



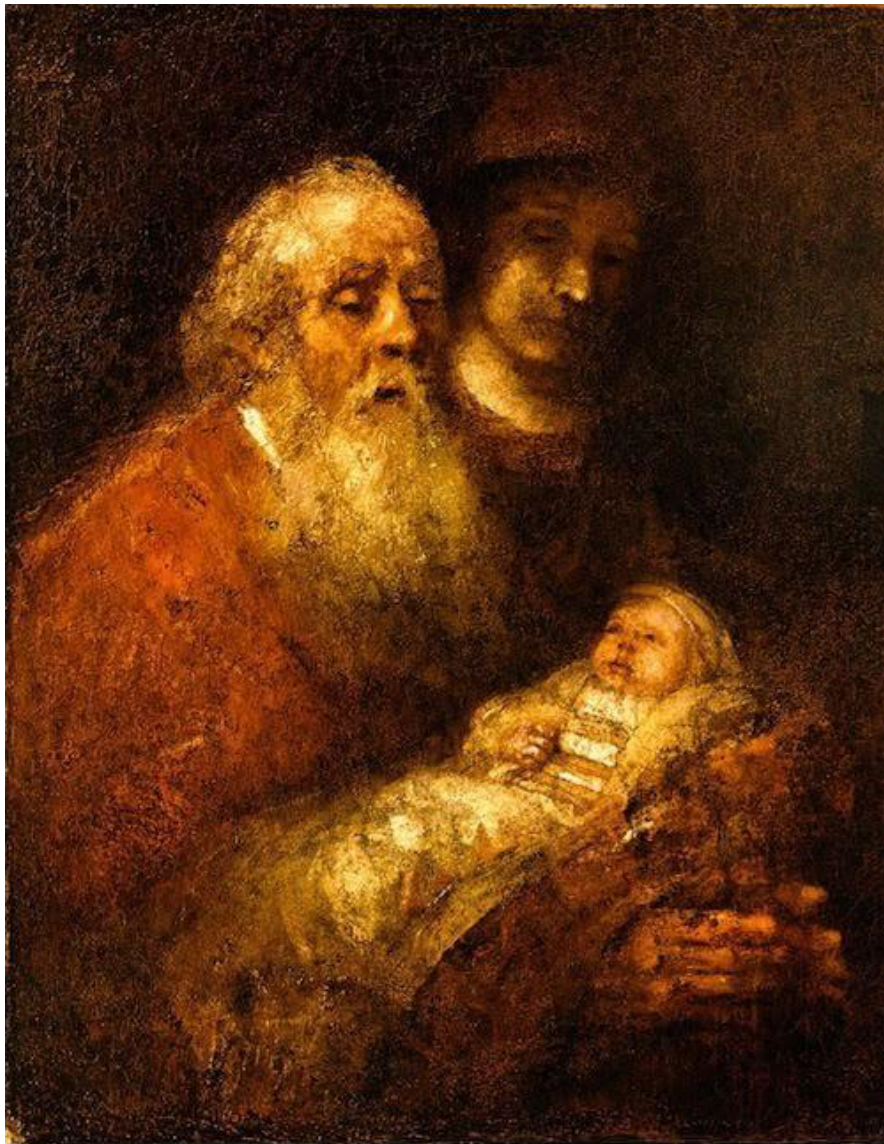
# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service

4 January 2026

---



## SOMETHING NEW

A COMMUNION SERVICE

## 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.

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.

### The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, BROUGHT BY HIS FAITHFUL PARENTS TO THE TEMPLE;  
JESUS, NOTICED BY AN OLD MAN WHO WAS LONGING FOR PEACE;  
JESUS, CALLING US AT NEW YEAR TO FOLLOW HIM.**

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

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

## Hymn:

Lord of the Years

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)*



1. Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:  
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.
2. Lord, for that Word, the Word of life which fires us,  
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,  
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:  
Lord of the Word, receive your people's praise.
3. Lord, for our land in this our generation,  
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:  
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,  
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.
4. Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -  
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,  
past put behind us, for the future take us:  
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)*

## Prayer of Approach

Lord of the years,  
by your goodness, we come to this first Sunday of the year.  
The Word fires us;  
the soul is set ablaze.  
Generation speaks to generation  
of the long story of your faithful love.  
**WE BRING OUR THANKS TODAY.**

Lord of the years,  
by your goodness, we come again to worship -  
to place before you our reflections on the world,  
our memories and hopes,  
our desire not to be made cynical by the past,  
but to be good custodians of the time you give us now.  
**RECEIVE YOUR PEOPLE'S PRAISE.**

Lord of the years,  
today we explore the image of an old and faithful man,  
finding a child in his arms,  
and knowing that now he is free.  
In the new born Christ,  
he knows that light now is shining.  
**FOR THE FUTURE TAKE US  
TO LIVE FOR CHRIST ALONE.**

*Silence*

Give us grace, also now,  
to confess our contribution to the suffering of the world,  
with its war, disease and brutality.

. . . 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:**

It is said, O God,  
that your Holy Spirit was upon the elderly Simeon,  
such that he recognised a new era had begun  
as his eyes fell upon the baby Jesus.

**GIVE TO ALL PEOPLE OF FAITH, WE PRAY,  
AN EYE TO SEE WHAT NEEDS TO BE SEEN  
FOR HOPE TO IGNITE  
AND FOR PEACE TO COME.**

We pray this in the name of Jesus, child and king,  
**AMEN.**

## The Notices

An Introduction: A most wonderful smile

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 2: 25-35

This is the gospel of Christ.

**PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.**

Sermon: Holding something new in our arms

*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/e6G8vM0ihzk>*

Music for Reflection: Puer natus in Bethlehem, BWV 603  
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

## Prayers for Others and Ourselves

To the minister's words "Simeon opens his arms",  
you are invited to respond "**LIGHT IS IN THE 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:

Kelvingrove

Scottish Traditional Tune



1. Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?
2. Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name

Will you set the prisoners free  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean  
in you and you in me?

3. Will you love the 'you' you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around  
through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?
4. Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.

*John Bell (b. 1949)*

*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:

Ar Hyd Y Nos

Welsh traditional melody



1. We have heard compassion's story;  
thanks be to God.



We have sensed the Saviour's glory;  
thanks be to God.  
Now that worship finds its ending,  
with the grace of God descending,  
through the church our service blending,  
thanks be to God.

2. For the love of God and neighbour,  
thanks be to God -  
fine reward of mercy's labour,  
thanks be to God;  
for our ministry of caring,  
and the life that we are sharing,  
others' hopes and sorrows bearing,  
thanks be to God.
3. Christ, dismiss us with your blessing;  
thanks be to God.  
Lord, your name we are confessing,  
thanks be to God.  
For the honour of our calling,  
raising us when we are falling,  
victors over sin appalling,  
thanks be to God.

*Matthew Jack (b. 1963)*

**Benediction and Sung Amen**

**Postlude:** Prelude sur l'Introit d'Epiphanie  
Maurice Durufle (1902-1986)

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

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

**Office Hours** - the office which closed at noon on Tuesday 23 December, will  
open for the new year at 9:00am on Tuesday 6 January 2026.

## One Rembrandt and Two Simeons

credits for this article available at the site of posting:

<https://www.rabbitroom.com/post/art-stories-one-rembrandt-and-two-simeons>

Rembrandt painted the scene of Simeon blessing Jesus in the temple (Luke 2:21-35) twice, and the two paintings tell us as much about the artist himself as they do the subject matter.

The first, painted when Rembrandt was 25 years old, is a crisp, ornate scene with the temple itself presented as a character in the story. Rembrandt's characteristic illumination shines like a spotlight coming down from heaven, making Jesus the brightest figure in the scene. Simeon holds the child as he gazes up to heaven. Another attendant in the temple looks on, hands raised in praise. Nearly two dozen other figures line the background, looking on.

The second, painted thirty-eight years later in 1669, the year of Rembrandt's death, is very different. Gone are the crowds looking on. Gone are the columns, and filigree, and architecture. Gone is the brilliant beam of light. The crisp brushwork of a steady young hand has given way to the shaky, mottled, impressions of the old master's touch.



Old Rembrandt is content to deliver warmth over detail, individuals over a crowd, and simplicity over grandeur. All the painter gives us is a picture of an old man at the end of his days seeing the Christ before his Maker calls him home. The old cleric smiles down on the child who looks back up at him. Simeon's hands are pressed together in prayer. The third (and only other) figure in the painting is draped in shadow as a way of highlighting just how intimate this moment is between Simeon and the Messiah he's holding.

Frederick Buechner, in his novel *Godric*, wrote, "An old man's thoughts are long." Simeon, perhaps, had been a show-off in his youth. We're not told, though we do know what youth is like. But by the time Mary presents Jesus to him in the temple, he is an old cleric at the end of his run — weary, confident in his God, and alive with hope. In the year of his death, Rembrandt presents a man ready to take his leave, content that his life had led him to this moment he had longed for all those years.

WORLD BEYOND WAR  
TE WAIPOUNAMU SOUTH ISLAND

# A CULTURE OF PEACE

## ART EXHIBITION

20 JAN 12.30pm – 4pm

21 -25 JAN 10am – 4pm

PŪMANAWA COMMUNITY EXHIBITION SPACE  
TE MATATI KI TOI ORA CHRISTCHURCH ARTS CENTRE

LEVEL ONE LIFT ACCESS



WORLD **BEYOND** WAR.org

a global movement to end all wars



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

- 1 John 3: 1-2
- Psalm 23
- Micah 6: 6-8

## Knox Directory

28 Bealey Ave,  
Ōtautahi Christchurch 8013

Secretary: Lynda Gerken,  
ph. (03) 379 2456,  
[office@knoxchurch.co.nz](mailto: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](mailto:minister@knoxchurch.co.nz)  
voicemail at home (03) 3570 111

Church Council Clerk: Jean Brouwer  
[jean.brouwer@knoxchurch.co.nz](mailto:jean.brouwer@knoxchurch.co.nz)

Director of Music: Jeremy Woodside  
[jeremy.woodside89@gmail.com](mailto:jeremy.woodside89@gmail.com)

Pastoral Visitors:  
Rev Norman and Linda Wilkins  
[g8m8zinbayst@gmail.com](mailto: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: