



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

18 January 2026



STEVIE WONDER 1 / 3

CREATIVITY, ARROGANCE, SPIRIT,
AND THE GOODNESS OF THE CREATOR

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, UPON WHOM THE SPIRIT DESCENDED;

JESUS, MOVED TO LIVE A LIFE OF CREATIVITY AND WONDER;

JESUS, CALLING US TO WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH.

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Laudes Domini

Joseph Barnby (1838-1896)



1. When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries
“may Jesus Christ be praised!”
Alike at work and prayer
to Jesus I repair:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

2. To God, the word on high
the hosts of angels cry:
“may Jesus Christ be praised!”
Let mortals, too, upraise
their voice in hymns of praise:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

3. Let earth’s wide circle round
in joyful notes resound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let air, and sea, and sky,
from depth to height, reply:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

4. Be this, when day is past,
of all my thoughts the last:
“may Jesus Christ be praised!”
The night becomes as day,
when from the heart we say
“may Jesus Christ be praised!”

5. Be this while life is mine,
my canticle divine,
“may Jesus Christ be praised!”
Be this the eternal song
through all the ages long:
“may Jesus Christ be praised!”

*Anon, German, early 19th cent
trans. Edward Caswall (1814-1878)*

Prayer of Approach

The heart, awaking, cries "may Jesus Christ be praised",
and indeed,

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED!

May Jesus Christ be praised in song,
in poetry,
in hospitality.

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED!

May Jesus Christ be praised in just practice,
in freedoms respected,
in care for neighbour.

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED!

May Jesus Christ be praised in siblings at peace,
in enemies reconciled,
in intractable problems untangled.

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED!

May Jesus Christ be praised in deeds of humility,
love and beauty,
in questions put and answered honestly.

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED!

And in the sincerity of our silent prayer,
MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED!

Silence

Sometimes, Jesus Christ is not praised,
because we are busy being arrogant,
jealous,
unhelpfully competitive.

Sometimes Jesus Christ is not praised,
because the gifts we are given for service and love
are given to self and greed.

Under this weight, the world stumbles;
and 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:

God of goodness, spirit and truth,
you gave us the capacity to express praise,
and to voice the joy of being the people of your hand.

**GIVE US A HOLY DIS-INHIBITION
TO VOICE OUR PRAISE,
EVER TO BE TEACHABLE,
AND THE POWER TO FOSTER PEACE IN OUR TIME.**

For we pray this in the name of Jesus,
whose words we remember 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.

A Video Clip:

On 21 July 2025, for the BBC's Sidetracked series, Annie Macmanus interviewed Stevie Wonder. The full interview is at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSjVcoSKL5s&t=1s>

The First Lesson: Matthew 10: 17-20

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Reflection: It is not you who speak

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/1xRDtJV9HQo>

Hymn:

Castlewood

Richard Proulx (1937-2010)



1. Come to us, creative Spirit, in the Maker's house;
every human talent hallow, hidden skills arouse,
that within your earthly temple,
wise and simple may rejoice.
2. Poet, painter, music-maker, all your treasures bring;
crafter, actor, graceful dancer, make your offering;
join your hands in celebration,
let creation shout and sing!
3. Word of God eternal springing, fill our minds, we pray
and in all artistic vision give integrity:
may the flame within us burning
kindle yearning day by day.
4. In all places and forever glory be expressed
to the Christ, and the Creator, and the Spirit blessed:
in our worship and our living,
keep us striving for the best.

David Mowbray (b. 1938), alt.

The Second Lesson: John 4: 17-26

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Reflection: God is spirit

Music for Reflection: Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ, BWV 604
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Ian Bayliss

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

If you have given us gifts, O God,
to do good things in the world,

THEN WE WOULD OFFER THOSE GIFTS TO YOUR SERVICE.

It is indeed an honour to be able to echo your goodness,

Longing more and more to be caught up into your life,

we babies to life

In this time and space that we have

We seek your blessing
in the name of the

in the n
AMEN

Notices

Hymp:

Hymn.
Richmond

later form of melody by Thomas Haweis (1734-1820)

1. Fill thou my life, O gracious God,
in every part with praise,
that my whole being may proclaim
thy being and thy ways.
2. Not for the lip of praise alone
nor ev'n the praising heart

I ask, but for a life made up
of praise in every part:

3. Praise in the common things of life,
its goings out and in;
praise in each duty and each deed,
however small and mean.
4. Fill every part of me with praise:
let all my being speak
of thee and of thy love, O Lord,
poor though I be and weak.
5. So shalt thou, Lord, receive from me
the praise and glory due;
and so shall I begin on earth
the song for ever new.
6. So shall no part of day or night
unblessed or common be,
but all my life, in every step
be fellowship with thee.

Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Tuba Tune
Dulcie Holland (1913-2000)

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

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NOTICES

This Week: **18 January – 24 January**

Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
 12.00pm Lunch at Urban Eatery

Next Week: **25 January – 31 January**

Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
 11.30am Shalom

Morning Tea and Door Duty Rosters for 2026/27 - Due to retirement and other various reasons, we need additional people to assist with morning tea and door duty. The rosters run from March 2026 - February 2027. If you feel you are able to assist, it would be great if you would fill in one of the forms that can be found at both entrance doors.

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 – still 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 TWO SUNDAYS

On 21 July last year, as part of the BC'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 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.

Psalm 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."

Stevland Hardaway Morris

(/ˈsti:vlənd/ *STEEV-lənd*;

né **Judkins**; born May 13, 1950),

known professionally as **Stevie Wonder**, is an American singer-songwriter, musician, and record producer. He is widely regarded as one of the most influential musicians of the 20th century. Wonder is credited as a pioneer and influence by musicians across a range of genres that include **R&B**, **pop**, **soul**, **gospel**, **funk**, and **jazz**. A virtual **one-man band**, Wonder's use of synthesizers and other **electronic musical instruments** during the 1970s reshaped the conventions of **contemporary R&B**. He also helped drive such genres into the **album era**, crafting his **LPs** as cohesive and consistent, in addition to socially conscious statements with complex compositions. Blind since shortly after his birth, Wonder was a **child prodigy** who signed with **Motown**'s Tamla label at the age of 11, where he was given the professional name **Little Stevie Wonder**.

Wonder's single "**Fingertips**" was a No. 1 hit on the *Billboard Hot 100* in 1963, when he was 13, making him the **youngest solo artist ever** to top the chart. Wonder's critical success was at its peak in the 1970s. His "classic period" began in 1972 with the releases of *Music of My Mind* and *Talking Book*, the latter featuring "**Superstition**", which is one of the most distinctive and famous examples of the sound of the **Hohner Clavinet** keyboard. His works *Innervisions* (1973), *Fulfillingness' First Finale* (1974) and *Songs in the Key of Life* (1976) all won the **Grammy Award for Album of the Year**, making him the only artist to have won the award with three consecutive album releases. Wonder began his "commercial period" in the 1980s; he achieved his biggest hits and highest level of fame, had increased album sales, charity participation, high-profile collaborations (including with **Paul McCartney** and **Michael Jackson**), political impact, and television appearances. Wonder has continued to remain active in music and political causes.





The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Matthew 4: 18-22
- Jeremiah 29: 11-14

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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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