



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Order of Service

4 October 2026

TRUSTING US WITH THE GARDEN

A JAZZ COMMUNION SERVICE

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.

A special welcome and vote of thanks to Naomi Ferguson and Tom Rainey, with whom Jeremy has worked to provide jazz-styled music for this service.

Naomi and Tom, thank you so much!

The Call to Worship:

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

**JESUS, GOD'S INNOCENCE AND EXPERIENCE IN A HOSTILE WORLD;
JESUS, SAFELY HOLDING OUR VULNERABILITIES IN HIS HANDS;
JESUS, UNTO WHOM WE SING OUR HALLELUJAHS.**

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

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Hyfrydol

Rowland Huw Prichard (1811-1887)



1. Hallelujah! sing to Jesus,
his the sceptre, his the throne;
hallelujah! his the triumph,
his the victory alone;
hark, the songs of peaceful heaven
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of every nation
has redeemed us for our good."
2. Hallelujah! not as orphans,
are we left in sorrow now;
hallelujah! he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how;
though the cloud from sight received him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
"I am with you evermore"?
3. Hallelujah! bread of heaven,
and on earth our food, our stay;
hallelujah! here your people
flee to you from day to day;
intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's redeemer, plead for me
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.
4. Hallelujah! King eternal,
you the Lord of lords we own;
hallelujah! born of Mary,
earth your footstool, heav'n your throne:
you within the veil have entered,
robed in flesh, our great high priest;
you on earth both host and hosted
in the new creation's feast.

William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898), alt.

Prayer of Approach

Hallelujah, Jesus,
Jesus of sceptre and throne -
**BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY
OF WISDOM AND LIFE.**

Hallelujah, Jesus,
whose songs of peaceful heaven
THUNDER THROUGH OUR WORLD LIKE MIGHTY FLOODS.

Hallelujah, Jesus,
born of Mary,
CALLING US TO SET A TABLE OF WORLD-WIDE WELCOME.

Pause

Today, we gather to hear one of your parables.
It has a lovely garden,
and people called to tend it.
It has freedom assigned to trusted people,
AND GROWTH THAT ABOUNDS.

It also has mutiny,
and violence,
AND THE STEALING OF WHAT DOES NOT BELONG TO US.

We love and hate your parables,
O Christ,
because they make unwelcome parallels,
AND CALL UPON OUR CONSCIENCE.

As we consider the mutiny, violence and stealing in our world,
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:

God of trust,
and of the planting of the garden in which we live,

and from which we live,
we imagine that it is your patient desire
that we should bless you
for your goodness to us
and patient determination when we get things wrong.

**OPEN OUR EARS
TO TODAY'S PARABLE OF JESUS.**

Let it search our hearts,
then bless our souls,
for we pray it in the name of Jesus.

AMEN.

The Notices

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 21: 33-46

This is the gospel of Christ.

PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Anthem: The Rain is Over and Gone
Paul Halley (b. 1952)

The rain is over and gone, the winter is passing by, the time of singing is come, the clouds have parted from the sky. Arise, my love, and come away, for lo! the winter is past, the rain is over and gone, come away, my fair one. We will rise and go to the city without any walls, where we can live in freedom, to the new Jerusalem we're called. Sing of life and love and laughter, sing of freedom to live in peace, and there shall be no more crying, only joys that never cease. Arise, my love, my fair one, for lo! the winter is gone, the flowers appear on the earth again, the time of singing has come.

Song of Songs

Sermon: Vines, fences, watchtowers, and the art of tender gardening

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/mDw9Sgv3RU8>

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*To the minister's words, "God of the vineyard",
you are invited to respond **"KEEP AND PROTECT WHAT IS PLANTED"**.*

. . . 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:

In Christ alone

Keith Getty (b. 1974)



1. In Christ my God, my hope is found;
who is my light, my strength, my song,
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease
my Comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand!
2. In Christ my God, who took on flesh
fullness of God in helpless babe,
this gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save,
'til on that cross as Jesus died,
the love God was not denied,
for from his death, new life was made.
Here in the death of Christ I live.
3. There in the ground his body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave, he rose again.
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine,
safe in the precious name of Christ.
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus restores my destiny.
No power of hell, no evil plan
can ever pluck me from his hand -
'til he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Stuart Townend (b. 1963), alt

We sit for

The Invitation, Institution, 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

Lamb of God:

Jesus, Bread of Heaven,

HAVE MERCY ON US.

Jesus, recreating your people where they stand,

HAVE MERCY ON US.

Jesus, foretaste of the new creation,

GRANT US YOUR PEACE.

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:

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.

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude: Amazing Grace (Lay my Burden down)
Iain Farrington (b. 1977)

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



NOTICES

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

Next Week: **11 October – 17 October**
Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship
 11.30am Shalom
Wednesday 10.00am Bible Study

Film Group: Today 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.

Shalom: 11.30am Sunday 11 October - "Why Pay Taxes? Is this a faith-based issue or a purely secular one? Ann McMillan from faith based EcuAction (and convenor of the Alpine Presbytery's Finance & Property Committee) and Brian Turner from the Canterbury Tax Reform Coalition (affiliated to 'Tax Justice Aotearoa') will share their views.

Knox AGM: The Annual General Meeting of Knox Presbyterian 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.

Sunday Lunch: due to be held on 18 October. Cancelled this month due to Knox being involved in the Christchurch Heritage Festival. See you next month.

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:

- 23 September: Climate Change: led by Professor Katherine Hayhoe
- 30 September: Te Tiriti O Waitangi: its Christian origins and recent developments
- 7 October: 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 (or phone Lynda on 03 379-2456).

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.

Knox Cabaret: thanks to those who have offered up items for the Cabaret. There are plenty of musical items, but it would be wonderful to have some skits/poetry as well. See poster, below, for details.

KNOX CABARET

**Music, poetry, comedy.....the
stage is yours!**

Friday 23 October

6pm Potluck Dinner in the Hall

(please bring a plate of finger food)

7pm Cabaret in the Church

**Please email details of your act to
jeremy.woodside89@gmail.com**

by 16 October



Once Upon a Rhyme



Knox Presbyterian Church
October 10th 5pm

Tickets at [TicketTailor.com](https://www.tickettailor.com)



CHRISTCHURCH
YOUTH CHOIR



Come to meet

CANTERBURY CANDIDATES

standing in the General Election

- **Introduction** Kate Stone, Manager, Better Taxes Campaign
- **Candidates from political parties will engage with groups** featuring Environment and Climate Change; Health and Welfare; Education and Training; Underlying Causes of Inequality
- **Plenary and Q & A.**

When: 7.00 pm
Thursday 8 October 2026
(refreshments from 6.30 pm)

Koha to defray expenses appreciated

Where: Aldersgate Centre
309 Durham Street
Christchurch
(parking behind centre via Chester St West)

Meeting sponsored by the Canterbury Tax Reform Coalition & EcuAction
Further info from: Brian (ph 021-1294305)
or Darryn (E: rolleston.initiative@gmail.com)

Keeping things in pots



Having lived in many dwellings which he did not own, provided by Church communities that gave him a sense of "home" for the moment, he learned how to make himself at home in the "generous but temporary". He bought green things (and red things, and flowering things, and fruit producing things), but kept them in pots. They were living things from which he didn't want to be separated when the next move came. So he kept them in pots. Some took well to being potted. They grew healthily, and kept to their confines. They were healthy but small. Others hated being in pots, and voiced their protest by dying; daphne doesn't grow in pots. Others still failed to act like they were potted. One kowhai just grew and grew until roots broke the pot. A larger pot was provided, which again was broken by more expansion. Some plants are free-spirited, and will not be contained.

It is interesting that the human's response to this (motivated by its reluctance to lose the plant at the next move) was to move the tree into increasingly larger pots. At the next move, the kowhai was so big that the human had to pay another human (who specialised in large objects) to move the pot. I wonder how often love causes us to keep things in pots, when in fact we ought to give things freedom (let them go). Here's a weird thought, though: giving freedom to a potted thing in this instance means planting it in the ground, which gives it less freedom to move. More freedom by less freedom? Maybe, when you're a tree, freedom isn't moving around. Maybe freedom is being given opportunity to put down roots and grow tall and strong. Maybe the unnatural situation is the human being that keeps needing to move.

Prayer: Take from us, O God, the selfish part of how we love one another.



The Bible readings for next week will be:

- Psalm 106: 1-5
- Philippians 4: 1-9

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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