



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

5 April 2026



THE POWER THAT ROLLED THE STONE AWAY

A COMMUNION SERVICE FOR EASTER DAY

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 lectern 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.

At 10:00am

A Reflection: On the third day . . .

The Easter Narrative: Matthew 28: 1-7

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you.

Matthew 28: 1-7

The Easter Greeting:

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

The Lord is risen.

HE IS RISEN INDEED!

We stand for

Hymn:

Easter Hymn

Melody from Lyra Davidica, 1708



1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!
2. Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!
3. Love's redeeming work is done; Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won; Alleluia!
Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Alleluia!
Christ has burst the gates of hell. Alleluia!

We remain standing for

The Prayer of Adoration

. . . Indeed, honour and glory, worship and wonder are yours, Christ-raising God,
in whose celebration joyfully we sing:

The Doxology:

4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia,
following our exalted Head; Alleluia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise: Alleluia;
ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!

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.

We sit for

The Notices

Scripture Lesson: Romans 8: 35-39

In this is the Word of God.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Nothing in all creation

**CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD,
IN JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD.**

The Knox Singers: Most Glorious Lord of Life
William Harris (1883-1973)

The Easter Sermon: Nothing in all creation

*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
version of this sermon is available from 10:00am today:*

<https://youtu.be/tD5HHG5Zi20>

Hymn:

Blaenwern

William Penfro Rowlands (1860-1937)



1. Christ has risen while earth slumbers,
Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised,
as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing;

let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumour –
Christ is risen, God is here!

2. Christ has risen for the people
whom he loved and died to save;
Christ has risen for the women
bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for disciples
huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation
is not silenced by the tomb.
3. Christ has risen, and for ever
lives to challenge, and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled,
all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen. Christ is present,
making us what he has been –
evidence of transformation
in which God is known and seen.

*John Bell (b. 1949)
and Graham Maule (b. 1958)*

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*To the minister's words, "The stone seems final",
you are invited to respond, "THE STONE IS ROLLED AWAY".*

**. . . 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 have this money to offer,
which we have earned
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.**

Without announcement, we sing the

Communion Hymn:

Ellacombe

melody from Mainz Gesangbuch, 1833



1. The day of resurrection!
earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness,
the passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from earth up to the sky,
our Christ has brought us over
with hymns of victory.
2. Now let the heavens be joyful
and earth her song begin,
the round world keep high triumph
and all that is therein;
let all things seen and unseen
their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen,
our joy that has no end.

John of Damascus (c.675-749)

trans: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.

We sit for

The Thanking and Discharging of the Stones

Remembering the Breaking of the Bread, the Lifting of the Cup

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 non-alcoholic grape juice, please take communion from the server
with the communion tray. If you prefer gluten free bread, please take it from the
central plinth.*

We stand for
The Easter Litany:

For early morning,
GOD'S NAME BE PRAISED.

For the giving of strength and song,
GOD'S NAME BE PRAISED.

For empty tombs,
GOD'S NAME BE PRAISED.

For glory and light,
GOD'S NAME BE PRAISED.

**FOR NEW BEGINNINGS,
FOR CHRIST ALIVE,
FOR EASTER LIFE
AND LIVING FAITH,
GOD'S NAME BE PRAISED.**

Hear the praises of your Easter people
this Easter morning, and every morning,
**THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD,
AMEN.**

Without announcement, we sing

Hymn:

Heartbeat

Jillian Bray (b. 1939)



1. Christ is alive, and the universe must celebrate,
and the stars and the suns shout on this Easter Day!
Christ is alive, and his family must celebrate
in a great Alleluia, a great Alleluia
to praise the power that made the stone roll away.
2. Here is our hope: in the mystery of suffering
is the heartbeat of Love, Love that will not let go,

Here is our hope, that in God we are not separate,
and we sing alleluia, we sing alleluia
to praise the power that made the stone roll away.

3. Christ Spirit, dance through the dullness of humanity
to the music of God, God who has set us free!
You are the pulse of the new creation's energy;
with a great Alleluia, a great Alleluia,
we praise the power that made the stone roll away.

Shirley Murray (1931-2020)

Benediction and **Sung Amen**

Postlude: Litanies
Jehan Alain (1911-1940)

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

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NOTICES

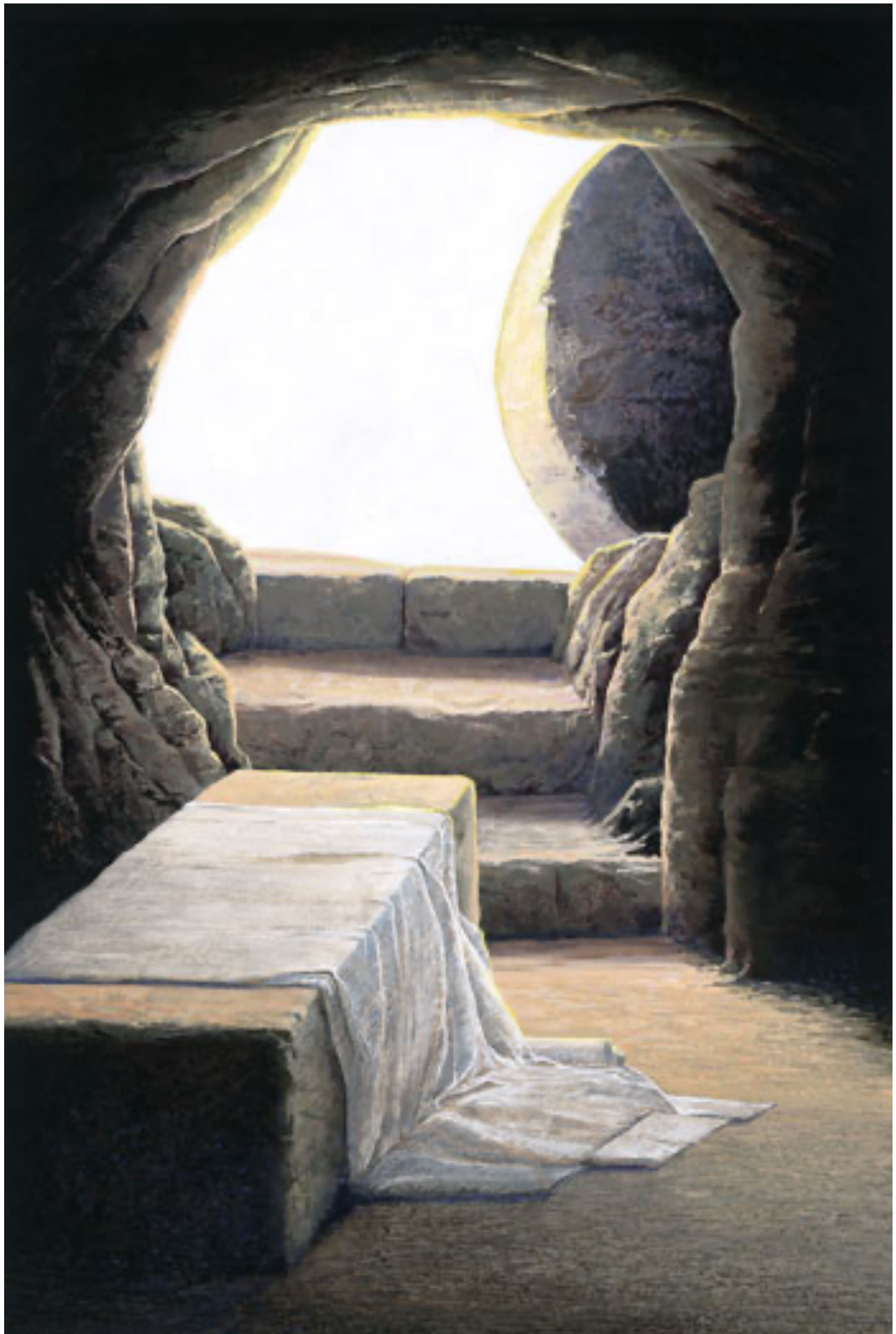
This Week: **5 April – 11 April**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: **12 April – 18 April**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
 11.30am Shalom
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Sunday lunch (19 April) – 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.

Christchurch Marathon – Reminder that the 2026 Christchurch Marathon is being held on Sunday 12 April starting at 7.30am. There will be some road closures in place.

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 ph: 379 2456.





The Bible readings for next week will be:

- John 20: 19-31
- 1 Peter 1: 3-9

Knox Directory

28 Bealey Ave,
Ōtautahi Christchurch 8013

Secretary: Lynda Gerken,
ph. (03) 379 2456,
office@knoxchurch.co.nz

Office hours:
Monday - Friday, 9.00am-noon

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



Minister: Rev. Dr Matthew Jack
minister@knoxchurch.co.nz
voicemail at home (03) 3570 111

Church Council Clerk: Jean Brouwer
jean.brouwer@knoxchurch.co.nz

Director of Music: Jeremy Woodside
jeremy.woodside89@gmail.com

Pastoral Visitors:
Rev Norman and Linda Wilkins
g8m8zinbayst@gmail.com
+64 272499741 (Linda's mobile)
+64 220667626 (Norman's mobile)



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:

Address:

Phone:

Email: