



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

1 March 2026



Six stories of Jesus and the stones
LENT 2

WHITE WASHED TOMB STONES

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 Greeting and Welcome

Introit: Lent Prose - plainsong

*Hear us O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have sinned against thee.
To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory: lift we our weeping eyes in
holy pleadings: listen, O Jesu, to our supplications.*

The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, OFTEN RESISTED BY SCRIBES AND PHARISEES;
JESUS, SHATTERING HYPOCRISY AND FALSEHOOD;
JESUS, BUILDING A WORLD OF HONESTY, TRUTH AND LIGHT.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Hanover

probably William Croft (1678-1727)



1. The kingdom of God is justice and joy;
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy.
God's power and glory in Jesus we know;
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.
2. The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;
the captives are freed, all people find place,
the outcast is welcomed, God's banquet to share;
and hope is awakened in place of despair.
3. The kingdom of God is challenge and choice:
believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
His love for his people, brought Christ to his cross:
our crisis of judgment for gain or for loss.
4. God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal;
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call;
and all things cry "Glory!" to God all in all.

Bryn Austin Rees (1911-1983)

Prayer of Approach

The Lenten Lord came into our world
to bring justice and joy,
calling people of goodwill
to stand for the glory of God
and the growing of the heart.
All things cry glory
TO GOD ALL IN ALL.

The Lenten Lord came into our world
to bring mercy and grace,
calling upon those of an open heart
to join him in loving and forgiving,
in welcoming the outcast and stranger.
All things cry glory
TO GOD ALL IN ALL.

The Lenten Lord came into our world
to bring challenge and choice,
to fire the human conscience
and make us rise to good decision.
All things cry glory
TO GOD ALL IN ALL.

Pause

On his brave and wondrous journey,
he met the resistance of a people he described
as whitewashed tombs.
They said they rejoiced in God,
and loved the people,
when neither was the case.
His encounter with their falsehood
would bring him to his cross -
WHITEWASHED TOMBSTONES PLACED IN HIS WAY.

As we process the truth
that his truth was confronted by falsehood,
that his honesty was confronted by hypocrisy,
be in our hearts.
**ENABLE US TO BE HONEST ABOUT THE WORLD
AND OUR PART IN ITS ERROR.**

Before a moment of silent honest confession,
we say

. . . Lord have mercy.
CHRIST HAVE MERCY.
Lord have mercy.

Silence

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:

O God,
in the life of Jesus,
you showed us the life-bestowing power

of truth, honesty and love.
In both his joy and suffering,
you demonstrated the value of grace,
the power of integrity,
and the wonder of a faithful heart.

**BLESS US TO PONDER THESE THINGS
AND TO BE FED BY THEM,**

for we pray this in the name of Jesus,
AMEN.

The Notices

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 23: 27-36

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Knox Singers: Thou Knowest Lord - Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

*Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not thy
merciful ears unto our prayers; but spare us, Lord most holy,
O God most mighty.*

*O holy and most merciful Saviour, Thou most worthy Judge
eternal, suffer us not at our last hour, for any pains of death to
fall from Thee.*

The text is from Burial Service, Book of Common Prayer

Sermon: Hypocrisy and Truth

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/f0FSjDSIPM>

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*To the minister's words "God of the open and honest heart",
you are invited to respond "**AWAY WITH THE WHITEWASH!**"*

**. . . 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:

Austria

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)



1. For your generous providing
which sustain us all our days,
for your Spirit here residing,
we proclaim our heartfelt praise.
Through the depths of joy and sorrow,
though the road be smooth or rough,
fearless, we can face tomorrow
for your grace will be enough.
2. Hush our world's seductive noises
tempting us to stand alone;
save us from the siren voices
calling us to trust our own.
For those snared by earthly treasure,
lured by false security,
Jesus, true and only measure,
spring the trap to set folk free.
3. Round your table, through your giving,
show us how to live and pray
till your kingdom's way of living
is the bread we share each day:
bread for us and for our neighbour,
bread for body, mind, and soul,
bread of heaven and human labour –
broken bread that makes us whole.

Leith Fisher (1941-2009)

We sit for

The Invitation

The 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.**

The Lenten Litany:

O Christ,
you were very direct in your criticism of the Scribes and Pharisees
for their hypocrisy.

In a distressing confrontation,
you called them to be honest about themselves.

Along the Lenten path,
LEAD US LORD JESUS.

O Christ,
as you have fed us for our journey,
we think we have heard you calling us
to build a world of truth and integrity.

Along the Lenten path,
LEAD US LORD JESUS.

God of love,
as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us,
so may we give ourselves to you, living according to your will.

**KEEP OUR FEET FIRMLY IN THE WAY WHERE CHRIST LEADS US,
THIS LENT, AND ALL OUR DAYS. AMEN.**

Hymn:

Moscow

Felice Giardini (1716-1796)



1. God whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight,
hear us, we humbly pray,
and, where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light!
2. Saviour, who came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
now to all humankind
let there be light!
3. Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy Dove,
speed on your flight!
Move on the waters' face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light!
4. Gracious and holy Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far and wide
let there be light!

John Marriott (1780-1825) alt.

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Aus meines Herzens Grunde
Max Reger (1873-1916)

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

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NOTICES

This Week:	1 March – 7 March
Sunday	10.00am Morning Worship 1:20pm Biscuits for Pride marchers (see notice below) 5.00pm Film Group
Wednesday	10.00am Bible Study
Thursday	11.00am Bus Trip
Next Week:	8 March – 14 March
Sunday	10.00am Morning Worship 11.30am Shalom 2:00pm Moana Vā service
Wednesday	10.00am Bible Study

Sunday 1 March: 5pm in the Chapel: Mao's Last Dancer. The true story of Li Cunxin, one of the world's greatest classical dancers. Starting in Communist China, he was taken from his childhood home and trained as a dancer. Eventually he escaped to the West where he gained international fame.

Meditation: Saturday 7 March in the Chapel at 10am. All welcome.

Bus Trip: You are invited to join a little bus trip up to the Sign of the Takahe on Thursday 5 March. Take the No. 1 bus from Victoria Street near Knox at 10.57am or pick it up anywhere en route. Arrive outside the Takahe on Cashmere Hill at 11.35am and enjoy a coffee or lunch together at the cafe there. A few minutes'

walk will take you to a wonderful lookout over the city to the Alps. This is also the future site of the national Erebus memorial. Buses depart from the Takahe at 12.21pm, 12.51pm and 1.24pm. No need to sign up for the trip - just catch the bus on the day.

Sunday lunch 15 March – 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 or, send an email to jannekenyuysink@gmail.com. To confirm numbers with the venue it would be appreciated if names were in by Wednesday the 11th.

Easter Day Breakfast - Following on the tradition, we will be celebrating Easter Day with breakfast on Sunday 5 April to be served from 8.30am – 9.15am in the Knox Lounge. Menu: Fruit and Cereal, Scrambled Eggs with Bacon, Toast and Spreads, Tea/Coffee. Cost: \$10 per person. There are clipboards by both doors to be filled in by Sunday 29 March. We need to get an idea of numbers for food ordering however, there will be enough food for extras.

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.

2 Pride Month Events

This afternoon (1 March), a small but hearty group from All Souls Anglican Church in Merivale is planning a walk from their church down to Aldersgate in Durham Street (ETA at Aldersgate is 1:45pm), and then on to the Commons, to join the all-comers Pride march through to Victoria Square at 2:00pm (for events until 4:00pm). We will greet them as they pass Knox with biscuits and encouragement at around 1:25pm. Some of us will wave them off, and some may choose to march along with them. Feel free to join in as you wish. Full details of the [official parade here](#)

At 2:00pm next Sunday (8 March), Knox is hosting a Moana Vā service. Although we host these services every quarter, this one has been advertised in the Ōtautahi Christchurch Pride calendar, so we may have a number of visitors. Knox people are more than welcome to attend. Matthew is planning to re-run the Stevie Wonder reflection on whether we were ever meant to be anyone other than who God has helped us be.



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- John 8: 1-6
- John 8: 7-11

Knox Directory

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Visit our website
<http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/>



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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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