



# KNOX CHURCH, DUNEDIN

10am – Sunday 11 February 2023

Transfiguration Sunday  
Ratapu Whakahuri

Pre-service “*Praeludium*” Gordon Young (1919-98), “*Morgenstemning-Morning Mood*” Edvard Grieg (1843- 1907)  
Peer Gynt, Op. 23 played by Matthew Gordon. “*Adagio*” Baldassare Galuppi (1706-85) played by Carolyn Schmidt

**Introit** “*Earth song*” words and music Frank Ticheli (b.1958)

## Greeting

Kia noho a Ihowā ki a koutou. The Lord be with you all.  
**Mā Ihowā koe e manaaki. The Lord bless you.**

## Call to Worship

(Psalm 50:1-2)

God speaks and summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,  
God shines forth.**

## Hymn

1 Come! live in the light!  
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!  
We are called to be light for the kingdom,  
to live in the freedom of the city of God!  
*We are called to act with justice.*  
*We are called to love tenderly.*  
*We are called to serve one another,*  
*to walk humbly with God.*

(tune *We are called*) words and music - David Haas

2 Come! Open your heart!  
Show your mercy to all those in fear!  
We are called to be hope for the hopeless,  
so all hatred and blindness will be no more!  
*We are called to act with justice ...*

3 Sing! Sing a new song!  
Sing of that great day when all will be one!  
God will reign and we'll walk with each other  
as sisters and brothers united in love!  
*We are called to act with justice ...*

## Prayer of Confession *we remain seated*

For the times we fail to act with justice ... **Lord, have mercy.**  
For the times we fail to love tenderly ... **Christ, have mercy.**  
For the times we fail to serve one another ... **Lord, have mercy.**  
For the times we fail to walk humbly with God ... **Christ, have mercy.**

## Assurance of Pardon

The Gospel assures us that Divine Mercy receives the contrite heart,  
and Divine Love illuminates the darkest recesses of the soul.

In Christ, you are fully known, you are truly loved, you are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

## Passing of the Peace

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God (Matt 5:9).

Kia tau te rangimarie o te Karaiti ki runga i a koutou.

May the peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you**

*Please stand and make a gesture of peace towards people around you.*

## Focus: Churches of light

**Anthem** Gradual for the Feast of Transfiguration “*O Nata Lux de lumine- O Light born of Light, Jesus, redeemer of the world*” music Morten Johannes Lauridsen (b. 1943)

## First reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

*Hear what the Spirit is saying. Thanks be to God*

## Gospel reading: Mark 9:2-9

*In this is the Word of God. Praise to Christ the Word.*

## Focus: “The Ponds”

(Mary Oliver, from *The House of Light* (1992))

Every year

the lilies

are so perfect

I can hardly believe

their lapped light crowding

the black,

mid-summer ponds.

Nobody could count all of them –

the muskrats swimming

among the pads and the grasses

can reach out

their muscular arms and touch

only so many, they are that

rife and wild.

But what in this world

is perfect?

I bend closer and see

how this one is clearly lopsided –

and that one wears an orange blight –

and this one is a glossy cheek

half nibbled away –

and that one is a slumped purse

full of its own

unstoppable decay.

Still, what I want in my life  
is to be willing  
to be dazzled –  
to cast aside the weight of facts

and maybe even  
to float a little  
above this difficult world.

I want to believe I am looking

into the white fire of a great mystery.

I want to believe that the imperfections are nothing –  
that the light is everything – that it is more than the sum  
of each flawed blossom rising and fading. And I do.

## Hymn

(tune: *Christ be our light*) CH4 543 - words and music Bernadette Farrell

*At the conclusion of this hymn, a basket of donated items for the Presbyterian Support foodbank will be brought forward and dedicated. If you wish to contribute financially to the work of Knox Church there are several options, including Eftpos at the door of the church and via our direct debit donation system. Cash offerings can be put in one of the donation boxes at the back of the church as you leave. Thank you for your support.*

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.

*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. [*Refrain*]

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. [*Refrain*]

4 Many the gifts, many the people,

many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,

making your kingdom come. [*Refrain*]

## The Feast of the Transfiguration

This is the Lord's Table. Here, in the mystery of holy communion, our imperfections are nothing. Light is everything. It is more than the sum of each flawed blossom rising and fading.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

As we feed upon these symbols of Christ's life, broken and poured out for us,  
allow us to spend precious moments with Him in his transfiguration glory.

**Awaken in us a sense of wonder, gratitude, and hope.**

**Instil in us a yearning for justice, reconciliation, and peace.**

**Grant us a glimpse of light eternal**

**that will sustain us for life among the shadows. Amen.**

*A period of silence will be kept. You are invited to ponder the mystery of the Transfiguration and to hold before God in prayer anything that weighs heavily upon your heart this day. The silence will conclude with the Lord's Prayer ...*

**Our Father in heaven, holy 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 forever. Amen.**

On the night when he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body broken for you; do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, he took the cup, saying, "This is the new covenant sealed by my blood. Whenever you drink it, do it in memory of me."

Come, Holy Spirit, come. As we remember our Lord's descent into darkness,  
**may we also remember his ascent into glory.**

As we share in his death, **may we also share in his resurrection life. Amen.**

*A Choir Anthem will be sung as Communion is shared. Please remain seated as the communion elements are brought to you by the serving elders. After everybody has partaken, please stand as the communion elements are returned to the communion table.*

*"Holy is the true light, and passing wonderful"* WH Harris (1883-1973) Carolyn Schmid/ organ

## Hymn

(tune: *St Denio*) CH4 132 – Walter C Smith

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible, hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

2 Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above  
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

3 To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;  
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish—but naught changeth Thee.

4 Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we would render; oh, help us to see  
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth Thee.

## Benediction and threefold Amen

Postlude "*Grand March*" from 'Aida' Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901), arr. Colin Hand

### Serving today

Leader – Graham Redding  
Organist and Choir Director - Karen Knudson  
Reader – Suzanne Bishop  
Welcoming team – David Mann's team  
Counting team – team 4

### Contact details

Interim Moderator - minister@knoxchurch.org.nz  
Church Office - 4770229, admin@knoxchurch.org.nz  
Church website - <https://knoxchurch.org.nz>

*In relation to your monetary offering, you may:*

- *Make regular automatic payments (which are tax deductible) - contact Chris Bloore at [plannedgiving@knoxchurch.org.nz](mailto:plannedgiving@knoxchurch.org.nz)*
- *Give online to the Church's bank account at 03 0903 0016425 00 - our charity number for tax rebate purposes is #CC52318*
- *Give into the offering boxes at the back of the church or using the Paywave when you arrive or as you leave.*

Knox Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. Hymns in the service are reproduced with permission under License #604850, OneLicense - Copyright Cleared Music for Churches. Knox Church Dunedin is a registered charity #CC52318. Readings retrieved from <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/> [retrieved, 7 February 2024]