



# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service

28 September 2025

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## THE KENNEL

the fourth 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.

### The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, GOD'S IMMORTALITY IN MORTALITY;**

**JESUS, GOD'S INVISIBILITY MADE VISIBLE;**

**JESUS, SUBVERTING ANY IDEA OF GOD AS DISTANT OR HARD.**

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

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

### Hymn:

St Denio

John Roberts (1822-1877)



1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes;  
most holy, most glorious, the ancient of days,  
almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting nor wasting, you rule us in might;  
your justice like mountains high soaring above,  
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all life you give, God, to both great and small,  
in all life you live, God, the true life of all:  
we blossom and flourish, uncertain and frail;  
we wither and perish, but you never fail.
4. We worship before you, Creator of light,  
while angels adore you, all veiling their sight;  
Our praises we render, Almighty, to you  
whom only the splendour of light hides from view.

*Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908)*

### **Prayer of Approach**

Most holy, most glorious,  
almighty, victorious,  
**BUT THEN THERE WAS JESUS.**

Hidden in splendour,  
so "other" that we hide our faces,  
**AND THEN THERE WAS JESUS.**

Yes, it seems important  
to call you immortal and invisible.  
It seems right  
to speak of light  
and ruling in might.  
**BUT NOW ALSO  
WE RECKON WITH JESUS.**

Dust on his feet, twinkle in his eye,  
lines on his face,  
words of love and trust.  
**NOW WE SEE AND HEAR HIM.**

So, we worship . . .

*Silence*

In a sermon about a kennel,  
it may be suggested, O God,  
that our treatment of creation,  
our making provision for the animals  
over which we understand we have dominion,  
has suffered from an understanding of you  
based too heavily on naked power:

**POWER TO RULE,  
POWER TO TAKE,  
POWER TO KILL.**

Lest that moment of suggestion undo us,  
we seek now to put down  
the things that may condemn us:

**THE DOMINATION,  
THE OPPRESSION,  
THE USE OF UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.**

Even now, in the quiet of our prayer,  
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:**

In sovereign love  
and care-filled gentleness,  
O God,  
you made a beautiful creation,  
and asked us to care for it.

**FOSTER IN US  
THE GIFTS OF LOVE AND CARING,  
THAT WE MAY BE FAITHFUL KEEPERS OF CREATION,  
MIRRORS OF YOUR NATURE,  
AND PEOPLE OF A GOOD DOMINION.**

For we pray this in the name of Jesus,  
remembering the words he gave,  
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.*

### **Introduction:** Kennel or "dog house"?



**Music for Reflection:** O Jesu Krist, du nadens brunn  
Bedrich Janacek (1920-2007)

**The First Lesson:** Genesis 1: 24-31

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

**Reflection:** God almighty?

*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/8BTCVKkqS9Q>*

## Hymn:

Tawa

Jillian Bray (b. 1939)



1. Gentle God, when we are driven  
past the limits of our love,  
when our hurt would have a weapon  
and the hawk destroy the dove,  
at the cost of seeming weak,  
help us turn the other cheek.
2. Gentle Spirit, when our reason  
clouds in anger, twists in fear,  
when we strike instead of stroking,  
when we bruise and sting and smear,  
cool our burning, take our pain,  
bring us to ourselves again.
3. In the mirror of earth's madness  
let us see our ravaged face,  
in the turmoil of all people  
let compassion find a place,  
touch our hearts to make amends,  
see our enemies as friends.
4. Let our strength be in forgiving  
as forgiven we must be,  
one to one in costly loving,  
finding trust and growing free,  
gentle God, be our release,  
Gentle Spirit, teach us peace.

*Shirley Murray (1931-2020)*

## Lesson:

John 17: 6-12

This is the gospel of Christ.

**PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.**

## Reflection:

The protective one

## Hymn:

Brother James' Air

James Leith MacBeth Bain (1860-1925)



1. The Lord's my shepherd: I'll not want;  
he makes me down to lie  
in pastures green: he leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.  
*(Each verse, repeat the last two lines of that verse)*
2. My soul he doth restore again,  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
e'en for his own name's sake.
3. Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear no ill;  
for thou art with me, and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.
4. My table thou hast furnished  
in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil anoint  
and my cup overflows.
5. Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me;  
and in God's house for evermore  
my dwelling place shall be.

*Scottish Psalter (1650)*

## Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*led by Norman Wilkins*

## The Offering and Dedication

*We stand for the dedication of the Offering*

The good earth provided much of this food.  
People have taken care to harvest it,  
and bring it as far as our hands.  
There has been good dominion exercised here.

**TO FURTHER THE GOOD DOMINION,  
WE OFFER IT NOW  
SO THAT OTHERS CAN USE IT,  
AND BE BLESSED.**

Enable us in other ways too, O God,  
to be generous, kind and responsible  
in our sharing,

**FOR WE PRAY IT IN THE NAME OF JESUS,  
AMEN.**

## Notices

### Hymn:

Rustington

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918)



1. Let creation bless its Maker,  
glorify God's name on high.  
In God all things have their being,  
live and move unceasingly:  
Angels and archangels singing,  
all the hosts of earth and heaven;  
power and might are God's forever  
who the Son to us has given.
2. Let creation greet in Jesus  
God eternal's promised Christ,  
seek and find in him salvation,  
Lamb of God once sacrificed;  
raised from death, in glory seated



into heav'n received again:  
all God's children wait the moment  
for the coming of his reign.

3. Let creation bless the Spirit,  
present through all time and space  
in the work of life's unfolding,  
source of order, truth and grace:  
all the wealth of words and music,  
art and science, quest of faith -  
these are signs that God is with us,  
that the Spirit fills the earth.
4. Gracious God of threefold wonder,  
undivided and supreme;  
filling all things, yet descending  
to our lives, to dwell within:  
through the Church, let every creature  
learn to love and not destroy;  
let creation, reaching upward,  
scale the heights of peace and joy!

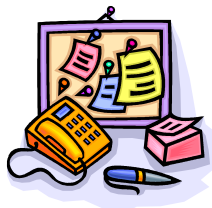
*David Mowbray (b. 1938)*

**Benediction** and **Sung Amen**

**Postlude:** Prelude in C minor  
Johann Ludwig Krebs (1713-1780)

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

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## NOTICES

<b>This Week:</b>	<b>28 September – 4 October</b>
Sunday	10.00am Morning Worship
	11.30am Shalom
Wednesday	10.00am Bible Study

**Next Week: 5 October – 11 October**  
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship  
11.00am AGM  
5.00pm Film Group  
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

**Shalom** – Today Len Pierce will start a series of 5 sessions (2nd and 4th Sundays of October and November) on the evidenced based relationship between prayer and health/healing. Everyone is welcome. 11.30am in the Lounge.

**Meditation** - Saturday 4 October at 10.00am in Knox Chapel. A time to share in our meditation practice. All are welcome. Any queries - contact Bobbi Laing: phone number held in the office.

**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 available at both entrances to the Church.

**Film Group** - Our film on Sunday 5 October at 5pm is Woman in Gold. This film tells the true story of an Austrian heiress and her search after World War II for the painting by Klimt which was stolen by the Nazis. Starring Helen Mirren (2015).

**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.



**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 (eftpos available)



Presbyterian Church  
of Aotearoa New Zealand

# 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 Solomon, 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 reading for next week will be:

- Luke 17: 5-10

## 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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