



# WELCOME TO KNOX CHURCH, DUNEDIN

*growing in courage to live the Jesus way*

---

The Season of Christmas – Two

10am – 3 January 2016

Service led by Janet Sim Elder and John Elder

Pre service *“Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich”* (That Day, that is so Rich in Joy)

BuxWV 182 Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

*“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

Welcome

Greeting

Kia noho a Ihowa kia koutou. May God be with you.

**Ma Ihowa koe e manaaki. May God bless you.**

Call to Worship

based on Psalm 147

How good it is to sing praises to our God,  
**for God is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.**

God heals the brokenhearted  
**and binds up their wounds.**

The Lord lifts up the downtrodden;  
**The Lord casts the wicked to the ground.**

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;  
**his understanding is beyond measure.**

The Lord takes pleasure in those who honour him,  
**in those who hope in his steadfast love.**

Let us worship God.

## Hymn *“O God, whom we praise”* (Laudate Dominum) CH4 130

text Jane Parker Huber (1926-2008)

music Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918)© 2005 Church Hymnary

1 O God, whom we praise from morning  
till night,  
your grace fills our days as lustrous as  
light.  
In joy or in sorrow we call on your name,  
today and tomorrow, as always the same.

2 We know without you our living is vain.  
You give us a view of life that's humane,  
of growing and learning that never should  
cease,  
of working and yearning for justice and  
peace.

3 Our knowledge is frail; your wisdom is  
pure.  
Our scheming may fail; your actions are  
sure.  
Our striving can never our full hopes  
attain.  
Your truth last forever, eternal your reign.

4 Now fit us for life in this time and place.  
Calm all fear and strife and grant us the  
grace  
to stand with our Saviour, proclaiming to  
all,  
by faith and behaviour, response to your  
call.

## Prayer of Praise and Confession

### Assurance of Forgiveness

E te whanau ... we are God's beloved people.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Passing the Peace

## With young members

### Hymn *“A new song for a new year”*

words Elizabeth Wilson, music Pauline Buzzing

1 Let's beat a song of praise  
for all the glad and happy days,  
to run and jump and shout and play,  
let's beat a song of praise!

2 Let's beat a song of fun,  
for mud and puddles, sand and sun,  
for games and races lost and won,  
let's beat a song of fun!

3 Let's beat a song of joy,  
for ev'ry girl and ev'ry boy  
who shares the games that we enjoy,  
let's beat a song of joy!

Reading Deuteronomy 34: 1-12  
*Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church*  
**Thanks be to God**

Gospel John 1: 10-18  
*This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ*  
**Praise to Christ the Word**

Sermon

Affirmation of faith *We stand and say together*

The United Church of Canada

**We are not alone;**  
**we live in God's world.**  
**We believe in God**  
**who has created and is creating;**  
**who has come to us in Jesus, the Word made flesh,**  
**to reconcile and make new;**  
**who works in us and by the Spirit.**  
**We trust in God.**  
**We are called to be the Church;**  
**to celebrate God's presence;**  
**to love and serve others;**  
**to seek justice and resist evil;**  
**to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,**  
**our judge and our hope.**  
**In life, in death,**  
**in life beyond death,**  
**God is with us.**  
**We are not alone.**  
**Thanks be to God.**

Hymn *"God who sets us on a journey"* (Hyfrydol) CH4 519

words ©Joy Dine

music Rowland Hugh (1811-87) © Oxford University Press. Reproduced by permission

1 God who sets us on a journey  
to discover, dream and grow,  
lead us as you led your people  
in the desert long ago;  
journey inward, journey outward,  
stir the spirit, stretch the mind,  
love for God and self and neighbour  
marks the way that Christ defined.

2 Exploration brings new insights,  
changes, choices we must face;  
give us wisdom in deciding,  
mindful always of your grace;  
should we stumble, lose our bearings,  
find it hard to know what's right,  
we regain our true direction  
focused on the Jesus light.

3 End our longing for the old days,  
grant the vision that we lack –  
once we've started on this journey  
there can be no turning back;  
let us travel light, discarding  
excess baggage from the past,  
cherish only what's essential,  
choosing treasure that will last.

4 When we set up camp and settle  
to avoid love's risk and pain,  
you disturb complacent comfort,  
pull the tent pegs up again;  
keep us travelling in the knowledge  
you are always at our side;  
give us courage for the journey,  
Christ our goal and Christ our guide.

## Prayers of Thanksgiving and for Others concluding with...

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done  
on earth, as it is 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 forever:  
AMEN**

## Offering and Dedication "*Puer Nobis Nascitur*" (A Boy is Born for Us)

Jean Francois Dandrieu (1682-1738)

*We recognise and bless the gifts brought to the table, and those which wing their way  
electronically from our banks to the Church's account.*

## Notices

### Hymn "Give thanks for life" (Sine Nomine) CH4 736

words © Shirley Murray (b. 1931)

music Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 –1958) © Oxford University Press. Reproduced by permission

1 Give thanks for life, the measure of our  
days,  
mortal, we pass through beauty that  
decays,  
yet sing to God our hope, our love, our  
praise  
*Alleluia!*

2 Give thanks for those who made their  
life a light,  
caught from the Christ –flame, bursting  
through the night,  
who touched the truth, who burned for  
what is right.  
*Alleluia!*

3 And for our own, our living and our  
dead,  
thanks for the love by which our life is fed,  
a love not changed by time or death or  
dread.  
*Alleluia!*

4 Give thanks for hope, that like the  
wheat, the grain  
lying in darkness does its life retain,  
in resurrection to grow green again.  
*Alleluia!*

## Benediction and Threefold Amen

Postlude *“Votre bonte grand dieu”* (Your Bounty Great God)

from *‘Deuxieme Suite de Noels’*

Claude-Benigne Balbastre (1727-99)

## **You are invited to morning tea in the Gathering Area**

Knox Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.  
Hymns in the service are reproduced with permission under License #604850, LicenSing –  
Copyright Cleared Music for Churches.

Knox Church Dunedin is a registered charity #CC52318.

A copy of this week’s sermon will be on the website, and printed copies available in the  
church, early next week.

Feel free to text, or email, Kerry with any thoughts about your response to the sermon.

~~~~~