



# KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service

12 October 2025

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**BUILDING HOUSES  
AND  
SEEING BLESSINGS**

## 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.

Music printed in this order of service is covered under a music copyright licence agreement: Licensing #604802.

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.

A special welcome this morning to Charlie Wood and Concordia Cantores, who have come to enrich our worship. Welcome all!

### The Welcome

**An Introit:** Lux Aeterna  
Michael Trotta (b. 1978)

### The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, ENABLING US TO DEAL CREATIVELY WITH DIFFICULTY;  
JESUS, OPENING OUR EYES TO PRESENT BLESSING;  
JESUS, AWAKENING HOPE IN PLACE OF DESPAIR.**

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

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

## Hymn:

Two Oaks

Marty Haugen (b. 1950)



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*
2. Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as a symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:  
*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*
3. Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:  
*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*
4. Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

*Marty Haugen (b. 1950)*

### **Prayer of Approach**

More than bricks and wood, O God;  
more than glass and steal.

**SHELTER, SAFETY.**

More than a place, O God,  
more than dimension.

**BELONGING, ROOM.**

More than a mark on a map, O God;  
more than a point of geography.

**A PLACE TO STAND,  
TO GROW,  
TO REST.**

Within a world that can be harsh and punishing,  
you call us to build with you  
a house where love can dwell,  
and all can safely live.

**PRAISE AND HONOUR BE TO GOD.**

*Silence*

You call us to be a building people,  
but often we are a demolition people.

You call us to create,  
but often we destroy.

You shower us with blessing,  
and we often say "what blessing?"

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:**

Through the prophet Jeremiah,  
creative and sheltering God,  
you called the people to build a new kind of world  
**WHERE ALL COULD BE AT HOME.**

Through Jesus the Christ,  
you healed ten people,  
**OPENING THE EYES AND HEART OF ONE.**

Enable us, O God,  
both to be creative in times of difficulty  
**AND GRATEFUL IN TIMES OF BLESSING,**

for we pray it in the name of Jesus,  
remembering his words, and 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.*

**The First Lesson:** Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7

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

**A Reflection:** Build the life

*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/XjWbYKPnx0k>*

**Concordia Cantores:** To walk with your God  
David Hamilton (b. 1955)

**The Gospel Lesson:** Luke 17: 11-19

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

**A Reflection:** Give thanks for the life

**Hymn:**

Sine Nomine

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)



1. Give thanks for life,  
the measure of our days,  
mortal, we pass through  
beauty that decays,  
yet sing to God our hope,  
our love, our praise,  
Alleluia!
2. Give thanks for those  
who made their life a light  
caught from the Christ-flame,  
bursting through the night,  
who touched the truth, who  
burned for what is right,  
Alleluia!

3. And for our own, our living  
and our dead,  
thanks for the love by  
which our life is fed,  
a love not changed by time  
or death or dread,  
Alleluia!
4. Give thanks for hope,  
that like the wheat, the grain  
lying in darkness  
does its life retain,  
in resurrection  
to grow green again.  
Alleluia!

*Shirley Murray (1931-2020)*

### **Prayers for Others and Ourselves**

*led by Brian Turner*

### **The Offering and Dedication**

*We stand for the dedication of the Offering*

Amid the difficulty, we are called to build houses, set tables,  
transform punishment into life.

**SO MAY THIS OFFERING DO.**

Amid the blessing, we are called to notice the good,  
and to live with a gratitude that heals.

**SO MAY THIS OFFERING ENABLE.**

Bless, O God, the offering we bring,  
**THAT WHOLENESS AND GRACE  
MIGHT FLOOD THE WORLD,**

for we pray it in the name of Jesus,  
**AMEN.**

### **Notices**

## Hanover

1. The kingdom of God is justice and joy;  
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy.  
God's wonder and glory in Jesus we know;  
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.
2. The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;  
the captives are freed, all people find place,  
the outcast is welcomed, God's banquet to share;  
and hope is awakened in place of despair.
3. The kingdom of God is challenge and choice:  
believe the good news, repent and rejoice!  
His love for his people, brought Christ to his cross:  
our crisis of judgment for gain or for loss.
4. God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal;  
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.  
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer the call;  
and all things cry "Glory!" to God all in all.

## Benediction and Sung Amen

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

**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.**





## NOTICES

**This Week:**           **12 October – 18 October**  
Sunday               10.00am   Morning Worship  
                          11.30am   Shalom  
Wednesday       10.00am   Bible Study

**Next Week:**       **19 October – 25 October**  
Sunday               10.00am   Morning Worship  
                          12.00pm   Lunch at Black & White Café  
Wednesday       10.00am   Bible Study

**Shalom** - Using MD Larry Dossey's book "Healing Words" Len Pierce will look at the relationship between the power of prayer and the practice of medicine. First of four sessions will be held today at 11.30am in the Lounge - everyone welcome.

**Shalom** - On Sunday 14 December 2025 we will have a shared, pot-luck lunch in the Lounge to which everyone in the congregation is welcome to attend.

**Sunday lunch** - 19 October – 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.

**Pillars** – For the first three Sundays of November we will be collecting Christmas treats and gifts for Pillars, as we have done for many years now. Pillars is an organisation which supports the families of people in prison. They greatly appreciate our donations of Christmas gifts and food which are distributed to their families in the festive season. They currently work with children between the ages of 0-17. We hope you find the following suggestions for gift ideas helpful:

- Toiletries for teenage boys and girls
- Card games
- Board games
- Outdoor toys/games.

Please note, that with many people struggling financially, we will also continue collecting our regular food donations for Te Whare Roimata. Thank you for your support of both these organisations and the needy people they serve.

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## Des is driving



Des is driving his rusty 1952 Hillman Minx (then about 32 years old) up the Pakuranga Highway (over which Maurice Williamson, M.P, later famously was to suggest a great gay rainbow hung). The photo was taken by his brother's son, Peter, visiting from Northern Ireland, riding shot-gun in the family's other rather better car. For the photo, Des is smiling. I wonder whether, in the smiling, he's taking mental notes about how he's doing. He'd left Northern Ireland in the 1950s to do better. Now his nephew (a high achieving legal dude born to another high achieving legal dude) visits to see how his uncle is doing. His uncle is driving a rusty old bucket.

Des, actually, has flourished in his new environment. He's married his love. He's made a home. He's produced babies who now drive the better car past his shabby old vehicle on the Pakuranga Highway. He has nothing of which to be ashamed. This photo, however, captures him driving a rusty old bucket of bolts. I love that, captured by the "how's he doing" camera from home, he's just smiling! How am *I* doing? I smile!

When my siblings and I were little babies, we used to sit in the back seat of that same old car. If it was cold, we cuddled up into blankets - because the car had no heater. As a teen, my sister once sat on the floor, so as not to be seen riding in such an old car. It was a terrible old car, but parents who loved us used it to carry us around.

**To my lover:** Go, get that blanket, my love, so that we can wrap ourselves in it and be toasty warm, satisfied with what we have.

**To my God:** Remove from us, O God, any sense of feeling that, because our car is old and rusty, we have failed.



### The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Jeremiah 31: 27-34
- Luke 18: 1-8

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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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