



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

1 February 2026



STEVIE WONDER 3 / 3

LIFTING THE CUP, SINGING IN PROTEST FOR GOD

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.

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, GENEROSITY PROTESTING AGAINST EVERYTHING MEAN;
JESUS, INSPIRING FAITH AND HOPE IN OTHERS;
JESUS, GIVING US COURAGE TO BE JUST, PROUD AND TRUE.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Praise, my soul

John Goss (1800-1880)



1. Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love and peace,
Source and end of human knowledge
grace bestowing without cease.
Celebrate our God's great glory,
power to rescue and release.

2. Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry,
frees the captive, finds the lost,
heals the sick, upsets religion,
fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence,
friend and stranger, guest and host.

3. Praise the Spirit sent among us,
liberating truth from pride,
forging bonds where race or gender,
age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure,
foolishness none dare deride.

4. Praise Creator, Christ and Spirit,
one God in community,
calling Christians to embody
oneness and diversity.
Thus the world shall yet believe
when shown Christ's vibrant unity.

Iona Community

Prayer of Approach

God, Creator,
Source of justice, love and peace,
font and end of human knowledge,
HEAR OUR PRAISE.

God, Redeemer,
Christ feeding the hungry,
finding the lost,
fearless against hate and cost,
HEAR OUR PRAISE.

God, the Spirit,
forging bonds,
breaking the brokenness,
disabling worldly wisdom with holy foolishness,
HEAR OUR PRAISE.

We dare not try to explain you,
package you for community consumption,
make you palatable in a market of distraction.
Humbly, we consider how we have come to know you,
and offer praise.
HEAR OUR PRAISE.

Silence

While you, O God,
are true to who you are,
and what life might be like beneath your being who you are,
the human being,
in all its wonder and fallibility,
produces values that are perverse and strange -
under which many people suffer.

**SHOULD WE WEEP?
SHOULD BE PROTEST?
SHOULD WE WRITE STRATEGY BULLET POINTS?**

First,
before we move to action,
we pause in confession.
Hoping to move on from what has failed,
towards the life of your reign,
and the liberation of those whom we have hurt,
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:

As we consider, O God,
the place of protest in our discipleship,
the place of justice in our goals,
we are moved to affirm three things.

**THAT YOU ARE A GOD WHOSE WILL HAS BEEN DISCERNED.
THAT YOU ARE A GOD WHO GIVES COURAGE;
AND THAT YOU ARE CALLING US TO THE NEW CREATION.**

As we come to the table,
will you make us your body,
ENABLING US TO BE TRUE AND NEW,
for we pray this in the name of Jesus,
AMEN.

The Notices

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 Bible Lesson: Psalm 116: 12-19
In this is the Word of God.
THANKS BE TO GOD.

Sermon: Sing the song and lift the cup

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/CKsRIG0FI4Y>

Knox Singers: Brightest and best
Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

To the minister's words, "Lift high the cross",
you are invited to respond "**THE LOVE OF CHRIST PROCLAIM**".

... 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:

Living Lord

Patrick Appleford (1925-2018)

1. Lord Jesus Christ,
you have come to us,
you are one with us, Mary's son;
cleansing our souls from all their sin,
pouring your love and goodness in,
Jesus, our love for you we sing,
living Lord.
2. Lord Jesus Christ,
now and every day
teach us how to pray, Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
this, in remembrance, Lord, of you:
into our lives your power breaks through
living Lord.
3. Lord Jesus Christ,
you have come to us,
born as one of us, Mary's Son;
bearing your cross to Calvary,
risen from death to set us free,
living Lord Jesus, help us see
you are Lord.
4. Lord Jesus Christ,
we would come to you,
live our life for you, Son of God.
All your commands we know are true,
your many gifts will make us new,
into our life your power breaks through,
living Lord.

Patrick Appleford (1925-2018)

We sit for

The Invitation, Institution, 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:

Crucifer

Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947)

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
'Till all the world adore his glorious name!*

1. Come Christian people, sing your praises, shout!
If we are silent, even stones cry out . . .
2. Jesus, you wept to see our human strife,
Teach us compassion for each human life . . .
3. Peace was your plea and peace your loving theme
Let peace be our passport, peace a living dream . . .
4. Great is the cost of walking on this road,
To follow and suffer with the Son of God . . .
5. Worlds to be born and children yet to be
Come, take up this song into eternity . . .

*Shirley Murray (1931-2020)
based on George William Kitchin (1827-1912) alt.*

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Theme from BBC Songs of Praise
Herbert Chappell (1934-2019)

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

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NOTICES

This Week:

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

Next Week:

8 February – 14 February
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
 11.30am Shalom
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

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

Sunday lunch 15 Feb – Join us for lunch and a friendly chat after church at Urban Eatery (Oderings, Barrington). We meet at around 12pm. Please, add your name to the attendance list at the church entrance.

Lost Property – one more chance for someone to collect the blue Arc'teryx jacket from the office. Also, there are a couple of bottles that have been left behind in the Church and a black cap with “Aotearoa” on it. You can collect those items from the new foyer.

Knox Life – Please send your stories/jokes etc to the office for inclusion in the next edition. We would love your input.

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.

Is the world really to be ruled by strength, force and power?

In Rome, on 9 January 2026, Pope Leo XIV delivered his first "State of the World" address (interestingly in English, rather than in Italian) to Vatican-accredited envoys from 184 countries. In a most diplomatic but pointed way, he drew on St Augustine's "City of God", making something of a protest. You can see an excerpt of the speech at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrZETi_ZK8g



Some "Change the World" song links from Stevie Wonder and others

Live performance of "Living for the city", 1973, Stevie Wonder sings about racism, police brutality, and the inhumanity of the "system".

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_RgaYueeh4&list=RD7_RgaYueeh4&start_radio=1

Referenced by Stevie as songs that created social change, here's a live performance (1972) of Marvin Gaye's "What's going on?"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPkM8F0sjSw>

and John Lennon's "Imagine".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=msD43O6aZgM&t=142s>

A protest song enjoying a current revival in the United States is "We shall not be moved". In a live performance from 2014, Mavis Staples remembers singing it in a "whites only" restaurant in the 1960s.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcDpmzQh3YU&list=RDUCDpmzQh3YU&start_radio=1

In 2010, the Morehouse College Glee Club sang "We shall overcome".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aor6-DkzBJ0&list=RDUCDpmzQh3YU&index=2>



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Matthew 5: 33-37
- Psalm 127: 1-2

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?

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