worship:

We light a candle in the name of Jesus Christ, a light in the world.

JESUS, WHOSE WILL WAS TO DO THE WORK OF GOD;

JESUS, WHOSE MIND WAS SHARP AND CREATIVE;

JESUS, WHOSE HEART WAS FOR THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE.

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Slane

Irish Traditional Melody



1. Lord of creation, to you be all praise!
Most mighty your working, most wondrous your ways!
Your glory and might are beyond us to tell,
and yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.
2. Lord of all power, I give you my will,
in joyful obedience your tasks to fulfill.
Your bondage is freedom; your service is song;
and, held in your keeping, my weakness is strong.
3. Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind,
rich truth that surpasses our knowledge to find;
what eye has not seen and what ear has not heard
is taught by your Spirit and shines from your word.
4. Lord of all bounty, I give you my heart;
I praise and adore you for all you impart,
your love to inspire me, your counsel to guide,
your presence to shield me, whatever betide.
5. Lord of all being, I give you my all;
if e'er I disown you, I stumble and fall;
but, led in your service your word to obey,
I'll walk in your freedom to the end of the way.

Jack Copley Winslow (1882-1974)

Prayer of Approach

God of creation,
were we to find ourselves in some battle of wills
with that man who came from Nazareth,
we know how it would go.
In submitting his will to your will,
HE FOUND SUCH A STRENGTH AND ANCHOR.

God of creation,
flowing from that creative mind
came cascades of creativity,
parables and metaphors,
brilliant arguments
and slam dunk wonders.
In mining your mind,
HE FOUND SUCH LIBERATING WISDOM.

God of creation,
the realm of his heart is perfect peace,
a resting in the arms,
a homecoming.
Expressing your heart,
HE HEALED HIS WORLD.

So in worship
we seek the cultivation of will, mind and heart,
TO YOUR EVERLASTING GLORY AND PRAISE.

Silence

Now into our prayers comes the octopus,
lithe, slippery, odd, mysterious.
In all its other-worldly presentation,
perhaps it asks us why we are so arrogant.
Having put its question to us,
it slithers down the pipe, escapes to the sea,
and leaves us . . . with our questions.

**GOD, WE CONFESS OUR CONCRETE BOOTS,
OUR DISMISSIVE LOOKS,
AND THE WAY WE DISRESPECT THAT WHICH LIVES.**

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:

Our world has taught us, O God,
to value certain things
and dismiss other things.
Sometimes we find you calling us
to revisit the values we uncritically accept.

**CALL US TO A DEEPER ENGAGEMENT
WITH YOUR WORLD OF VALUES,
AND YOUR VISION FOR HOW THE WORLD SHOULD BE.**

Help us in our playful engagement with the idea of the octopus,

**THAT WE MIGHT RISE FROM HERE,
NEWLY AWARE OF THE SACREDNESS OF LIFE,**

for we pray it in the name of Jesus,
using the words he gave us, 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 First Lesson: Psalm 139: 13-17

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

A Reflection: Paul in a pot

Generally, sermons are posted 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/ORdcVHDD3gk>

Hymn:

Sursum Corda

Alfred Morton Smith (1879-1971)



1. Thou art before me Lord, thou art behind,
and thou above me hast spread out thy hand;
such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too high to grasp, too great to understand.
2. Then whither from thy Spirit shall I go,
and whither from thy presence shall I flee?
If I ascend to heaven thou art there
and in the lowest depths I meet with thee.
3. If I should take my flight into the dawn,
if I should dwell on ocean's farthest shore,
thy mighty hand would rest upon me still,
and thy right hand would guard me evermore.
4. If I should say 'Darkness will cover me,
and I shall hide within the veil of night',
surely the darkness is not dark to thee,
the night is as the day, the darkness light.
5. Search me, O God, and know my heart,
try me, O God, my mind and spirit try;
keep me from any path that gives thee pain,
and lead me in the everlasting way.

Ian Robertson Pitt-Watson (1923-1995)

Reflection: Enlightenment blindness

Lesson: 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

Reflection: The more important thing

Music for Reflection: Prelude on Slane
Christopher Tambling

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Lesley Hunt

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

We are grateful for the food that sustains us,
SO WE OFFER SOME FOOD FOR THE TABLE.

We are grateful for the comfort and security we know
because of the money we have,
SO WE OFFER SOME MONEY FOR THE KITTY JAR.

We are grateful for our place among the other creatures of the world,
**SO WE OFFER OUR DESIRE TO LIVE KINDLY
AND WITH RESPECT.**

Bless all that we offer today.
AMEN.

Notices

Hymn:

Laast Uns Erfreuen

from Geistliche Kirchengesäng 1623



1. To you, O God, all creatures sing
and all creation, everything
sings your praises, alleluia!
Your burning sun with golden beam
your silver moon with softer gleam
sing your praises, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
2. Your wind that blows the tempest by,
your clouds that sail across the sky
sing your praises, alleluia!
Your morning rises with a song,
and lights of evening sing along
sing your praises, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3. Your living creatures, large and small,
diverse and wondrous, one and all,
sing your praises, alleluia!
They, being true to who they are,
express themselves both wide and far,
singing praises, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
4. Now we who are of tender heart,
forgiving others, take our part,
sing your praises, alleluia!
Christ goes before us to renew
the way that leads us home to you.
Hear our praises, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

William Henry Draper (1855-1933)

based on Canticum of the Sun, Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

adapted by Miriam Therese Winter

third verse, Matthew Jack

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Prelude in A, BWV 536
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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

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BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS 21 SEPTEMBER 2025

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 17th.



NOTICES

This Week: 14 September – 20 September

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

Next Week: 21 September – 27 September

Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
12.00pm Lunch at Black & White Café
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Shalom - Janet Wilson will review a book (or 2). The library tour is postponed until a later date. 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.

The Living Wage and Local Body elections

The Living Wage Ōtautahi Steering Group sent an email to all Mayoralty and Christchurch City Council candidates to ask them whether they supported the Living Wage. (As from 1 September it is \$28.95 per hour). They were asked to respond by September 5.

LIVING WAGE PLEDGE - "As a candidate, we would like to know if you are committed to continuing support for the Christchurch City Council's Living Wage Accreditation. Additionally, we seek your stance on strongly encouraging the Council Controlled Organisations to either work towards paying or to continue paying their workers a Living Wage, and to encourage them to become Accredited Living Wage Employers".

The following candidates responded as a Yes (with The People's Choice having this commitment as a requirement of all the candidates):

Mayoralty TEMPLETON, Sara (Our City. Our People. Our Future.)
WAKEMAN, P (Independent)
Banks Peninsula Ward FIELDS, Tyrone (The People's Choice)
Burwood Ward BARBER, Kelly (Independent for Burwood)
CHAPMAN, Fionna (The People's Choice - Labour)
Cashmere Ward MARKS, Clare (Independent)
SCANDRETT, Tim (Independent)
Central Ward MCLELLAN, Jake (Labour)
Coastal Ward DONOVAN, Celeste (Independent)
Fendalton Ward DICKASON, Xavier (For Fendalton's Future)
Innes Ward COTTER, Pauline (The People's Choice)
Halswell Ward MOORE, Andrei (Independent)
Harewood Ward No Response from Candidate – Elected Unopposed
Heathcote Ward HERZ JARDINE, Nathaniel (The People's Choice)
Hornby Ward No Response from Candidate – Elected Unopposed
Linwood Ward GULLERY, Ethan (Independent)
JOHANSON, Yani (The People's Choice - Labour)
Papanui Ward BRITTEN, Simon (The People's Choice)
Riccarton Ward HARRISON-HUNT, Tyla (The People's Choice)
MORA, Debbie (Independent - Back to Common Sense)
Spreydon Ward COKER, Melanie (The People's Choice - Labour)
Waimairi Ward No Response from Candidate – Elected Unopposed

All the other candidates did not respond to our email request by the deadline of 5th September.

Notice supplied by Norman Wilkins

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 021 815 051



**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 Harcourt's Gold Parklands



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Jeremiah 32: 1-15
- John 15: 12-17

Knox Directory

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Visit our website
<http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/>



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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:

Phone:

Email: