



# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

## Order of Service

27 October 2026

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**Are we nearly  
there yet?**

## 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.

Please don't leave any items unattended around the church;  
they may cause alarm.

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.

### **Welcome:**

The peace of God be with you. **And also with you.**

We keep a moment of silence.

### **The Call to Worship:**

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

Jesus called his followers  
to a much harder way  
than the mere following  
of memorised rules and regulations.  
They were to learn the inner discipline

of listening for God's voice  
and seeking out an appropriate response  
in every individual situation.  
God still calls us to this discipline,  
and in worship we consciously seek  
to hear God's voice and pursue God's will  
for the response of our living.  
Let us worship God!

*Frederick A. Styles Worship For An Easter People 'Volume 2' (Ontario: enThusia Enterprises 1978) p. 1-9*

**Hymn:** Morning has broken



1. Morning has broken like the first morning; blackbird has spoken like the first bird: praise for the singing, praise for the morning, praise for them springing fresh from the world!
2. Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven, like the first dew fall on the first grass: praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where his feet pass.
3. Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning born of the one light Eden saw play: praise with elation, praise every morning, God's re-creation of the new day!
4. Morning has broken like the first morning; blackbird has spoken like the first bird: praise for the singing, praise for the morning, praise for them springing fresh from the world!

*Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)*

## **PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION**

The lengthening days and the first appearance of spring flowers opens our mind to the wonder of creation.

**The rebirth of trees and flowers inspires praise for the creator and gratitude for the gift of life in all its complex diversity and interdependence.**

We reflect on the swirling mass of the universe which is the very cauldron of creation

**An emptiness where divine word brings all things into being giving stability and peace within the chaos of ever-changing timelessness.**

In the image of a bush that burns without being consumed humanity is called out of the slavery our fears impose upon us.

**A calling into the promise of interdependent empathic communities.**

In our human frailty we are each called to new possibilities through the challenge of inspiration and leadership that guides our living.

**The lives of individuals are renewed as people recognise the divine within them through Jesus Christ**

Christ who shared our pain and died our death and even now walks beside us in our darkest moments.

**In Christ we have the possibility of renewal by offering ourselves for the healing of others**

We can all become the spring of living water that nourishes the soul and make life's journey with the hope that hope to others.

**Within this modern world of sterility and efficiency, to be the healing hope in the complex journey from birth to death.**

For the world we are born into, the science that gives us understanding, the caring for others we are called us to, and the healing and hope we give and receive, we come before our understanding of God with heartfelt thanks and praise.

## **LAMENT**

But life's journey has its moments of darkness and terror and each of our lives has both beginning and end.

**Our wondrous and complex bodies cease to grow and begin to decline.**

In life's interdependency we are also nourishment for other beings both large and fearful or minutely small and deadly.

**Fear and pain that protects and warns us can also paralyse us in a slavery of imagination.**

The reality of throbbing incapacity and the love that lifts us and gives us life also risks the pain of loss.

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

In the image of a Christ who shares our pain and death,  
is the resurrection hope of love and life restored  
through the living spring of an empathetic and caring community.

**Thanks be to God**

We conclude our prayers with the prayer we believe Jesus taught his disciples.

### **The Lord's Prayer:**

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**

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

**The First Lesson:**

Exodus 17:1-7

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

**The Gospel Lesson:**

Matthew 21:23-32

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

**Hymn:** AA155

Where mountains rise to open skies



1. Where mountains rise to open skies  
your name, O God, is echoed far,  
from island beach to kauri's reach,  
in water's light, in lake and star.
2. Your people's heart, your people's part  
be in our caring for this land  
for faith to flower, for aroha  
to let each other's mana stand.
3. From broken word, from conflict stirred,  
from lack of vision, set us free  
to see the line of your design,  
to feel creation's energy.

4. Your love be known, compassion shown,  
that every child have equal scope:  
in justice done, in trust begun  
shall be our heritage and hope.

5. Where mountains rise to open skies  
your way of peace distil the air,  
your spirit bind all humankind,  
one covenant of life to share!

Shirley Murray

**Sermon:** Are we nearly there yet?

*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.*

**Hymn:** WOV92 God has spoken by his prophets



1. God has spoken by his prophets,  
spoken his unchanging word,  
each, from age to age proclaiming  
God, the one, the righteous Lord.  
In the world's despair and turmoil  
one firm anchor holds us fast:  
God is king, his throne eternal,  
God the first, and God the last.

2. God has spoken by Christ Jesus,  
Christ, the everlasting Son,  
brightness of the Father's glory,  
with the Father ever one;  
spoken by the Word incarnate,  
God from God, ere time began,  
Light from Light, to earth descending,  
God revealed as Son of Man.

3. God is speaking by his Spirit,  
speaking to our hearts again,  
in the age-long word expounding  
God's own message, now as then,  
through the rise and fall of nations  
one sure faith yet standing fast;  
God still speaks, his word unchanging,  
God the first, and God the last.

*George Wallace Briggs*  
*TiS158 words*

### **Prayers for Others and Ourselves**

*led by Bobbi Laing*

### **The Offering and Dedication**

*We stand for the dedication of the Offering.*

We now give practical expression to our prayers through our offering.

We bring this offering of money and food asking that it be blessed for the spreading of the divine word both in this place and through partnership with others offer transformation around the globe. **Amen**

### **Notices**

**Hymn:** AA156      Where the road runs Out

**Tune:** Columbus



1 Where the road runs out and the signposts end,  
where we come to the edge of today,  
be the God of Abraham for us,  
send us out upon our way.

*Lord, you were our beginning,  
the faith that gave us birth.  
We look to you, our ending,  
our hope for heaven and earth.*

2 When the coast is left and we journey on  
to the rim of the sky and the sea,  
be the sailor's friend, be the dolphin Christ,  
lead us on to eternity.

3 When the clouds are low and the wind is strong,  
when tomorrow's storm draws near,  
be the spirit bird hovering overhead  
who will take away our fear.

*Colin Gibson  
Used by permission*

### **Benediction and Sung Amen**

We are most truly the Church of Christ  
not when we gather together for worship,  
important as that gathering is,  
But when we are shot back out into the world

taking the blessings  
we have gained from one another,  
to grapple with the frustrations, the challenges  
and the breathtaking possibilities of this day,  
so that it counts  
in the realising of God's purpose!  
Let us live in the redemptive power of God's love!

*Frederick A. Styles Worship For An Easter People 'Volume 1' (Ontario: enThusia Enterprises  
1975)pIV-4*

And may the blessing of God  
our creator, redeemer and giver of Life  
be with us always. **Amen**

**Postlude:** Allegro maestoso e vivace, Fugue (Sonata no. 2) – Felix  
Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

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

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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](mailto:office@knoxchurch.co.nz) ph: 379 2456.



## NOTICES

**This Week:**                      **27 September – 3 October**  
Sunday                      10.00am              Morning Worship  
                                         11.30am              Shalom  
Wednesday                10.00am              Bible Study

**Next Week:**                      **4 October – 10 October**  
Sunday                      10.00am              Morning Worship  
                                         4.00pm              Film Group  
Wednesday                10.00am              Bible Study

**Meditation:** The meditation on Saturday 3rd October at 10.00am in the chapel has been cancelled to give the event 'A new gospel of Creation' priority as it is being held at Knox at the same time. The next meditation opportunity will be on the third Wednesday - 21 October at 8.00am.

**Film Group:** Sunday 4 October at 4pm in the Lounge The classic and timely film this month is **An Inconvenient Truth** (2006). Al Gore, former Vice President of the USA created this telling documentary about the threat from Climate Change. He argued then what we must do to save the planet. You probably saw it at the time - but it is surely well worth reminding ourselves. Please note the time and venue - we won't change for Daylight Saving.

**Knox AGM:** The Annual General Meeting of Knox Church, Christchurch will be held on Sunday 11 October 2026 immediately following the morning service. Copies of the Annual Reports and Financial Performance Report are available at both entrances to the Church.

### Upcoming workshops at Knox Church

'*Thriving in this Land*' is a three-part workshop series designed to help Christian communities join the dots between following Jesus of Nazareth and some of the big issues that Aotearoa New Zealand is facing. Excellent materials have been provided by the organisation 'Common Grace.' <https://www.commongrace.nz/thriving>. Churches have found these workshops very helpful. The workshops, presented as video/slides, comprise key topics that build on each other:



|               |                        |                                               |
|---------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| September 23: | Climate Change:        | led by Professor Katherine Hayhoe             |
| September 30: | Te Tiriti O Waitangi:  | its Christian origins and recent developments |
| October 7:    | Cost of Living Crisis: | lived experience videos                       |

**Time:**                      7.00pm to 8.30pm (tea and biscuits from 6.30pm)  
**Venue:**                      Knox Lounge, 28 Bealey Ave, Ōtautahi Christchurch

Limited parking is available. There is no charge, but a koha is welcome to help cover costs. Please advise Knox office for planning purposes if you plan to come: [office@knoxchurch.co.nz](mailto:office@knoxchurch.co.nz) (or phone Lynda on 03 379-2456).



## The Bible reading for next week will be:

- Matthew 21: 33-46

## 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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