



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

21 September 2025



BLESSING THE ANIMALS

the third service in a series of four
for the Season of Creation

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.

The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, TELLING STORIES OF FISH AND BIRDS AND SHEEP;
JESUS, WHOSE WISDOM SOMETIMES LOOKED UNWISE;
JESUS, UNTO WHOM THE WHOLE CREATION GIVES PRAISE.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Kremser

Eduard Kremser (1838-1914)



1. Sing praise and thanksgiving, let all creatures living now worship their maker with gladness and song;

all glory and honour we bring to God, singing:
O praise to the Almighty,
sing praise to our God!

2. Our lives of God's making Christ brings to their waking
in darkness we've been held in deep, gracious care,
now into the light we are called from our sleeping:
O praise to the Almighty,
sing praise to our God!
3. God, frame our desiring to do your requiring,
that unto your glory be all that we do;
and here, as we worship, give faith and give healing:
O praise to the Almighty,
sing praise to our God!

*Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676),
tr. Margaret Barclay (b. 1923),
adapted by Colin Gibson, then again by Matthew Jack.*

Prayer of Approach

Dedicated as a place of public worship,
usually frequented by those of us who are human,
today we find space here, O God, for the wider creation.
Our animals will be spokespeople (spokes-dogs)
for the rest of creation.

**THE SOUND OF ALL CREATURES LIVING,
BRINGING PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING.**

Beyond the city limits, in the fields, the cattle are "lowing",
the sheep are growing their wool.

The harvesting of milk, the expanding of our exports.

**THE SOUND OF ALL CREATURES LIVING,
BRINGING PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING.**

And in the distant places where the light of love insufficiently shines,
the bears are being baited,
the elephants are being exhausted,
the rhino horn is being ground down - all for money.

**THESE ARE THE OTHER ANIMAL SOUNDS:
CREATURES ALMOST LIVING,
BRINGING PAIN,
BRINGING PLEADING.**

We grieve the suffering of the innocent.
We mourn assaults on the defenceless.
We are embarrassed that these things happen on our watch.
So we pray,

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:

The world may ask, O God, why we love our pets.
PERHAPS LOVE IS ITS OWN ANSWER.

The world may ask why we give ourselves to unproductive purposes.
**PERHAPS WE ARE FED IN SPIRIT
BY ONE WHOSE WISDOM
COMES FROM QUITE ANOTHER PLACE.**

As we explore what our animals mean to us,
**OPEN OUR EARS, HEARTS AND MINDS
TO YOUR STRANGE REALM OF LOVE AND BLESSING,**

for we pray it in the name of Jesus, using the words he gave us.

**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.

Meeting the Animals

When the minister says "We give thanks for N",
the people say "**AMEN**".

*During the singing of the hymn, you are invited, if you would like to,
to light a candle in memory of a beloved pet.*

Hymn:

Ar Hyd Y Nos

Welsh traditional melody



1. For the pets whose love has blessed us,
thanks be to God;
for the way they've opened up us,
thanks be to God;
for the feeding, keeping, holding,
faithful love us all enfolding,
better humans they embolden;
thanks be to God.
2. For the way they know no lying,
thanks be to God;
for their calm when we are crying,
thanks be to God;
for their simple way of caring,
gentle company of sharing,
heaven's nature, yes, declaring;
thanks be to God.

3. For the ones who've worked in service,
thanks be to God;
serving human need and purpose,
thanks be to God;
lifting loads and bearing burdens,
giving help that's always certain,
faithful 'til the final curtain,
thanks be to God.

Matthew Jack (b. 1963)

The First Lesson: Jeremiah 32: 1-15

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

Reflection: Bad financial decision!

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/VS-dhYSOmQs>

Knox Singers: The heavens are telling, from "Creation"
Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

The Gospel Lesson: John 15: 12-17

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

Reflection: The slow creeping of love

Hymn:

All Things Bright and Beautiful William Henry Monk (1823-1889)



*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful -
the one God made them all.*

1. Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings -
God made their glowing colours,
and made their tiny wings.
All things bright and beautiful . . .
2. God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God, Creator,
who has made all things well.
All things bright and beautiful . . .

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Linda Wilkins

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

Perhaps it makes little sense to the sensible,
BUT WE WOULD GIVE THIS FOOD AWAY.

Perhaps it is not wise
to part with this money,
BUT WE HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY LOVE.

Grow in us, O God,
the capacities of generosity and faith,
**FOR WE PRAY IT IN THE NAME OF JESUS,
AMEN.**

Notices

Hymn:

Laudate Dominum

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918)



1. You servants of God,
your Sovereign proclaim,
and publish abroad
that wonderful name;
the name all-victorious
of Jesus extol;
who, sovereign and glorious,
now rules over all.
2. From worship we go
God's call in our ears
to value, protect
and tend to the tears
of all who are needing
our care and our love,
so drawing the humble
to healing above.
3. God, bless us with minds
to comprehend grace,
that we might serve well,
in this time and place,
that every action
we do through the week
bring Jesus' compassion,
from your values speak.
4. Then let us adore,
and render God's right,
all glory and power,
all wisdom and might,
all honour and blessing
with angels above,
and thanks never-ceasing,
and infinite love.
Amen, amen!

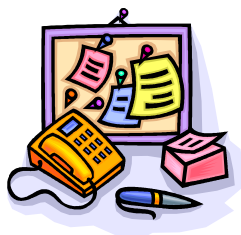
*v.v. 1 & 4, Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.
v.v. 2 & 3, Matthew Jack (b. 1963)*

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: The Elephant, from Carnival of the Animals
Camille Saint-Saens (1835-1921)

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

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NOTICES

This Week: **21 September – 27 September**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
 12.00pm Lunch at Black & White Café
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: **28 September – 5 October**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
 11.30am Shalom
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

AGM - The Annual General Meeting of Knox Church will be held on Sunday 5 October 2025 immediately following the morning service. Hard copies of the Annual Report and Financial Performance Report are/will soon be available at both entrances to the Church.

A Knox Hymn-a-thon

On Sunday 9 November at 2pm, we shall be celebrating the gift of singing with a Hymn-a-thon. Please submit your favourite hymn (and tune if necessary) with a reason behind this to Jeremy (email on the back of the service sheet) by Sunday 26 October. 10 hymns will be selected, and the event will be followed by a cup of tea in the lounge.

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.



PIPES AND REEDS

A Concert of New Zealand Music for Organ & Saxophone

Lana Law – Saxophone Jeremy Woodside – Organ

Saturday 11 October, 4pm
Oxford Terrace Baptist Church

*Featuring works by David Hamilton, Chris Adams, Chris Mortlock, John Rimmer,
Jeremy Woodside, Philip Norman and Kenneth Young*

Tickets are \$25 at the door (efitpos available)



Daylight Saving

Daylight saving begins at 3:00pm this coming Sunday morning (28 September). Remember to put your clock one hour forward before you go to bed on Saturday 27th, or you will arrive at church next week just as the service is ending.



Is this a photo of a work animal in the company of another work animal? Or is there something else here as well?

Honouring Survivors:

A public apology to survivors of abuse in Presbyterian Church care

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Survivors of abuse in the Presbyterian Church, your whānau and your supporters are warmly invited to attend or watch a survivor-designed public apology event.

The apology will also be provided in Te Reo Māori and NZ Sign Language, as well as video of the apology in both locations.

The apology will include details about the Church's restorative action, including survivor-designed holistic redress, and will be delivered by the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, Right Rev Rose Luxford, written in consultation with survivors.

Convenor of the Council of Assembly, Katerina Solomona, will outline the Church's commitment to its new survivor-designed Pūretumu Torowhānui (holistic) redress process.

There are two opportunities to attend in-person events: The first in **Dunedin at 12pm on Saturday 27 September**, and then in **Auckland at 10am on Saturday 4 October**. Location details are below. RSVPs are not required.

Wellbeing support services will also be in attendance.

The videos of the public apology will be available on the **Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand website** (<https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/honouring-survivors>), alongside a Te Reo Māori version and NZSL version. Media are invited to attend.

The Church's survivor advisory group has helped design both events, that will feature:

- Mihi Whakatau by mana whenua.
- Public apology and detailed information about the Church's new survivor-designed Pūretumu Torowhānui (holistic redress) process.
- Response by a survivor, as the final words of the formal proceedings.
- On-the-spot confidential sign up for survivors wanting to commence their holistic redress journey.
- Survivor artwork on display, provided by national survivor arts collective Te Roopū Toiora.
- A warm cuppa and kai

DUNEDIN:

Saturday, 27 September at 12pm
Otago Museum
419 Great King Street

AUCKLAND:

Saturday, 4 October at 10am
Due Drop Events Centre,
770 Great South Road, Manukau

If you would like to discuss any matter concerning abuse and the Presbyterian Church, please contact 0800 244 357.



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Genesis 1: 24-31
- John 17: 6-12

Knox Directory

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Church Council Clerk: Jean Brouwer
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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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