



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

30 November 2025



TOWARDS THE NEW WORLD ADVENT 1

JUSTICE, UNITY AND PEACE

A COMMUNION SERVICE

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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.

This is a communion service. The table at Knox is an open one. Members of any church, as well as any who are seeking God sincerely, are welcome to receive communion here.

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.

Pre-service Prelude: Chorale prelude on Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Greeting and Welcome

Introit: Gaudete, Piae Cantiones

Translation of the Latin:

Rejoice, rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary – Rejoice!

The time of grace has come — what we have wished for;

Songs of joy let us give back faithfully.

God has become human, with nature marvelling,

the world has been renewed by the reigning Christ.

The closed gate of Ezekiel is passed through whence the light is risen;

Salvation has been found.

Therefore, let our assembly now sing in brightness.

Let it bless the Lord: Greetings to our King.

The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, WHO BEGAN THE GOOD WORK OF RECONCILING THE WORLD;
JESUS, WHO GIFTS US TO CONTINUE HIS WORK;
JESUS, FOR WHOSE SECOND ADVENT WE PRAY.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Veni Emmanuel

from Fifteenth Century French Processional



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Christ of God appear.
<i>Rejoice! Rejoice!</i>
<i>Emmanuel shall come to you,</i>
<i>O Israel!</i> | 3. O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
love stir within the womb of night,
and death's own shadows put to flight.
<i>Rejoice . . .</i> |
| 2. O come, O Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh,
to us the path of knowledge show,
and help us in that way to go.
<i>Rejoice . . .</i> | 4. O come, Desire of Nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
make envy, strife and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
<i>Rejoice . . .</i> |

*Based on antiphons from Advent Vespers,
trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and others, alt.*

Prayer of Approach

The celebration of the coming of Christ to the world is on the horizon, O God;
and it moves us to imagine the inauguration in our days of a brave new world -
TOWARDS THE NEW WORLD.

Neighbours bang into one another,
there are conflicts (only some of them important),
wars flare up in various places,
law courts are full of unhappy argument.
And in the tension, we dream of a brave new world -
TOWARDS THE NEW WORLD.

Through the prophet Isaiah
we receive a vision of the coming of justice, unity and peace.
It plays with our hope;
it moves us to whisper "come, Lord Jesus".
In faith, we long to journey
TOWARDS THE NEW WORLD.

Beginning our Advent season,
we confess to the ways we fuel the fire,
nurture the hurt,
respond to stresses in ways
that do no honour
to our identity as children of God.
We are a people of hot water - wai wera.

So 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:

Putting flesh to the bones of the idea of a new world, O God,
your prophet Isaiah presented the image
of a mountain of justice, unity and peace.
In Isaiah's mind, that mountain presented something
utterly compelling, deeply attractive.

**BLESS US TO ENGAGE PROPERLY
WITH ISAIAH'S VISION,
THAT DISUNITY MIGHT BE SWALLOWED UP BY UNITY,
INJUSTICE BY JUSTICE,
AND WAR BY PEACE.**

We pray to be inspired by the coming of the new world,
**THROUGH THE ADVENT OF CHRIST AGAIN,
AMEN.**

The Advent Wreath

Looking towards God's new world, we ask in faith: "will God renew the earth?"

We remain seated to sing

Hymn:

Salisbury Street

Colin Gibson (1933-2022)



Bring in your new world, child of all time,
peace without border, peace the new order,
lion with lamb;
come in the healing, sharing of bread,
justice and freedom, signs on the kingdom,
everyone fed.

Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)

The Candle of Justice, Unity and Peace

Deeply aware of the world's need for reconciliation and peace, we open ourselves to Isaiah's vision of the elevation of the "mountain of God", which wins the hearts of the nations. The people stream to God's house because they see something there that will hear them and heal them - justice and freedom, signs of the kingdom, unity and peace.

Lighting this candle, we affirm the reconciliation begun in the birth of Jesus, and we look to the completion of his work through his "coming again".

The candle is lit

Bring in your new world, O God,
FOR WE WAIT IN HOPE.

The Notices

Knox Singers:

Zion at thy shining gates
George Guest (1924-2002)

*Zion, at thy shining gates, lo, the King of Glory waits,
Haste thy monarch's pomp to greet, strew thy palms before his feet.
Christ, for thee their triple light, faith and hope and love unite;
This the beacon we display, to proclaim thine advent day.
Come and give us peace within, loose us from the bands of sin,*

*Take away the galling weight laid on us by Satan's hate.
Give us grace thy yoke to wear, give us strength thy cross to bear,
Make us thine in deed and word, thine in heart and life, O Lord.
So, when thou shalt come again, Judge of angels and of men. We with all thy
saints shall sing, Alleluias to our King.*

A Comment: An Unhappy Valley

The Bible Lesson: Isaiah 2: 1-5

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

Sermon: A Compelling Mountain

Generally, sermons are posted on our website's sermon page 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/d4NhxtrJtOY>

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

To the minister's words "the peoples stream to it", you are invited to respond
"MOVING TOWARDS THE NEW WORLD".

. . . **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 Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering.

Blessed are you, O God of all creation.
Through your goodness, we bring what we have gathered,
using the talents that you have given us.
It will further the work of your kingdom.
BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER.

Blessed are you, O God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER.

Blessed are you, O God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us our spiritual drink.

**BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER,
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, 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.

Communion Hymn:

Leoni

Thomas Olivers (1725-1799)



1. Community of Christ,
who make the Cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life
for God alone:
the God who wears your face,
to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race
and every song.
2. Community of Christ,
through whom the word must sound -
cry out for justice and for peace
the whole world round:
disarm the powers that war
and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of
anguish into joy.
3. When menace melts away,
so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace
and Christ its Sun;
our currency be love
and kindness our law,

our food and faith be shared as one
for evermore.

Shirley Murray (1931-2020)

We sit for

The Invitation, Institution, and the Setting Apart of the Elements

The Great Eucharistic Prayer:

May God be with you.

AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Lift up your hearts.

WE LIFT THEM TO GOD.

Let us give thanks to the world's creator.

IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.

It is right indeed . . .

The Breaking of the Bread

Lamb of God:

Jesus, Bread of Heaven,

HAVE MERCY ON US.

Jesus, recreating your people where they stand,

HAVE MERCY ON US.

Jesus, foretaste of the new creation,

GRANT US YOUR PEACE.

The Communion

*For the distribution, please come forward to the table,
receive some bread, dip it in the cup, and return to your seat. If you prefer
gluten free bread, some is available on the plinth in front of the bread servers.
Non-alcoholic grape juice can be taken from the trays held by the glass servers.*

The Prayer After Communion

Eternal God, we give you thanks and praise that while we were still far off
you met us in your Son, and brought us home.

MAY WE WHO SHARE HIS BREAD

LIVE HIS RISEN LIFE;

WE WHO DRINK HIS CUP

BRING LIFE TO OTHERS;

WE WHOM THE SPIRIT LIGHTS

**GIVE LIGHT TO THE WORLD,
THAT ALL YOUR CHILDREN SHALL BE FREE,
AND THE WHOLE EARTH LIVE TO PRAISE YOUR NAME.
AMEN.**

Hymn:

Stuttgart

Melody attrib. Christian F. Witt (1660-1716)



1. Come, O long-expected Jesus,
born to set all people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
grant us your true liberty.
2. Israel's strength and consolation,
hope to all the earth impart;
dear desire of every nation,
enter every longing heart.
3. Born all people to deliver,
born a child, you came to reign!
Born to rule on earth for ever,
come, be known to us again.
4. By your own eternal Spirit
come to claim us as your own;
by your all-sufficient merit
let us share your cross and crown.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Chorale prelude on Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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



NOTICES

This Week: **30 November – 6 December**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
Wednesday 11.00am Bible Study - note later starting time

Next Week: **7 December – 13 December**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship

Meditation - Saturday 6 December at 10am in Knox Chapel. A time to share in our meditation practice. Please feel free to come along.

Luncheon - Sunday 14 December 2025. To celebrate being together for another year, Shalom welcomes the congregation to join together for a shared lunch in the Lounge after the service. If possible, please bring a small plate of finger food and leave on the tables in the Lounge. Any queries, contact Susan (contact details held by the office).

Lost Property - Grey Kathmandu rain jacket is still looking for its owner. To be collected from the office.

Christmas Baking – On Sunday 7th and 14th December, Christmas mince pies, quince jelly and a selection of cookies will be for sale in the Church foyer. Cash only. Any contribution towards butter etc would also be welcome - see Rochelle Howley.

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.



**Christian
World Service**
Celebrating 80 years

This Christmas
we are focusing
on helping our
global partners
to provide safe
water.

Give water
Give life

"But let justice roll on like a river"
Amos 5:24

**Over 1.4 million people in developing countries, mainly children,
die each year from diseases caused by lack of safe water for
drinking, for hygiene, and/or for sanitation.**

World Health Organisation, 2024.

Photo: Christian World Service

DONATE NOW

www.cws.org.nz



One of the ways that Knox supports the Christian World Service Christmas Appeal is by taking a retiring offering at the end of our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

Geoff King is riding

Every week in Aotearoa New Zealand, three families are told the heartbreaking news that their child has cancer. I can't imagine what it would be like to be the parent of one of those children. I am incredibly grateful that the Child Cancer Foundation is there to support those families through their time of need.

My own journey with cancer, beginning with diagnosis of a colorectal tumour in 2022 followed by several rounds of radio and chemotherapy treatment and three surgeries has reminded me that life is both precious and unpredictable. I am very grateful for the support I have received from many friends within the Church community throughout this time. After three years of having my life plans interrupted by medical procedures, I plan to spend this summer doing something life-affirming for myself and others.



On 11 December I will fly to Kerikeri and ride north to Cape Reinga before turning south to cycle the length of the North Island, realising a dream of riding from Cape Reinga to Bluff which began pre-diagnosis when I cycled the length of the South Island in 2021/22. Seeing this journey as an opportunity to 'give something back', I have applied for and received endorsement from the Child Cancer Foundation.

I am warmly inviting friends, family members, colleagues and acquaintances to support me in this fundraising effort. Whilst sponsorship to the tune of a dollar (or more!) per kilometre travelled (roughly 2000) would be wonderful, a more realistic donation could be the cost of your daily coffee for part or all of the duration of my 27 day journey - or simply whatever contribution you feel you can afford.

Each kilometre I ride this summer will remind me of the journeys that many other families have been and are still on with cancer, and of the support the CCF is able to offer them because of the generosity of so many donors.

Please click on the link below and help me to raise some of the \$6 million that the CCF needs to support Kiwi kids with cancer and their families each year. I'll be posting regular updates of my progress (which will also be shared on facebook). There will be some long days in the saddle, so any expressions of support, whether verbal or financial (or both) will be much appreciated!

<https://childcancer-fundraising.org.nz/geoff-king>



You are Invited to:

West Papua's National Day

"Morning Star" Flag Raising

5pm Monday, 1 December 2025

Bridge of Remembrance

Cashel St West



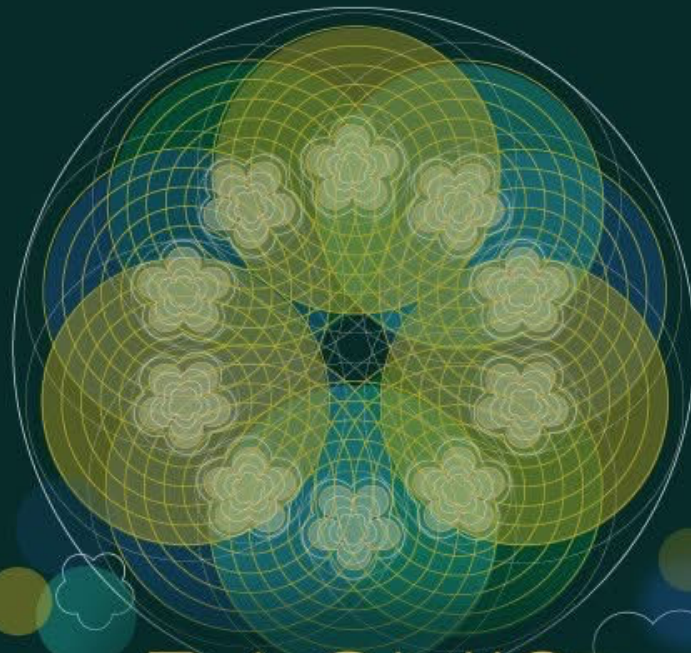
Keynote Speaker: Teanu Tuiona MP

★ Stand in solidarity with suffering West Papuans

For those willing, we assemble at 4pm at Aldersgate Centre, 309 Durham St before marching to the Bridge of Remembrance for speeches & flag raising at 5pm.

Organised by: West Papua Action Canterbury

Coordinator: Brian Turner - 021 129 4305 / bhturner41@gmail.com



BACH'S CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

Saturday 6 December
Christchurch Town Hall



**CHRISTCHURCH
CITY CHOIR**



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"

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 "Hark! a herald voice is calling".
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
 Retiring offering for Christian World Service



Welcome to the new world
 10:00am, Christmas Day
 Retiring offering for Christian World Service



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Romans 15: 4-9a, 13
- Isaiah 11: 1-10

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:

Phone:

Email: