



# KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service

25 January 2026

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# STEVIE WONDER 2 / 3

## VOCATION, RETIREMENT, WHO WE WERE DESIGNED TO BE

## 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, WHO CALLS DISCIPLES INTO SERVICE AND WORSHIP;  
JESUS, WHO WAS COMPLETELY TRUE TO THE CALL OF GOD;  
JESUS, IN WHOSE COMPANY ALL OUR DAYS ARE DONE.**

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

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

### Hymn:

Kingsfold

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)



1. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Come unto me and rest,  
lay down, O weary one, lay down  
your head upon my breast,"  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
weary and worn and sad;  
I found in him a resting-place,  
and he has made me glad.
2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Behold, I freely give  
the living water; thirsty one,  
stoop down and drink and live."  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
and now I live in him.
3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"I am this dark world's Light;  
look unto me, your morn shall rise,  
and all your day be bright."  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my Star, my Sun;  
and in that Light of life I'll walk  
till travelling days are done.

*Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)*

### **Prayer of Approach**

The soul busies itself, O God,  
with the many things of life,  
with the necessities of earning a living,  
of building a house,  
of structuring a practical life.

**NECESSITY CALLS.**

The soul busies itself, O God,  
forming distractions of where and how  
to prevent itself from wondering too much  
about the why  
and the "for whom".

**THE SHALLOWS PROVIDE THEIR COMFORT.**

But then the voice of Jesus comes:  
"come unto me",  
"follow me",  
"come and see".

**HEAR THE CALL,  
EXAMINE THE LIFE,  
HONE THE HOPE.**

*Silence*

Today we will listen to a conversation.  
It will be about who we are,  
what we have done with life,  
how things may have been different,  
or needed just to be what they were.

Should this cause us to think about how the world might be,  
and should this cause us regret  
or confession,

**WE WILL NEED YOU TO BE AGAIN FOR US  
THE GOD OF WISDOM, LOVE, FORGIVENESS  
AND BRAND NEW DAYS.**

Confident that you are who you are,  
full of grace and restoring love,  
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 purpose and quality,  
your Son moved among us,  
calling us to lift our sights.  
"Pray for your daily bread", he said,  
while also assuring us  
that we live not by bread alone.

**GOD OF DEPTH AND MEANING,  
HELP US SEEK FORMS OF SERVICE  
THAT DIGNIFY AND BLESS,  
FULFILLING THE IMAGE IN WHICH WE ARE MADE.**

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus,  
using the words he gave us, together saying

**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.*

**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 4: 18-22

This is the gospel of Christ.  
**PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.**

**Reflection:** Vocation

*Generally, sermons are posted on 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/RkhUVTxoZn8>*

## Hymn:

Here I am Lord:

Dan Schutte S.J. (b. 1947)



1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people's cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin,  
my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

### *Refrain:*

Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?
3. I the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them,

my hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

*Dan Schutte S.J. (b. 1947)*

**The Second Lesson:** Jeremiah 29: 11-14

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

**Reflection:** Is there a plan?

**Music for Reflection:** Jesu, wollst uns weisen  
Heinrich Scheidemann (1595-1663)

### **Prayers for Others and Ourselves**

To the minister's words "God of the gift of life",  
you are invited to respond "**HEAR OUR PRAYER, AND BLESS THE WORLD**".

### **The Offering and Dedication**

*We stand for the dedication of the Offering*

Giving us skills and talents, O God,  
you have enabled us to work in the world,  
and to gather substance for this offering.  
**THE OFFERING COMPRISES NOT JUST MONEY,  
NOT JUST FOOD,  
BUT ALL OUR CAPACITIES TO LOVE AND SERVE.**

We ask that you might bless what is offered,  
and enable us, while our hearts still beat,  
to fulfil our vocations,  
**FOR WE PRAY IT IN THE NAME OF JESUS,  
AMEN.**

### **Notices**

#### **A Joy Cowley Blessing**

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ abide deep within you . . .

# Hymn:

Laudate Dominum

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918)



1. You servants of God,  
your Sovereign proclaim,  
and publish abroad  
that wonderful name;  
the name all-victorious  
of Jesus extol;  
who, sovereign and glorious,  
now rules over all.
2. From worship we go  
God's call in our ears  
to value, protect  
and tend to the tears  
of all who are needing  
our care and our love,  
so drawing the humble  
to healing above.
3. God, bless us with minds  
to comprehend grace,  
that we might serve well,  
in this time and place,  
that every action  
we do through the week  
bring Jesus' compassion,  
from your values speak.
4. Then let us adore,  
and render God's right,  
all glory and power,  
all wisdom and might,  
all honour and blessing  
with angels above,  
and thanks never-ceasing,  
and infinite love.  
Amen, amen!

*v.v. 1 & 4, Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.  
v.v. 2 & 3, Matthew Jack (b. 1963)*

## **Benediction and Sung Amen**

**Postlude:** Prelude and Fugue in G, BWV550  
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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

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## **NEXT SUNDAY**

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 (18 January, 25 January, and 1 February) around things that Stevie had said.

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### **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."



## NOTICES

**This Week:**           **25 January – 31 January**  
Sunday           10.00am   Morning Worship  
                      11.30am   Shalom

**Next Week:**       **1 February – 7 February**  
Sunday           10.00am   Morning Worship  
                      5.00pm     Film Group – The Lady in the Van

**Meditation** – Saturday 7 February at 10am in Knox Chapel. A time to share in our meditation practice. All welcome.

**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.

**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.

**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](mailto:office@knoxchurch.co.nz) ph: 379 2456.**

# ***Understanding the Treaty in 2026***

(2-days, open to the public)

27 & 29 January 2026

from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm

at the WEA Centre.

\$72.00 incl. GST

To register, [click here](#).

This 2 day course will be held at the WEA and run by Network Waitangi Ōtautahi ([www.nwo.org.nz](http://www.nwo.org.nz)). It begins where people are at and is non-confrontational. This opportunity is for those with limited or no knowledge, or those who want to refresh their knowledge, to gain understanding and clarify what the Treaty means today. It will explore ancestry, cultural difference, and cultural safety; pre-Treaty and post-Treaty history; colonisation and social statistics; and new ways of thinking, living and working. Models and possible actions in 2026 for moving towards a Treaty-based society will also be considered.

A Workbook of Reflective Readings is provided so that notetaking is not necessary. An extensive library is available to peruse during the 2-day course. In addition to the Workbook, the NW Questions & Answers booklet is needed - please download it or it can be purchased on the day for \$5, along with other resources for \$5 & \$2 - please bring cash on the day for these. Tea and coffee are provided but please bring your own lunch. CWEA does not want the fee for this course to be a barrier to anyone who wants to attend, so please feel free to contact the admin staff to discuss possible discounts and scholarships.

Ngā manaakitanga,

**Dr Viviana Zanetti** (She, her)

**Kaitohutohu Hapori – Community Development Advisor – Multicultural**

Te Hapori Tautoko me te Ropu Rangapu / Community Support & Partnerships Unit



## The Bible reading for next week will be:

- Psalm 116: 12-19

## 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:

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