



# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service

29 March, 2026

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**Six stories of Jesus and the stones**  
**LENT 6**

**IF PEOPLE ARE SILENT,  
THE STONES WILL SING.**  
**a service for Palm Sunday**

## 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.

Music printed in this order of service is covered under a music copyright licence agreement: LicenSing #604802

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.

***At 10:00am, we gather in the Knox Centre Hall,  
to collect our palm branches.***

### **Welcome and Explanation**

**The Palm Sunday Narrative:** Luke 19: 28-40

### **The Gathering**

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

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

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**PEACE IN HEAVEN**

**AND GLORY IN THE HIGHEST HEAVEN!**

*Heading towards the church, the main procession will leave the Knox Centre by the Bealey Avenue doors, walking west along Bealey Avenue towards Victoria Street, entering the church through the Victoria Street doors. Those needing a shorter route to church should feel free to enter the church straight from the Knox Centre's internal doors.*

***As the procession leaves the Hall, we begin to sing:***

**Hymn:**

St Theodulph

Later form of melody by Melchior Teschner (1584-1635)



*All glory, praise and honour  
to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.*

1. You are the king of Israel,  
great David's royal son,  
now in the Lord's name coming,  
the king and blessed one.  
*All glory . . .*
2. The company of angels  
are praising you on high,  
while we and all creation  
together make reply.  
*All glory . . .*
3. The people of the Hebrews  
with palms before you went:  
our praise and prayer and anthems  
before you we present.  
*All glory . . .*
4. To you before your passion  
they sang their hymns of praise:  
to you now high exalted  
our melody we raise.  
*All glory . . .*
5. Their praises you accepted;  
accept the prayers we bring,  
in every good delighting,  
our great and gracious king.  
*All glory . . .*

*Theodulph of Orleans (d. 821)  
tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.*

## **Prayer of Approach**

The people of the Hebrews,  
the company of angels,  
the children and the palm branches  
sing their Hosanna.

**WE TOO BRING OUR VOICES.**

And should the song run out of breath,  
**THE STONES BESIDE THE ROAD  
WILL SHOUT ALOUD.**

As Jesus enters the city,  
the time is full,  
the heavens are ready.

**PRAISE AND GLORY TO GOD!**

*Pause*

For the times when we withheld our praise,  
for the times when we suppressed the joy of others,  
for the times when we failed to see God's love in Christ,  
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:**

At this far end of the Lenten journey,  
we hear that our old "companions", the stones,  
will join us soon in singing the glory of God.  
Is this the coming of a New Creation?

**JESUS, BE OUR STRENGTH AND SONG,  
OUR LIFE AND HOPE,**

for we pray it, even as you taught 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.*

**The Bible Lesson:** Psalm 19: 1-4a

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

**A Reflection:** Might I also sing?

*Generally, sermons are posted on our website shortly after the service at:  
<http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/sermons.html> Hard copies of the sermons are  
available before and after the service – ask the person at the door. A video of  
these reflections being practised is available from 10:00am today:  
<https://youtu.be/i3C9Lt9S40>*

**Knox Singers:** Procession of Palms  
Malcolm Williamson (1931-2003)

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

*led by Jennifer McKinnon*

## The Offering and Dedication

*We stand for the dedication of the Offering*

We pray that the food and money we bring  
will find its place  
within your blessing of the world.

**WE PRAY ALSO  
THAT OUR VOICES MIGHT FIND A PERFECT PLACE  
WITHIN THE SONG THAT GOES:  
"BLESSED IS THE ONE  
WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF GOD."  
AMEN.**

## Notices

### The Lenten Litany:

O Christ,  
in saying should our praise fall silent,  
the stones would start to sing,  
you call us to welcome you with our whole being.  
Along the Lenten path,  
**LEAD US LORD JESUS.**

O Christ,  
drawing near to the time of your passion,  
you hint that all creation is about to change.  
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:

Crucifer

Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947)



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

1. Come Christian people, sing your praises, shout!  
If we are silent, even stones cry out . . .
2. Great is the cost of walking on this road,  
To follow and suffer with the Son of God . . .
3. 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.*

*We turn off the lights and sit down*

### **What now for the Crowd?**

Pete Majendie

### **Closing Prayer and Blessing**

Bless us and all the crowd, O God,  
as we go with Christ  
into Holy Week.

If there be stones in the way,  
let us not strike our feet on them.  
If there be anger, or tears, or confusion,  
let us find our shelter in you.  
And should Christ need our love  
or concern or help,  
let us be alive to that.

**ON THE VERGE OF THE PASSION OF CHRIST,  
THIS IS OUR PRAYER,  
PRAYED IN HIS NAME.  
AMEN.**

The Lord bless us and keep us,  
the Lord make his face to shine upon us  
and be gracious unto us.  
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us,  
and give us peace.

We go to love and serve our God.  
**AMEN. WE GO IN THE NAME OF CHRIST.**

**Postlude:** Erbarm' dich mein, O Herre Gott, BWV 721  
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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



within the crowd, one person looks up



within the crowd, one person isn't praying the same



## NOTICES

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

**Next Week:**       **5 April – 11 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 😊

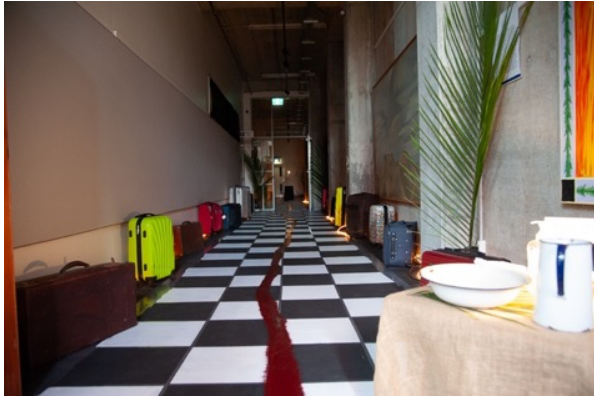
**Instruments for sale** - Piano in the lounge, and Harmonium (including base). These are never used and Jeremy would be keen to sell them. Sensible offers will be accepted.

**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 (Knox Presbyterian Church). 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.**

# Holy Week

## Holy Week

Tuesday 31 March - Wednesday 1 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

Thursday 2 April



## Communion Service

### - The Night of Tears -

Thursday 2 April, 7:00pm  
(in the chapel)

Pete reads "The Front Door",  
Matthew reflects on our attitude to tears,  
and we observe the Lord's Last Supper.

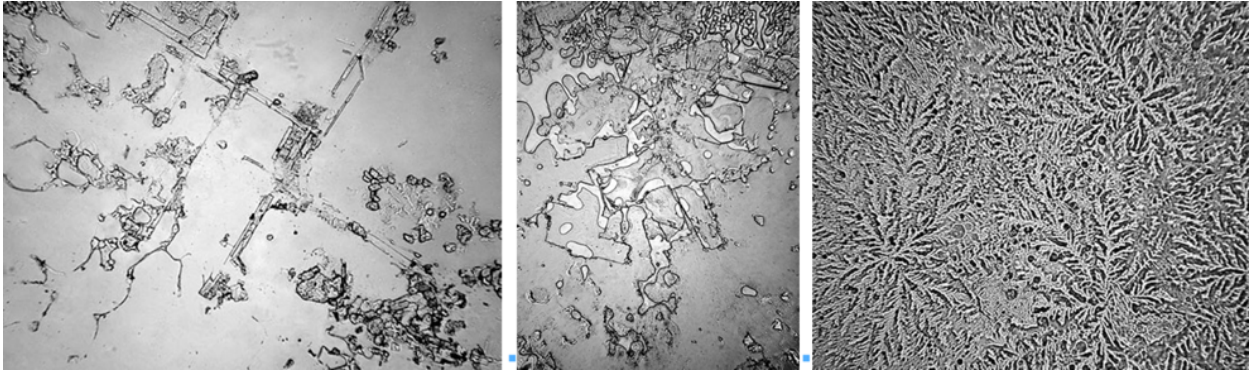
## Good Friday - 3 April

### Roll the stone across the door



A sombre reflection on death and dying.  
The huge stone (which mourners fear they  
won't be able to remove) becomes a symbol  
for all that has sought to block Jesus' work  
of love and grace. On Good Friday, as a  
line is drawn under Jesus's life, the weight  
of the stone seems to be the greatest power  
in Creation.

## Tears



These photos were taken down the barrel of a microscope. Being examined is the human tear. From left to right, a tear of grief, a tear of joy, and a tear for flushing out the onion reaction - irritation. The microscope images show quite significantly different structures to the different tears. I can understand why irritation tears should be different, since one imagines that they're designed to "flush" the eyes. They're more likely to be structured for that flushing purpose. They should be differently designed for that obvious physical purpose. I have no idea, though, why sad tears and happy tears should have different structures. Why should the happy and sad tears be physically different?

Our psychological experience of how we produce the tears is different. We know well the difference between joy and sorrow. It's interesting that the difference seems paralleled by a physical difference. Would any scientific insight into this difference give us any aid to negotiating joy and sorrow? I just don't know!

**To my lover:** I know I saw you cry one day. I hope I was there for you.

**To my God:** You've probably witnessed many tears, and shed a few of your own. Bless all who, in sorrow, joy or chopping the onions, cry.

## EASTER, 2026

**Easter Day - 5 April**  
**The power that rolled the stone away**



The service begins with a reflection and Matthew's telling of the Resurrection (where a considerable question is "how will the women access the tomb, given the large stone placed across its door?") Reflecting on Paul's famous claim of faith that "nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord" [Romans 8: 35-39], we rejoice in the rolling aside of one or two legendary stones. We can't do the rolling ourselves, but we rejoice that the God of Easter does.



## The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Matthew 28: 1-7
- Romans 8: 35-39

## 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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