



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

28 June 2026



**4/4 IN A SERIES OF SERVICES
ON UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS**

**FREEDOM TO MARRY
(OR TO NOT MARRY)**

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 - use your aid's "T" setting.

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.

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Since Jeremy is away today, we're delighted to welcome Russell Kent to the organ bench. We're also really pleased to welcome Russell's organ student, Alexander Dy, who will be playing the "Music for Reflection" and the postlude. Thank you Russell and Alex.

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, BORN COMPLICATEDLY TO A BETROTHED COUPLE;
JESUS, PROVIDING WINE AND WONDER TO A WEDDING IN CANA;
JESUS, UNMARRIED IN LIFE, YET BRIDEGROOM TO THE CHURCH.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Regent Square

Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)



1. Jesus come, for we invite you,
guest and master, friend and Lord;
now, as once at Cana's wedding,
speak, and let us hear your word:
lead us through our need or doubting,
hope be born and joy restored.
2. Jesus come, transform our pleasures,
guide us into paths unknown;
bring your gifts, command your servants,
let us trust in you alone:
though your hand may work in secret,
all shall see what you have done.
3. Jesus, come in new creation,
heaven brought near in power divine;
give your unexpected glory
changing water into wine:
rouse the faith of your disciples –
come, our first and greatest Sign!
4. Jesus, come, surprise our dullness,
make us willing to receive
more than we can yet imagine,
all the best you have to give:
let us find your hidden riches,
taste your love, believe, and live!

Christopher Idle (b. 1938)

Prayer of Approach

Maybe we can picture you, Lord Jesus Christ,
attending the wedding in Cana,
wondering what your first sign might be -
maybe a wine sign.

**WE IMAGINE IT WAS A HAPPY OCCASION,
A GOOD GATHERING OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS.**

Maybe we wonder who the happy couple were,
how they had met,
what they loved about each other,
WHAT THEIR HOPES AND PLANS MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

We hope that theirs turned out to be a successful match,
stretching over many years of love and happiness,
rather than annoyance and anger.
WE HOPE THAT TWO HEARTS FLOURISHED.

That is our hope, dear Christ;
IT IS OUR HOPE.

Pause

But we know that human relationship is complicated,
VERY COMPLICATED INDEED.

Sometimes we bring anger,
unforgiveness,
and shifting compatibilities and incompatibilities
to our being together.

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 early followers, Lord Jesus Christ,
described you as the groom,
whose love for your bride, the church
spoke well of God's love for the world.
Marriage was a fitting metaphor
for the love lavished by heaven.

**HELP US EXPLORE THE RIGHT TO MARRY
AND THE RIGHT TO NOT MARRY,
IN A WAY INHABITED BY YOUR SPIRIT,**

for we pray this in your name,

remembering the words you 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.

The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Article 16

Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Reflection: Four different roads to "I do" or "I don't"

Generally, sermons are posted on 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/CbvZfxLouds>

The First Lesson: Genesis 21: 8-14

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

To "protect" the family,
Hagar and Ishmael are driven out.
MAY GOD SHOW US A BETTER WAY.

Reflection: Institutions and victims

Music for Reflection: Prelude on "Humility"
Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)
Played by Alexander Dy

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 22: 23-33

This is the gospel of Christ.
PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Sadducees told a marriage story to lay a trap.
DON'T YOU BE USING MARRIAGE AS A WEAPON!

Reflection: Don't you be using marriage as a weapon!

Hymn:

O Perfect Love

Joseph Barnby (1838-1896)



1. O perfect love, all human thought transcending,
lowly we kneel in prayer before your throne,
that theirs may be the love which knows no ending,
whom you for evermore now join in one.
2. O perfect Life, be now their full assurance
of tender charity and steadfast faith,
of patient hope, and quite brave endurance,
with childlike trust that fears not pain or death.
3. Grant them the joy which brightens earthly sorrow,
grant them the peace which calms all earthly strife,
and to life's day the glorious unknown morrow
that dawns upon eternal love and life.

Dorothy Frances Gurney (1858-1932)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Andrew Johnston

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

We offer our desire that all people should be safe.
We offer our hope that all people should know love.
We offer this money and food,
in the hope that the vulnerable will find help and shelter.

**MAY GOD BLESS ALL THAT WE BRING,
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST,
BRIDEGROOM TO THE CHURCH
AND LOVER OF GOD'S CREATION.
AMEN.**

Notices

Hymn:

Hyfrydol

Rowland Huw Prichard (1811-1887)



1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.
2. Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave:
thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

3. Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be,
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Prelude and Fugue in D minor
J.S. Bach (1685 - 1750)
Played by Alexander Dy

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



NOTICES

This Week: **28 June – 4 July**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: **5 July – 11 July**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
 4.00pm Film Group – Mr Burton
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Meditation: 4 July at 10am in the Chapel - all welcome.

Back to Baroque: Monday 29 June, 7pm, Oxford Terrace Baptist Church -
Tomas Hurnik (cello) and Jeremy Woodside (organ). Please see poster for
details.

Film Group: Sunday 5 July at 4pm in the Lounge: **Mr Burton** - This inspiring film shows the early life of the famous actor Richard Burton. He was the son of a miner in a small Welsh village in the 1940s. His teacher was Mr Burton, who recognised the talent in the young lad. The film ends with his first performance on the London stage. The rest is history.

Home wanted: Murray and Marti Winn are in the process of selling their rural property and would be interested in hearing from anyone in the congregation who might know of a home they could buy. Get the Winn's contact details from the office.

Shalom: 12 July - Robin Frew will be speaking on the subject of death.

This year's Matariki service

Knox will be observing Matariki on Sunday 12 July this year. One of the conventions at Matariki in te Ao Māori is to speak out, in community, the names of those who have died in the last year. We have done this a few times now, and people find it meaningful. Please spend the next while thinking about whether you have a name that comes to mind.

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.



BAROQUE MUSIC COMMUNITY AND
EDUCATIONAL TRUST OF NEW ZEALAND
PRESENTS

TRAVEL THROUGH TIME

CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES 2026

Back to Baroque

Baroque Organ by Candlelight
*Bach Toccata and Fugue in D minor, BWV 565
and other hidden gems of baroque music*
Organ – Jeremy Woodside
Cello – Tomas Hurnik
Monday 29th of June 7pm

Back to Classic

Mozart's 270th Anniversary
Celebrating His Birth
*Mozart Piano Trio in G major, KV 564
and other hidden gems of classical music*
Piano – Gabriel Baird
Violin – Jonathan Tanner
Cello – Tomas Hurnik
Monday 21st of September 7pm

Back to Romantic

Piano Trios
*Schubert Piano Trio no.2 E-flat major op.100
and other hidden gems of romantic music*
Piano – Gabriel Baird
Violin – Jonathan Tanner
Cello – Tomas Hurnik
Monday 23rd of November 7pm

**All Concerts at Oxford Terrace
Baptist Church, Christchurch**

Tickets online / Cash sale at the door
General \$40 - Community Service/Gold Card \$30
Student \$10 - Child \$5

www.baroquemusic.co.nz





The Bible reading for next week will be:

- Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

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?

Name:

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