



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

26 July 2026

WHEAT AND WEEDS

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.

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, TELLING STORIES OF WHEAT AND WEEDS;
JESUS, CALLING US TO RESPOND WELL TO DAMAGE IN THE WORLD;
JESUS, WHOSE NURTURING REIGN IS ALREADY AMONG US.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Martyrdom

Hugh Wilson (1766-1824)



1. The reign of God, like farmer's field,
bears weeds along with wheat;
the good and bad are intertwined
till harvest is complete.
2. Like mustard tree, the reign of God
from tiny seed will spread,
till birds of every feather come
to nest, and there be fed.
3. Though hidden now, the reign of God
may, yet unnoticed, grow;
from deep within it rises up,
like yeast in swelling dough.
4. The reign of God is come in Christ;
the reign of God is near.
Ablaze among us, kindling hearts,
the reign of God is here!

Delores Dufner (b. 1939)

Prayer of Approach

The wheat grows in the field;
it's beautiful in the wind,
blowing like some tide of fruitfulness.
The diligence of the planter is to be admired.
The harvest is on the way.

WE REJOICE IN THE GROWING.

A weed appears among the wheat;
"who put it there" is not a natural question,
since seeds blow
and weeds grow
and this is part of the expectation:

THERE WILL BE WEEDS.

Dear God, the Lord Jesus told a parable
about wheat and weeds,
and quickly the thinking moves from agriculture
to the ways of the world -

THE INFLUENCERS FOR GOOD

AND ALSO FOR BAD,

AND ALL THE DAMAGE WE NEED TO MANAGE.

As Jesus ends his parable with the phrase
"let those who have ears listen",
A KNOCKING WILL COME UPON OUR HEARTS.

How to be wheat,
how to live creatively among the weeds,
**HOW TO AVAIL OURSELVES
TO THE WORK OF JESUS
AS HE HEALS THE WORLD.**

Part of this may be auditing our own responsibilities,
how we have turned towards or away from our duties,
how we have made of our life a pasture of productivity,
or an abandoned patch of weeds.
As we ponder,

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:

Since, O God, you made not just the wheat,
but also the weeds,
and since you want all your living things
to grow, flourish and thrive,

**GIVE US THE CAPACITY TO CHALLENGE THE WRONG,
FOSTER THE RIGHT,
BALANCING PATIENCE AND DETERMINATION
IN THE SCALE OF FAITH,**

for we pray this in the name of Jesus,
who taught us to pray, saying together

**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 First Lesson: Matthew 13: 24-30

For the parable of wheat and weeds,
THANKS BE TO GOD.

A Reflection: An enemy has done this

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/mp01a6C7DpI>

Music for Reflection: Voluntary in A minor
Thomas Weelkes (1576-1623)

The Second Lesson: Matthew 13: 36-43

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

A Reflection: Weeds and people

Hymn:

Ar Hyd Y Nos

Welsh traditional melody



1. For the fruits of all creation,
thanks be to God;
for these gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping,
thanks be to God.
2. In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done;
in our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.
3. For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Lesley Hunt

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

We offer our openness to the idea that weeds can become wonderful.

We offer our hope that we can nurture others towards the good.

We offer our bravery, mercy, faith and hope.

**WE OFFER ALSO THIS FOOD AND MONEY,
PRAYING THAT IT WILL ALL WORK FOR GOOD IN THE WORLD.
AMEN.**

Notices

Hymn:

Praise, my soul

John Goss (1800-1880)



1. Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love and peace,
Source and end of human knowledge
grace bestowing without cease.
Celebrate our God's great glory,
power to rescue and release.
2. Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry,
frees the captive, finds the lost,
heals the sick, upsets religion,
fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence,
friend and stranger, guest and host.
3. Praise the Spirit sent among us,
liberating truth from pride,
forging bonds where race or gender,
age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure,
foolishness none dare deride.
4. Praise Creator, Christ and Spirit,
one God in community,
calling Christians to embody

oneness and diversity.
Thus the world shall yet believe
when shown Christ's vibrant unity.

Iona Community

Benediction and **Sung Amen**

Postlude: Wir glauben all an einen Gott
Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

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

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NOTICES

This Week: **26 July – 1 August**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Next Week: **2 August – 8 August**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
 4.00pm Film Group
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Today Linda wishes you to join with her in a celebration of a “big” birthday, so there will be extra goodies for everyone to share at our “together time” after the service.

Shalom will not be meeting today. Our next session will be on 9 August when Murray Winn will speak about the interface between religion and psychotherapy.

Meditation in the Chapel on 1 August. Come along and experience it for yourself.

Film Group: Sunday 2 August at 4pm in the Lounge - ***Hunt for the Wilder People (2016)***. A cantankerous old step-uncle takes a young city kid on the run in the wild New Zealand bush. This fun and heartwarming film was one of Sir Sam Neill's favourites. A true masterpiece we shall watch as a tribute to our legendary NZ actor.

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.

SEASON OF CREATION 2026

Four Essentials



30 August

The first essential - Being

The Coming Warmth

A Spring Flower Sunday service.

God creates light, life and blossom

Blossom speaks of the coming warmth. Does it also speak to the coming of the new Creation? Hope?

We bless posies of flowers that will be delivered to people who don't get to church much these days.



6 September

The second essential - Air

God breathes air into the nostrils of the Adam, and the human being comes to life. We explore our husbandry of the atmosphere, and set it next to Paul's description of the destructive influence of the "ruler of the power of the air". We celebrate communion.



13 September

The third essential - Water

As we note droughting parts of the world, and parts overwhelmed by rain and flood, and rising sea levels, (managed retreat) we explore Ezekiel's image of the living waters (Ezekiel 47:1-12) that bless creation.



20 September

The fourth essential - Non-judging Company

For our annual "Blessing of the Animals" service, we ask whether the company of other creatures is as vital to us as air, water and being. How important is companionship? Please bring your animal to the service, or send photos of pets past and present to the office by noon, Wednesday 16 September.

AI & HUMANITY

CONFERENCE 2026

— ETHICS, FAITH & HUMAN FLOURISHING —



ETHICAL
AI



FAITH &
WISDOM



HUMAN
FLOURISHING



COMMUNITY
& HOPE

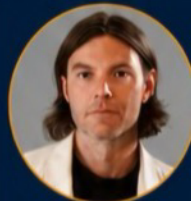
FEATURING SPEAKERS



DR STEPHEN GARNER
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Laidlaw College, Auckland

Theologian, technologist and author,
exploring faith, technology and
human flourishing in the age of AI.



DR MATTHEW GALLOWAY
FEATURED SPEAKER

Victoria University of Wellington
(Te Herenga Waka)

Education specialist in AI ethics,
designing practical frameworks for
responsible and wise AI use.



Theology &
Technology



AI Ethics &
Society



Faith in a
Digital World



Evaluate
AI Tools



Spot Misinformation
& Disinformation



Build Wise
Practices



CASHMERE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2 MacMillan Avenue,
Cashmere, Christchurch



Friday 28th Aug: 6pm - 9pm
Saturday 29th Aug: 8:30am - 4pm



THOUGHTFUL TECHNOLOGY.
HUMAN PURPOSE. SHARED HOPE.

A CONFERENCE FOR EVERYONE - BUSINESS LEADERS,
EDUCATORS, FAMILIES, AND OUR COMMUNITY.





The Bible reading for next week will be:

- John 7:53 - 8:11

Knox Directory

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Visit our website
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Church Council Clerk: Jean Brouwer
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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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