



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

22 March 2026



Six stories of Jesus and the stones
LENT 5

**YOU ARE THE ROCK,
BUT ALSO NOT**

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, CAPTURING THE IMAGINATION OF THE DISCIPLES;
JESUS, BRINGING MOMENTS OF REALISATION TO THE FAITHFUL;
JESUS, MAKING SOMETHING WONDERFUL OUT OF LIVING STONES.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Ode to Joy

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)



1. Christ of time and Lord of history giving, when the world despairs,

faith to wrestle with the mystery
of a God who loves and cares:
make us humble in believing,
and, believing, bold to pray
“Lord, by grace beyond conceiving,
come and reign in us today!”

2. Christ, our king before creation,
Life before all life began,
crowned in deep humiliation
by a crucifying clan:
make us humble in believing,
and believing, bold to pray
“Lord, forgive our self-deceiving,
come and reign in us today!”

3. Word that spurs our long exploring,
Life of God which sets us free,
through your body recreating
life as life is meant to be:
make us humble in believing,
and believing, bold to pray
“Lord, in us your aim achieving,
come and reign in us today!”

Ivor Jones (b. 1934)

Prayer of Approach

Provoked by the question "who do you say that I am",
and blessed by a moment of Spirit-given clarity,
Peter confesses Jesus as the Messiah,
THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.

Buoyed in spirit by a rare moment of understanding
among those who followed him,
Jesus rejoices.

ON FAITH, HE FEELS HE CAN BUILD A CHURCH.

Wanting to further the joy of Jesus,
and to help him in his task of building,
we bring our own words of worship,
OUR OWN SONGS OF PRAISE.

May they prove to be evidence
that God has been speaking,
revealing truth,
**OPENING HEARTS AND MINDS,
FOR THE BUILDING OF THE HOUSE OF FAITH.**

Silence

We know, O God,
that moments of clarity often are followed, hard on the heel,
with error and confusion.

Peter proves to be a rock, but also a stone getting in the way.
Our "holding and being held" is mingled with striking, bruising, blocking.
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:

Your creatures are capable both of insight and error, O God,
yet, full of hope and confidence,
you build them into a living temple.

**LIKE PETER, WHOM YOU CALLED "THE ROCK",
MAY WE COME TO COMPREHEND YOUR NATURE,
AND BE USEFUL IN YOUR PURPOSES,**

for we pray it in Jesus' name,
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.



An artwork by Pete Majendie

Introduction: Holding and being held

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 version of this sermon is available from 10:00am today: <https://youtu.be/TT1VVLsJKow>

A Gospel Lesson: Matthew 16: 13-18

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Reflection: Messiah!

We remain seated for

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)

A Gospel Lesson:

Matthew 16: 21-23

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Reflection:

Messiah?

Music for Reflection:

Chorale prelude 'Herzlich tut mich verlangen'
Daniel Riley (b. 1992)

A Lesson:

1 Peter 2: 1-5

In this is the Word of God.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Reflection:

Love and living stones

Hymn:

Darwall's 148th

John Darwall (1731-1789)



1. Christ is our cornerstone,
on him alone we build;
around his gracious throne
his courts with praise are filled:
on his great love
our hopes we place
of present grace
and joys above.
2. O then with hymns of praise
these hallowed courts shall ring;
our voices we will raise
the Three in One to sing,
and thus proclaim
in joyful song
both loud and long
that glorious name.
3. Here may we gain from heaven
the grace which we implore;
and may that grace, once given,
be with us evermore,
until that day
when all the blest
to endless rest
are called away.

*from the Latin (c. Seventh Century)
J. Chandler (1806-1876)*

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Lesley Hunt

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

We offer our insight,
OUR GLIMPSES OF CLARITY.

We offer our love,
AND OUR DESIRE TO LOVE MORE FULLY.

We offer this money and food,
**ASKING THAT THE WHOLE OF OUR OFFERING
MIGHT FIND A GOOD DEPLOYMENT
IN THE PURPOSES OF GOD.
AMEN.**

Notices

The Lenten Litany:

O Christ,
when the heights and depths of your identity were perceived by Peter,
you rejoiced.

"Upon this", you said, "I can build something enduring".

Along the Lenten path,

LEAD US LORD JESUS.

O Christ,
you call your Lenten people to worship, service and deep understanding.
You call us to hold and to be held in faith.

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:

Christ, be our light

Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)



1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Chorus:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church
gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us,
make us your living voice.

Chorus

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Chorus

4. Longing for shelter people are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Chorus

5. Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Chorus

Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)

Benediction and **Sung Amen**

Postlude: 'Corelli' Fugue in B minor
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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

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NOTICES

This Week: 22 March – 28 March
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
11.30am Shalom
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

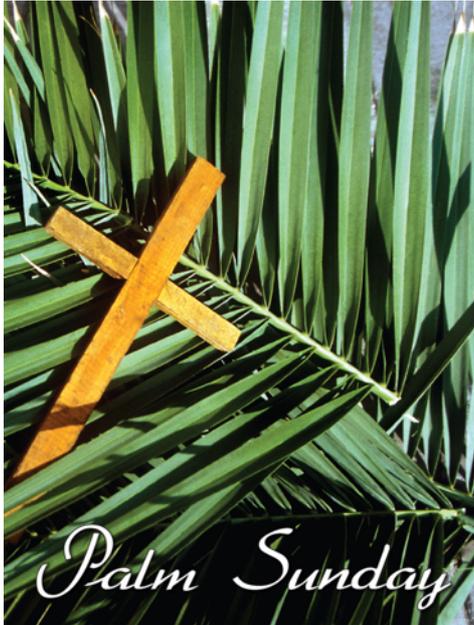
Next Week: 29 March – 4 April
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

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.

Daylight Saving: Don't forget to wind your clocks back before you go to bed on Saturday 4 April or alternatively at the official end of daylight saving i.e. 3am on Sunday morning 😊

Instruments for sale - Piano in the lounge, and Harmonium (including base). These are never used and Jeremy would be keen to sell them. Sensible offers will be accepted.

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.

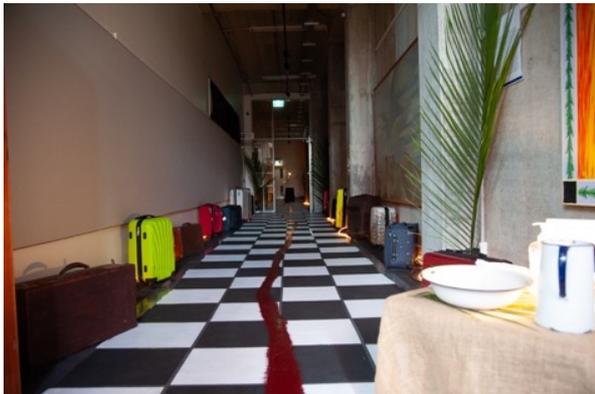


NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, and we'll begin our service with a Palm procession. Please gather before the service in the Hall of the Knox Centre, where we'll distribute palm branches and do our Call to Worship. Singing our processional hymn "All glory, praise and honour", we'll be led by the Knox Singers outside, to walk along the Bealey Avenue footpath towards Victoria Street, entering the church by the big doors. If you'd like a shorter route, you can enter the church through the new foyer, and if you'd rather not process at all, then feel free not to gather in the Hall, but go straight (as you normally would) to the church.

Holy Week

Tuesday 31 March - Thursday 2 April



The Lenten Way Te Ara Tapu

An Installation Artwork for Holy Week
Pete Majendie

In the Knox Centre Chapel

Open for viewing

Tuesday 31 March - Thursday 2 April,
9:00am - 12 noon.

The artist will be present on Tuesday
and Wednesday, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Maundy Thursday Communion Service
Thursday 2 April, 7:00pm
(also in the chapel)

What do we need from our leaders?

Rev. Chris Swannell, Anglican priest at Christ Church Kororareka, preaches a sermon about leadership in the world and the Christian community's responsibility to ask for better. <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1342581694337079>



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Luke 19: 28-40
- Psalm 19: 1-4a

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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