



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

2 August 2026

FROM SHAME TO PEACE

A COMMUNION SERVICE
FOR PEACE 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 - 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.

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.

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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.

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

The Call to Worship:

We light a candle in the name of Jesus Christ, a light in the world.

**JESUS, CAPTAIN OF THE SECOND CHANCE;
JESUS, DISARMING THE POWERS OF SHAME;
JESUS, IN WHOSE LOVE AND PRIDE WE STAND TALLER THAN TALL.**

Kia noho a Ihowa ki a koutou. God be with you.
MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Woodlands

Walter Greatedorex (1877-1949)



1. Stand tall in Christ, all people of our God,
no other idol will suffice this hour.
In Jesus Christ all captives are set free,
all hurts are healed and hope is born anew.
2. Stand tall in Love, all people who would dare
be reconcilers where divisions lie;
in love will pain and loneliness be eased
and rainbows hung in all our hearts again.
3. Stand tall in Peace, all people who love life,
whose lives are candles in earth's darkest place,
who plead for justice and support the weak
that all might live in hope and harmony.
4. Stand tall in Faith, all people who would share
as trusting partners in God's enterprise,
whose lives would speak in deeds, not just in words,
of grace, forgiveness and a generous heart.

Margaret Kouvelis (b. 1949)

Prayer of Approach

Standing tall in Christ,
strong and proud -
captives set free, hurts healed,
hope born anew.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Standing tall in God's love,
strong and proud,
reconciling, easing the loneliness,
rainbows hung in the human heart.

PRAISE TO GOD, LIBERATOR.

Standing tall in peace,
candles in the darker places,
the weakened supported, the hope and harmony restored.
PRAISE TO GOD, GIVER OF HELP AND HOPE.

Standing tall in faith,
grace, forgiveness, generous hearts overflowing
in love of God and neighbour.
PRAISE TO GOD, WHO MAKES US WELL.

Pause

Praise also to God
who takes the hurt person by the hand,
who draws the wounded one up
from sorrow and shame.
Praise God who hears the confession
and opens the door to the renewal of life.

. . . 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:

The accusations against your Son, O God,
were published in public.
He was blamed and shamed,
and left to the cruelty of judgment.
Yet you raised him,
giving him the name above all names,
proud, strong, victorious.

**INSPIRE US, THROUGH HIM,
TO HELP THOSE CAUGHT IN SHAME,
THAT ALL YOUR CHILDREN,
GUILTY AND INNOCENT
MAY GRASP THE FREEDOM GIVEN BY THE GOSPEL,**

for we pray this in the name of the proud and enabling Christ,
AMEN.

The Notices

An Introduction: The Elephant is in the Room

Generally, sermons are posted on our website's sermon page 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/CZyidJZ-NFI>

If you would like to watch Mark Crysel and Miriama Kamo interviewing the people mentioned in the sermon, you can find the full version at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oa8s3Nel7po&t=22s>

The Gospel Lesson: John 7:53 - 8:11

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Three Short Reflections

- After the shame, peace?
- After the death, life?
- Blessed are the peacemakers

Knox Singers: The Lord bless you and keep you John Rutter (b. 1945)

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

Numbers 6: 24-26

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*To the minister's words, "We wonder how the kingdom of this world", you are invited to respond **"MIGHT BECOME THE REIGN OF THE PRINCE OF PEACE"**.*

... 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 bring what we have gathered,
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.**

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.

Communion Hymn:

St Botolph

Gordon Slater (1896-1979)



1. I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
God's love made clear to see.
2. I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread.
3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.
4. The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here.
5. Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one.

Brian Wren (b. 1936)

We sit for

The Invitation and Institution

The Setting Apart of the Elements

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

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 gluten free bread, some is available on the plinth in front of the bread servers. Non-alcoholic grape juice can be taken from the trays held by the glass servers.

The Prayer After Communion

Eternal God,
we give you thanks and praise
that while we were still far off
you met us in your Son, and brought us home.

**MAY WE WHO SHARE HIS BREAD
LIVE HIS RISEN LIFE;
WE WHO DRINK HIS CUP
BRING LIFE TO OTHERS;
WE WHOM THE SPIRIT LIGHTS
GIVE LIGHT TO THE WORLD,
THAT ALL YOUR CHILDREN SHALL BE FREE,
AND THE WHOLE EARTH LIVE TO PRAISE YOUR NAME.
AMEN.**

Hymn:

Harewood

Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)



1. God, when you called us here
to gather in this place,
you longed to give to us
your friendship and your grace.
You spoke to us, you drew us near
to touch our hearts that we might hear
2. Your saving word was sown
like seed into a field.
Now let it multiply
and bring a fruitful yield.
You send us out marked with Christ's sign:
the branches of the one true vine.

3. As we go out to serve
this world claimed for your Son,
we seek the Spirit's help
to live for Christ alone.
Go with us, God, and guide us still
to know and do your perfect will.
4. Your grace is in our midst,
you give abundantly,
more than we ask or think,
now and eternally.
All glory to our gracious God
throughout the church, in Christ our Lord!

Keith Pearson (b. 1925)

Benediction and **Sung Amen**

Postlude: The Peace may be exchanged from Rubrics
Dan Locklair (b. 1949)



NOTICES

This Week:	2 August – 8 August
Sunday	10.00am Morning Worship
	4.00pm Film Group – Hunt for the Wilder People
Wednesday	10.00am Bible Study

Next Week:	9 August – 15 August
Sunday	10.00am Morning Worship
	11.30am Shalom – Murray Winn speaking
Wednesday	10.00am Bible Study

Congregational Meeting: There is to be a congregational meeting on Sunday 16 August to consider the budget for the 2026/2027 year. Straight after the service at 11am.

Sunday lunch 16 Aug – 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. To confirm numbers with the venue it would be appreciated if names were in by Wednesday the 12th.

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.

An example of a Public Ritual for Forgiveness

Ifoga is a [Samoan](#) ceremony of apology, in which one party ritually and publicly humiliates themselves and offers a gift of '[le tōga](#) (fine mats) in exchange for forgiveness by another. It is a part of traditional dispute resolution between families in [Fa'a Sāmoa](#) where mediation has failed. The term comes from the word ifo, "to bow down".

In an ifoga, the party seeking forgiveness sits before the house of the wronged party and is then covered up by fine mats. Traditionally this is done under cover of darkness, with the party seeking forgiveness bringing firewood, stones, and banana leaves (required for an [earth oven](#)). Forgiveness is given when the wronged party removes the mats, and this is followed by exchanges of speeches and gifts. While traditionally an ifoga could result in prolonged waiting, or even be rejected, in contemporary Samoa it is almost always accepted quickly.

In 2021, New Zealand Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, participated in an Ifoga ceremony, as part of New Zealand's apology to Pacific peoples for the Dawn Raids of the 1970s and 1980s.

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.



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Luke 12: 13-21
- John 12: 20-26

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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