



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

11 January 2026



OLD FRIENDS HAVE A PICNIC

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.

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, GOD'S LOVE MADE REAL IN THE WORLD;

JESUS, HALLOWING THE LOVE WE HAVE FOR ONE ANOTHER;

JESUS, LOVING MERCY, DOING JUSTICE, HUMBLY WALKING.

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Abbots Leigh

Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991)



1. God is love, the heavens adoring;
God is love, let earth rejoice;
let creation sing its praises,
high rejoicing with one voice.
God who laid the earth's foundation,
and who spread the heavens above,
God who breathes through all creation.
is pure love, eternal love.
2. God is love, and is enfolding
all the world in one embrace,
with unfailing grasp is holding
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.
3. God is love, and, though with blindness
sin affects the souls of all,
God's eternal loving-kindness
holds and guides us when we fall.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is love, so love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.

Timothy Rees (1874-1939), alt.

Prayer of Approach

God says "Have I told you that I love you?"

WE SAY, "YES, YOU HAVE".

We sing of a God
whose love inhabits the universe,
whose warmth and welcome permeates all that is.

GOODNESS AND MERCY

ALL THE DAYS OF OUR LIFE.

Do we see it in the parent caring for the child?
Do we see it in old friends who enjoy the company,
set the table, open the heart,
say knowing and caring things?

GOODNESS AND MERCY

ALL THE DAYS OF OUR LIFE.

Do we see it in picnics provided,
birthdays celebrated,
gifts exchanged,
gratitude expressed,
the gentle but deep expressions of one person's care for another?

GOODNESS AND MERCY
ALL THE DAYS OF OUR LIFE.

You set a table for us, O God,
making for us a place of honour.
You give us friends and lovers,
keepers and blessers;
you give us those who care.
You bring your wonderful texture of love
to ribbon the stuff of our lives.

GOODNESS AND MERCY
ALL THE DAYS OF OUR LIFE.

Silence

Yet, in our world, the unkind word.
In our world, the break and the hurt.
In our world, the heart attack
and the fear that follows
of all things being fragile.
In our world, the bomb and the blast.
In our world, the tear.

For our part in all of this,
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:

God, whose Son declared friendship for his disciples,
and by doing so hallowed the friendships we have,

**GROW IN US AN APPRECIATION OF OUR FRIENDS,
AND GIVE US GRACE
TO DECLARE TO THEM
OUR FONDNESS AND GRATITUDE.**

For we pray this in the name of Jesus,
whose words we recall
as together we say

**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 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 a Video Clip

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/x0guscx7-DY>

The Video Clip

Lesson: 1 John 3: 1-2

Reflection: Parents, children and friends

We remain seated to sing

Hymn:

Ellen

David Dell (b. 1959)



1. Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be,
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.
2. Like a mother, you enfold me,
hold my life within your own,
feed me with your very body,
form me of your flesh and bone.
3. Like a father, you protect me,
teach me the discerning eye,
hoist me up upon your shoulder,
let me see the world from high.
4. Friend and lover, in your closeness
I am known and held and blessed:
in your promise is my comfort,
in your presence I may rest.
5. Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be,
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.

Shirley Murray (1931-2020)

Lesson: Psalm 23

Reflection: Look at the light, Bob; look at that!

Music for Reflection: The Call, from Five Mystical Songs
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
Text by George Herbert
Soloist: Kahu Gray

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a Way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:
Such a Life, as killeth death*

*Come, My Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a Light, as shows a feast:
Such a Feast, as mends in length:
Such a Strength, as makes his guest*

*Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a Love, as none can part:
Such a Heart, as joys in love*

Lesson: Micah 6: 6-8

Reflection: Responding to gifts

Hymn:

Crimond

Jessie Seymour Irvine (1833-1893)



1. The Lord's my shepherd: I'll not want;
he makes me down to lie
in pastures green: he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.
2. My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.
3. Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
for thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

4. My table thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint
and my cup overflows.
5. Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me;
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling place shall be.

Scottish Psalter (1650)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Brian Turner

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

You set a table for us, O God;

WE BRING FOOD FOR THE TABLES OF OTHERS.

You gave us the treasure of "God so loved the world";

WE BRING OUR OPENNESS TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBOURS.

Bless what is offered here,

**THAT LOVE MIGHT MAKE A HOME
IN WHO AND HOW WE ARE,**

through Jesus Christ,

AMEN.

Notices

Hymn:

Wolvercote

William Harold Ferguson (1874-1950)



1. O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;

Lord, be for ever near me,
my master and my friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.

2. O let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
Lord, speak to reassure me,
to chasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
true guardian of my soul.
3. Lord, let me see your footmarks
and in them plant my own;
that I may follow boldly
and in your strength alone:
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my friend.

John Ernest Bode (1734-1820)

Benediction and **Sung Amen**

Postlude: In dulci Jubilo, BuxWV 197
Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

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

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NOTICES

This Week: **11 January – 17 January**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship

Next Week: **18 January – 24 January**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
 12.00pm Lunch at Urban Eatery

Sunday lunch 18 Jan – Join us for lunch and a friendly chat after church at Urban Eatery (Oderings, Barrington). Note the new venue! We meet at around 12pm. Please, add your name to the attendance list at the church. To confirm numbers with the venue it would be appreciated if names were in by Wednesday the 14th.

Shalom - resuming on Sunday 25 January. Richard Milne will be sharing about his experiences regarding the Camino de Santiago Trail he walked a few months ago. All welcome.

Film Group - Sunday 1 February at 5.00pm in the lounge. Our first film of the year is an old favourite: **The Lady in the Van (2015)**. The film stars Maggie Smith as Miss Shepherd, an old lady who parks her van in the driveway of the home of the writer Alan Bennett, played by Alex Jennings. The story is indeed true and Miss Shepherd lived there for some years. It is fun and heartwarming.

Men's blue jacket - looking for its owner. Arc'teryx brand with a bear motif on the sleeve. Left in Church last year! Contact the office.

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.

THE NEXT THREE SUNDAYS

On 21 July last year, as part of the BBC's Sidetracked podcast series, Annie Macmanus conducted an interview with Stevie Wonder, musician. As he answered questions in his idiosyncratic way, it became clear that Stevie's work is informed by religious faith. As I heard the interview in early 2026, I began framing three services around things that Stevie had said.

Sunday 18 January



Stevie speaks about creativity, arrogance, Spirit, and the goodness of the Creator

Concerning the creative process by which he composes music, Stevie speaks about a humility he has learned through his belief that God is spirit.

In Matthew 10:17-20, we hear Jesus speaking of the Spirit who gives us proper words for the moment.

In John 4:17-26, we witness a conversation between people of two traditionally hostile religious traditions, and see that discerning God as spirit is key to reconciliation.

Sunday 25 January



Stevie is asked about vocation, retirement, and who we're designed to be

"For as long as you breathe, for as long as your heart beats, there's more for you to do."

Reflecting on Matthew 4:18-22 (Jesus calling the disciples), and noting the seasons in their discipleship, we think about God's call on our lives.

In Jeremiah 29:11-14, we explore the idea of a "plan for life".

Sunday 1 February



Stevie speaks about religious conviction and the place of protest in a living faith

"When you're in a place where you know something's wrong, you've got to speak on it".

We consider the "protest" songs Stevie references as having changed the world, and explore the idea of hymnody and "breaking bread" as a counter-cultural protest in the kingdom of this world.

Psalms 116:13-14 - "I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord; I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people."



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Matthew 10: 17-20
- John 4: 17-26

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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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