



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

28 December 2025



**Trailblazers
Guided by the Grace of God**

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.

Please don't leave any items unattended around the church;
they may cause alarm.

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.

Introduction to the theme of our service

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

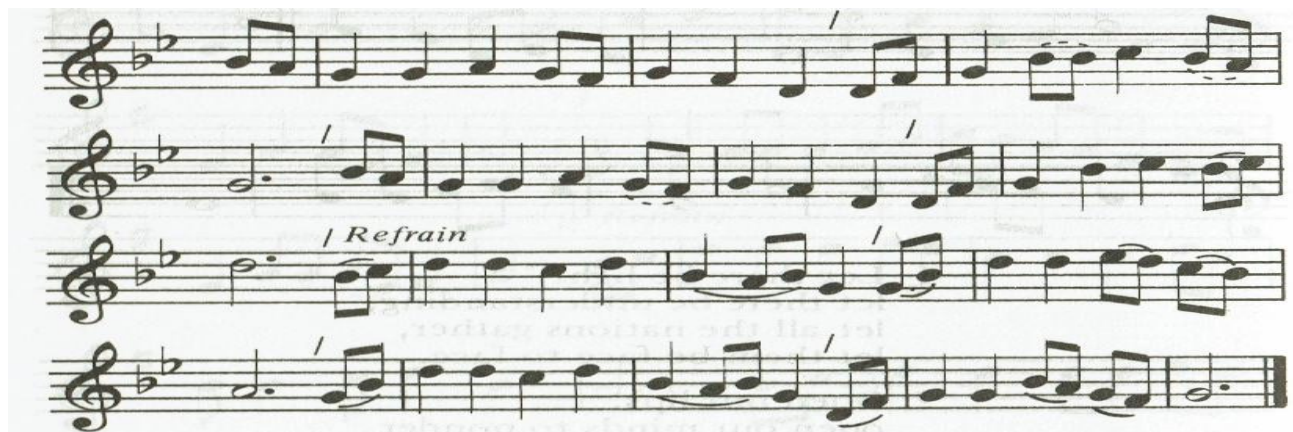
The Call to Worship:

During Advent we anticipated the birth of Jesus both here in church and in our everyday lives. We have celebrated Jesus' birth. Now, who is this baby who will be called Jesus? What does this mean for us?

WE ARE HIS FOLLOWERS. WE REMEMBER THE PAST YEAR. WE ANTICIPATE THE YEAR TO COME AND AIM TO FAITHFULLY LIVE THE LIFE THAT JESUS REVEALED.

Kia noho a Ihowa ki a koutou. God be with you.
MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn: WOV 672 Where the road runs out



1. Where the road runs out and the signposts end,
where we come to the edge of today,
be the God of Abraham for us;
send us out upon our way.

*Lord, you were our beginning,
the faith that gave us birth.
We look to you, our ending,
our hope for heaven and earth.*

2. When the coast is left and we journey on
to the rim of the sky and the sea,
be the sailor's friend, be the dolphin Christ;
lead us on to eternity. (Chorus)

3. When the clouds are low and the wind is strong,
when tomorrow's storm draws near,
be the spirit bird hov'ring overhead
who will take away our fear. (Chorus)

Colin Alexander Gibson 1933

Prayer of Approach

Assurance and Response

Now God, through the life, death and resurrection of your son Jesus, you have set us free, you have stood us on our feet, you have opened the way ahead of us to live as you have meant us to be. We are your forgiven and cherished people. We are free, we are yours

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Lord's Prayer (Jim Cotter's version)

Eternal spirit, earth maker, pain bearer, life giver
Source of all that is and that shall be
Father and mother of us all
Loving God, in whom is heaven

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the people of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
May your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope
and come on earth!

With the bread that we need for today, feed us
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us
From trials too great to endure, spare us
From the grip of all that is evil, free us

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love now and forever.

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 to our Gospel reading

The First Lesson: Matthew 2: 13-23

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Introduction to our reading from Hebrews

The Second Lesson: Hebrews 2: 10-18

In this is the Word of God

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Hymn: "I sing a song of the saints of God" - Lesbia Scott



1. I sing a song of the saints of God,
patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died
for the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and one was a shepherdess on the green:
they were all of them saints of God, and I mean,
God helping, to be one too.

2. They loved their Lord so dear, so dear
and God's love made them strong;
and they followed the right, for Jesus' sake,
the whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest,
and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:
and there's not any reason, no, not the least,
why I shouldn't be one too.

3. They lived not only in ages past;
there are hundreds of thousands still;
the world is bright with the joyous saints

who love to do Jesus' will.

You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,
in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;
for the saints of God are just folk like me,
and I mean to be one too.

Reflection: **Trailblazers – Guided by the Grace of God**

Generally, sermons are posted on our website shortly after the service at:
<http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/sermons.html> Hard copies of the sermons are
available before and after the service – ask the person at the door.

Music for Reflection: Wie schon leuchtet die Morgenstern - Sigfrid Karg-Elert
(1877-1933)

Hymn: “All are welcome in this place” - Marty Haugen



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 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 love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ
the feast that frees us.
*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

4. 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.*

5. 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.*

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Linda Wilkins

Prayer for our parish (adapted from the prayer for St. Andrew's)

Renew your people, God,
And renew our life in this place.
Give us a new spirit of unity
With all who follow the way of Jesus
And new bonds of love with people of other faiths
Bless this place in which we live
That it may be a place where honest dealing,
Good governance,
The desire for beauty
And the care for others flourish.

Bless this parish,
That what we know of your will
May become what we do, and what we believe the strong impulse of our
worship and work.

AMEN

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

We are grateful for this community,
rich in spirit, music, friendship and thought.
Out of this gratitude we offer the gifts we bring today:
money for the church and our work for the community, and food for the hungry.

AMEN

Notices

Hymn: For Your Grace - Fiona McDougal Tune (1961): Ald Lang Syne

(sung slowly)



For your grace we pray this coming year,
as the old one draws to an end,
we know Your presence with us now
whatever life may send.

Chorus

*With thanks recalling see'ng Your face
in many shapes and forms,
with hope envis'ning paths we'll tread,
whether lined by ferns or thorns.*

Some plans we made have failed and fall'n
and our dreams have come to naught,
we left or lost someone, or friends
couldn't give the care we sought.

So many changes come our way
but the deepest things remain,
like love and courage, trust and peace,
and it's these our hearts sustain.

Chorus

*With thanks recalling see'ng Your face
in many shapes and forms,
with hope envis'ning paths we'll tread,
whether lined by ferns or thorns.*

We sing our songs and murmur prayers
to the God who heals and holds
each one of us, through thick and thin
and our whole lifespan enfolds.

Our eyes shine now, our steps are light
as we go out from this place,
we look ahead with energy
and we live in God's great grace.

Chorus

*With thanks recalling see'ng Your face
in many shapes and forms,
with hope envis'ning paths we'll tread,
whether lined by ferns or thorns.*

Commissioning for service

Benediction and **Sung Amen**

Postlude: Sleigh bells across the snow - Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

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

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A4 LNER engine - holds the world speed record for steam.



Examples of a modern Maglev train.





The Bible reading for next week will be:

- Luke 2: 25-35

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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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