



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

16 August 2026

WHAT IS IMPORTANT?

A mother takes care of her child. Is that obviously important?
Does it matter what race she is?

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.

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.

Today we welcome Nicola Holt, Soprano, who has come to sing during the service. Welcome back, Nicola! It is always good to have you with us.

The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, WHOSE EYE FOR THE IMPORTANT WAS KEEN AND SHARP;
JESUS, CHALLENGING THE SILLINESS OF FALSE PRIORITIES;
JESUS, CALLING US TO SERVE THE GOD OF VISION AND PURPOSE.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Slane

Irish traditional melody



1. Be now my vision, O God of my heart,
nothing surpasses the love you impart -
you my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, your presence my light.
2. Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;
ever within me, my soul is assured;
Mother and Father, you are both to me;
now and forever your child I will be.
3. Be my protection, my inspiring light,
giving me dignity, and great delight;
be my soul's shelter, my strong highest tower:
raising me heav'nward, O Power of my power.
4. Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,
you my inheritance, now and always:
you and you only are first in my heart,
great God, my treasure, may we never part.
5. Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Irish hymn dating from c. 8th cent

Translated: Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931)

Versified: Eleanor Henrietta Hull (1860-1935), adapt.

Prayer of Approach

Within the heart of Christ,
A DEEP AND WARMING LOVE.

Within the mind of Christ,
**A CLARITY ABOUT WHAT IS,
AND WHAT YET MIGHT BE.**

Within the eye of Christ,
a view over our hope,
OUR FAITH,
our error,
OUR COMING HOME.

Within the teaching of Christ,
a way to dignity,
AND STRENGTH
AND WISDOM AND DELIGHT.

Within the call of Christ,
an invitation to grow
AND LEARN
AND BLESS
AND PRAISE.

O God of our vision,
ALL PRAISE TO YOU!

Silence

Clarity of vision, from a God of vision . . .
On this journey through life,
we can become confused about what is real,
and important, and to be sought.

Many voices shout out, and throw up distractions.
Wash your hands to please God!
Avoid certain people to please God!
Withhold a word and world of mercy - to please God!
Send the children to school with no shoes or food - to please God.
It all gets murky.

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 Pharisees will walk a long way, O God,
to accuse Jesus of not knowing what is important to you.
Their long journey for silly purposes
will get them off to a bad start.

AS JESUS RESPONDS TO THEM,

**LEAD US TO DISCERN YOUR DESIRE FOR THE WORLD,
THE DISTRACTIONS WE SHOULD AVOID,
AND THE MATTERS TO WHICH WE SHOULD GIVE ENERGY,**

for we pray this in the name of Jesus,
whose words we remember as together we say

**E TO MATOU MATUA I TE RANGI,
KIA TAPU TOU INGOA.
KIA TAE MAI TOU RANGATIRATANGA.
KIA MEATIA TAU E PAI AI
KI RUNGA KI TE WHENUA
KIA RITE ANO KI TO TE RANGI.
HOMAI KI A MATOU AIANEI
HE TARO MA MATOU MO TENEI RA.
MURUA A MATOU HARA,
ME MATOU HOKI E MURU NEI
I O TE HUNGA E HARA ANA KI A MATOU.
AUA HOKI MATOU E KAWEA KIA WHAKAWAIA;
ENGARI WHAKAORANGIA MATOU I TE KINO:
NOU HOKI TE RANGATIRATANGA,
TE KAHA, ME TE KORORIA,
AKE AKE AKE. AMINE.**

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 Context: What came before the "then"

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/2DQ8rTioBkg>

The First Lesson: Matthew 15: 10-20

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Jesus calls us to discern what is important.

WE FEEL IT IMPORTANT THAT WE DISCERN.

Reflection: Let's reflect on that public argument

Anthem: Pie Jesu from Requiem
Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

The Second Lesson: Matthew 15: 21-28

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us!

NO! HER DAUGHTER SHALL BE HEALED.

Reflection: God's priorities prevail - eventually

Hymn:

New Directions

Barry Brinson (b. 1939)



1. Christ has changed the world's direction!
Christ can change the human heart:
agents of the new creation
mend the people torn apart;
so are we
charged to be
go-betweens for unity.
2. Peace will be our way of thinking:
common wealth and common state.
Gone the wounds, the words and weapons
that conspire to hurt and hate,
and no power
shall devour
earth or air where peace might flower.
3. Debts and doubts will be forgiven,
cancelled in the name of God,
olive trees again be planted
there where soldiers' boots have trod,
hunger fed,
terror fled,
justice shining in its stead.

4. What have we as commendation,
sent to speak, as speak we must?
Love will be our global language,
hands an enemy can trust,
faith to faith,
race with race,
all shall find a meeting place.
5. Envoys of a High Commission,
gifts of hope we find to share,
Christ the Spirit reconciling,
Christ our internet of care.
Though we stall,
fail or fall,
shall we now refuse God's call?

Shirley Murray (1931-2020)

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

led by Murray Winn

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

"There is a devotion to God that hurts God
because it hurts people".

**SO PERHAPS THERE IS A DEVOTION THAT PLEASES GOD
BECAUSE IT BLESSES PEOPLE.**

Somewhere along the road we travel, O God,
we have discerned the importance of bringing an offering.

**SOMEWHERE ALONG THE ROAD,
WE CAME TO SENSE YOUR PRIORITIES.**

We pray that what we offer will make a positive difference,
PLEASING YOU BY CARING FOR OTHERS.

This our prayer, prayed in the name of Jesus.
AMEN.

Notices

Hymn:

Christ, be our light

Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)



1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Chorus:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church
gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us,
make us your living voice.

Chorus

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Chorus

4. Longing for shelter people are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Chorus

5. Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Chorus

Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Carillon
Herbert Murrill (1909-1952)

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

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The sermon and prayers in this service were written by Matthew with no styling
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NOTICES

This Week:	16 August – 22 August
Sunday	10.00am Morning Worship
	11.00am Congregational Meeting
	12.00pm Lunch at Urban Eatery
Wednesday	10.00am Bible Study

Next Week:	23 August – 29 August
Sunday	10.00am Morning Worship
Wednesday	10.00am Bible Study

Congregational Meeting: There is to be a congregational straight after today's service to consider the budget for the 2026/2027 year.

Spring Flower Sunday – 30 August: To celebrate spring, it is intended to deliver small bunches of spring flowers to our shut in and older senior members after the morning service. Would you let Jennifer McKinnon know if you are able to bring spring flowers, already bunched, for distribution. Also needed will be volunteers to deliver the flowers. This is an opportunity to connect with other church people.

BUS TRIP - A bus trip to Rangiora is planned for Thursday 27 August. Just be at Knox by 10.30am ready to catch the Rangiora bus (Number 1) opposite Knox in Victoria Street at 10.41am. We'll reach Rangiora at 11.47am and will have a bite to eat at a cafe. A walk along the main street may appeal to some if the weather is pleasant. Buses return to Christchurch at 10 past and 40 past each hour. Feel free to board the bus at the bus exchange or elsewhere along the route if that is more convenient for you.

Sunday 6 September 4pm Film in the Lounge: The Last Emperor (1987). This is the story of Pu Yi, who became Emperor of China in 1908 at the age of three. Then China became a republic, and Pu Yi ended up as a gardener in the Peking Botanical Gardens. This fascinating film gives us some insight into the birth of modern China.

Christchurch Symphony Orchestra and Jeremy Woodside

play music by Rameau, Beethoven and Poulenc's Organ Concerto. 12 September, 7.30pm, Christchurch Town Hall.

Tickets from www.cso.co.nz or Eventfinda

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:

- Isaiah 55: 1-3a, 8-11
- Luke 4: 14-19

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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