



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

16 November 2025



ARRIVING

**BY GOD'S GRACE
AT WHERE AND WHO WE ARE**

a service within Transgender Awareness Week

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 front-page photo is of the late Lealaitagomoa Toalepaialii Tuisina Ymania Brown-Gabriel, better known as **Ymania Brown**, a Samoan LGBTQ rights activist and lawyer. She served as co-Secretary General of ILGA World from 2019 to 2024, as co-President of Interpride, and as Executive Director of Transgender Europe from 2024 until her death in September of 2025.

The sermon and prayers in this service were written by Matthew with no styling assistance by Artificial Intelligence.

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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, GENTLENESS AMID THE JUDGMENT;
JESUS, ENABLING US TO GROW AND LIVE;
JESUS, IN WHOSE PRESENCE THERE IS PEACE.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Lewis folk melody

Scottish traditional



1. Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the space where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we may see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.
2. Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace;
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, touches base,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're
shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.
3. In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our lives and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for hearts to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!

Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)

Prayer of Approach

Faith bids us come
to find the quiet centre that God provides.
Faith bids us believe in a meeting place
where there is plenteous room
for the heart that seeks peace.

PEACE, YES ONLY PEACE.

Faith bids us come to the quiet centre,
from our rainbow of life stories,
from our simple placements to our complex situations,
seeking only to be whom we believe God calls us to be.

SEEKING PEACE, YES, ONLY PEACE.

Faith bids us come to deepest dreaming,
to space within our thinking,
to a lifting of the shade,
SEEKING PEACE, YES, ONLY PEACE.

Silence

In the silence, perhaps there is worship and welcome.
If so, then that is gift and grace.
THANKS BE TO GOD.

Perhaps also, though,
the silence gives room for the many thoughts that trouble us:
**THE UNKINDNESS,
THE JUDGING,
THE ABANDONMENT.**

We confess that we have not loved one another
as Christ has loved us.

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, in response to whose call
we have set out on this journey of faith,
**WE MAKE OUR DUST-BOUND STEPS
HOPING FOR A GRAND "COMING HOME".**

Just as the Exodus people went off
in hope of entering a place that they could call home,
**BLESS US ALSO TO BE A PEOPLE OF ADVENTURE,
VISION AND SAFE LODGING,**

for we pray it in the name of Jesus,
as together we say

**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: Deuteronomy 34: 1-8

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

Hymn:

Blaenwern

William Penfro Rowlands (1860-1937)



1. God who sets us on a journey
to discover, dream and grow,
lead us as you led your people
in the desert long ago;
journey inward, journey outward,
stir the spirit, stretch the mind,
love for God and self and neighbour
marks the way that Christ defined.

2. Exploration brings new insights,
changes, choices we must face;
give us wisdom in deciding,
mindful always of your grace;
should we stumble, lose our bearings,
find it hard to know what's right,
we regain our true direction
focused on the Jesus light.

Joy Dine (1937 – 2001)

Sermon - Part One: On the journey

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/Dp1N_sFtBSM

Knox Singers: The eternal gifts of Christ the King
Henry Ley (1887-1962)

The eternal gifts of Christ the King,
the Apostles' glorious deeds we sing,
and while due hymns of praise we pay,
our thankful hearts cast grief away.
'Twas thus the yearning faith of saints
the unconquered hope that never faints,
the love of Christ that knows not shame,
the prince of this world overcame.
In these the Father's glory shone,
in these the will of God the Son,
in these exults the Holy Ghost,
through these rejoice the heavenly host.
Redeemer, hear us of thy love,
that with the glorious band above,
hereafter of thy endless grace,
thy servants also may have place.
Amen.

Pre 11th Century, trans. J.M. Neale

The Second Lesson: Galatians 6: 12a, 13-16

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

Sermon - Part Two: Becoming a new person

A Litany of Remembrance,

led by Alfie Atalifo Prasad, Kapasa Yavu Lead at the Ministry for Pacific Peoples and Dr Penni Wolfgramm, Village Collective Trust.

- Introduction
- Importance of TAW and TDOR
- Poem
- Call to Action
- Lighting of the Candle of Remembrance
- Prayer (11 Pacific Languages - video)

Hymn:

O le fa'afetai

traditional Samoan hymn



1. Fa'afetai i le Atua
le na tatou tupu ai
ina ua na alofa fua
ia te i tatou uma nei.

Refrain:

ia pepese ia pepese
aleluia faafetai
ia pepese ia pepese
aleluia faafetai

2. Faafetai i Iona Alo
le na afio mai luga
le ua fai ma faapaolo
mai le puapuaga
Refrain

3. Faafetai i le Agaga
le fesoasoani mai
e manuia ai talosaga
atoa uma mea e fai
Refrain

Traditional Samoan hymn

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Josiah Tualamali'i

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

Bringing our food and money in good faith,
WE ASK, O GOD, TO BE ENLIGHTENED.

What else might we bring,
SO THAT PEACE MIGHT FLOOD THE EARTH?

Bless what we offer,
**AND LEAD US ALONG THAT JOURNEY
TO WHERE WE NEED TO BE,**

through Jesus Christ,
AMEN.

Notices

Hymn:

Two Oaks

Tune and words by 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 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 . . .

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Joie et Clarte des Corps Glorieux, from Les Corps Glorieux
Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

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



NOTICES

This Week:	16 November – 22 November	
Sunday	10.00am	Morning Worship
	12.00pm	Lunch at Black & White Café
Wednesday	10.00am	Bible Study
Next Week:	23 November – 29 November	
Sunday	10.00am	Morning Worship
	11.30am	Shalom in the Lounge
Wednesday	10.00am	Bible Study

Shalom: Sunday 23 November 2025 - Dr. Rose Isbell will briefly talk about labyrinths which are 'known to quiet the mind, open the heart and ground the body'. We will have the opportunity to walk an actual labyrinth. All welcome.

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.



Trans Remembrance Day

A day to see, a day to hear,
Lives lived boldly, free from fear.
Stories honored, voices clear,
Of battles fought to just be here.

Stand with courage, walk besides,
Erase the walls where hate can hide.
Be the hand, the heart, the guide,
Where love and strength and hope collide.

Let this day spark light anew,
An ally's pledge to see it through.
With open minds and actions true,
Together, change is ours to do.

*Kramer Hoeflich, Pacific Peoples with Disability Lead
November 2024*



Tails of Toby the Cat

On Sundays 16, 23 and 30 November, eight Toby the Cat books (written by Sheila Cuthbertson) will be available from a table at the rear of the Church. \$10.00 per copy, or a full set of eight for \$70.00. **CASH ONLY.**

Advent and Christmas 2025 - "Towards the new world"

30 Nov	Justice, unity and peace 	ADVENT 1 Isaiah 2:1-5 presents the image of God's holy mountain becoming a beacon for all the nations. Pondering the conflict surrounding the Waiwera Valley, we explore good and bad "mountain building". We sing "Come, O long-expected Jesus".
7 Dec	Deep understanding 	ADVENT 2 In Isaiah 11:1-11, God's servant is described as having a spirit of wisdom and understanding. We imagine a world where we have a deep understanding of our neighbours, and we explore ways of inching towards that. We sing "O come, O come Emmanuel".
14 Dec	The flourishing 	ADVENT 3 In Isaiah 35:1-7, we find some dis-spirited figures on a dry and struggling landscape, and we explore the human realities for which they stand. We then consider the image of the landscape coming to life. We sing "When out of poverty is born a dream that will not die".
21 Dec	Nine Lessons and Carols 	ADVENT 4 Following some well-worn readings that trace humanity's deep spiritual need from the beginning, we sing some favourite carols and enjoy hearing some brand new originals written especially for the occasion.



I have loved you for a long time
A candlelight service
11:15pm, Christmas Eve



Welcome to the new world
10:00am, Christmas Day



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Colossians 1: 11-20
- Luke 23: 33-43

Knox Directory

28 Bealey Ave,
Ōtautahi Christchurch 8013

Secretary: Lynda Gerken,
ph. (03) 379 2456,
office@knoxchurch.co.nz

Office hours:
Monday - Friday, 9.00am-noon

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



Minister: Rev. Dr Matthew Jack
minister@knoxchurch.co.nz
voicemail at home (03) 3570 111

Church Council Clerk: Jean Brouwer
jean.brouwer@knoxchurch.co.nz

Director of Music: Jeremy Woodside
jeremy.woodside89@gmail.com

Pastoral Visitors:
Rev Norman and Linda Wilkins
g8m8zinbayst@gmail.com
+64 272499741 (Linda's mobile)
+64 220667626 (Norman's mobile)



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: