

# Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

opohochurch.org

**11 May 2025 – Fourth Sunday of Easter**

***Welcome!***

*Whether you come often, haven't been for a while or you're new,  
we are glad you are here today. We are all one in God.*

*Everyone here is seeking to know God better,  
and we're glad you have joined us on this journey.*



Offerings of money for the work of this parish, money for the Dunedin Night Shelter, and goods for Presbyterian Support's Food Bank may be left in the offering bag, dish, or basket (as appropriate) on the trolley near the door, either before or after the service. Offerings may also be made electronically – ask to talk to our Treasurer.

***Please consult the Minister or worship leader  
before taking photographs or other recordings during a service,  
in accordance with the church media policy displayed in the Morrison Lounge.***

## **Welcome**

Haere mai! Welcome! Bienvenue! Willkommen!

Whoever you are, you are welcome here.

Young and old, big and small, quiet and loud –

**you are welcome.**

Happy, sad, sick, scared, tottery –

**you are welcome.**

Damaged, broken, whole, unclear, unkind, lost, confused –

**you are welcome.**

Not sure if church is your thing, feeling certain or not –

**you are welcome.**

**Bienvenue! Willkommen! Welcome! Haere mai!**

*Please turn to your neighbours and say “welcome” in some language or other, then stand as the Bible is carried in and for the first hymn.*

**Hymn** words and music © Marty Haugen CH4 198 vv1-2 & 4-5

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive;  
built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

*all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,  
where all God’s children dare to seek to dream God’s reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God’s grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

*all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they’ve known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God’s face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

*all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

*all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

## **Prayer of Confession**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

## **We Welcome Each Other**

Kia tau tonu te rangimarie o te Ariki ki a koutou;  
the peace of Christ be with you all

**A ki a koe anō hoki; and also with you**

## **Community Time** – welcome, notices, anniversaries

Birthday greetings today.

May God bless you we pray.

Live for Jesus dear [name *or* friends],  
may he guide you always.

## **Chat Time**

**Hymn** words Shirley Murray alt., verse 3 by Opoho Church kids,  
music Jim Strathdee FFS 65

This thread I weave, this step I dance,  
this stone I carve, this ball I bounce,  
this nail I drive, this pearl I string,  
this flag I wave, this note I sing,

this pot I shape, this fire I light,  
this fence I leap, this bone I knit,  
this seed I nurse, this rift I mend,  
this child I raise, this earth I tend,

these wings that fly, these tails that splash,  
these eyes that spy, these waves that crash,  
this earth that spins, these seas so vast,  
this star that shines, this time so fast,

this gift I give, this march I join,  
this faith I live, this truth I sign,  
just one small part, in one small place,  
of one heart's beat for one great Peace.

*Please remain standing for the Offertory Prayer.*

### **Prayer of Offering**

Out of the great and wondrous plenty that you have given us,  
today we bring something back to you.

We give what we can to those who need it.

We give it with love and in hope.

**Bless our gifts, bless our giving, and bless those who receive.**

**Amen**

### **New Testament Reading** Thoughts on John 14:1-2

*(congregation says words in bold print)*

**Let not your heart be troubled.**

Look up, see how the sky is beautiful and it stretches over you. Look around, see how you are surrounded by love. Look down, see how the earth holds you up. Look for me and find the joy and peace I offer. Your blessings are many; be thankful and rest in me.

**You believe in God. Believe also in me.**

Faith isn't just about the huge unknowable Lord, but is also a barefoot man who walks with you every day. Look around. The whole world is telling you who made it.

**In my Father's house are many mansions.**

Room for everyone! For people of all colours, all genders, all beliefs, all kinds. Room for your loved ones, and for your enemies. A place for people who are shy, gregarious, confident, doubting, sure, afraid, weak, strong, old, young, happy, sad, fulfilled and empty. Look, all the rooms are here. Look, all the rooms are open.

**If it were not so I would have told you.**

Trust me. Watch me. Have I not been telling you what love is? Have I not been showing you how to love? I have held lepers, honoured whores, touched the reviled, crossed the boundaries, lifted up the lowly, befriended the petty official, and turned fishermen into holy men. Listen. Look. Learn.

**I go to prepare a place for you.**

I won't leave you to find it for yourself. I will not abandon you in your struggle. I will be your guide, your wayfinder. You cannot lose your way, because I am on the path in front of you, shining. Look up. Look around. Here I am.

**Where I am, there you may be also.**

Hear what the Spirit is saying to us all.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection** *Weaving a Welcome*

**Hymn** words and music © Colin Gibson FFS 67

We are many, we are one, and the work of Christ is done  
when we learn to live in true community,  
as the stars that fill the night, as a flock of birds in flight,  
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;  
as the branches of a tree, as the waves upon the sea,  
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

All division is made whole when we honour every soul,  
find the life of God in every you and me,  
as the fingers of a hand, as the grains that form the sand,  
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;  
as the threads upon the loom, as a field of flowers in bloom,  
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

We will join creation's song, make a world where all belong,  
build as one in peace and loving harmony,  
as the voices of a choir, as the flames within a fire,  
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;  
as the snowflakes in the snow, as the colours of a bow,  
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

## **Prayers of Intercession**

**The Lord's Prayer** *sung* tune WOV 676

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth, as in heaven.  
Give us this day 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, amen. Amen, amen. Amen, amen. Amen, amen.

## **Thanks for the service**

**We Sing** words and music Deirdre Browne *Together in Song* 693

Come as you are: that's how I want you.  
Come as you are; feel quite at home,  
close to my heart, loved and forgiven.  
Come as you are: why stand alone?

No need to fear, love sets no limits;  
no need to fear, love never ends;  
don't run away shamed and disheartened,  
rest in my love, trust me again.

I came to call sinners, not just the righteous;  
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.  
Each time you fail to live by my promise,  
why do you think I'd love you the less?

Come as you are: that's how I love you;  
come as you are, trust me again.  
Nothing can change the love that I bear you;  
all will be well, just come as you are.

## **Benediction**

**May the Lord our God, Jesus Christ our Saviour,  
and the Holy Spirit our delight bless us all,  
today, in the days to come, and all our lives.**

## **Three-Fold Amen** (*sung*)

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*Everyone is welcome to stay for morning tea  
after the service – through the door at the back of the church.*

**Today's service was brought to you by**  
**Leading the Service:** Abby Smith  
**Door Duty:** John and Kieran Somerville  
**Music:** Singers and guitarists  
**Readings:** Simon Rae  
**Prayers:** Mark Ranby  
**Sound and Data Projector:** Hamish Spencer  
**Morning Tea:** Shona and Philip Somerville  
**Church and Hall Cleaning:** Allison and Will Mulder

**Opportunities for ministry week ending 18 May**  
**Door Duty:** Shona and Philip Somerville  
**Music:** David Murray and Red Cross Choir  
**Readings:** Hamish Spencer  
**Prayers:** Marian Weaver  
**Sound and Data Projector:** Benjamin Thew  
**Morning Tea:** Abby Smith and Hamish Spencer  
**Church and Hall Cleaning:** Allison and Will Mulder

**Parish Clerk:** Hamish Spencer 021 279 7986 opohoclerk@gmail.com  
**Minister:** The Rev. Clare Lind 021 0276 1962  
opohominister@gmail.com

## **Keeping in Touch**

If you would like to be emailed about church news and coming events, please give your email address to the Parish Clerk, Hamish Spencer, or email him at opohoclerk@gmail.com



## Coming Events at Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

11 May ~ Sunday	After morning tea: <i>Listening for a word</i> session
14 May ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
18 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, with the Red Cross Choir After morning tea: <i>Listening for a word</i> session
20 May ~ Tuesday	Material due for June <i>Opoho Signal</i>
22 May ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
25 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Olivia Dawson After morning tea: <i>Listening for a word</i> session
1 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Quarterly Communion
2 June ~ Monday	King's Birthday – public holiday
8 June ~ Sunday (Pentecost)	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Greg Hughson 6-8.30 p.m.: <i>Finding New Favourites</i> , a hymnbook sing-along, in church
11 June ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
12 June ~ Thursday	12.30 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge – soup kitchen lunch
14 June ~ Saturday	6.30 p.m.: Quiz and dessert night in hall
15 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind 6-8.30 p.m.: <i>Finding New Favourites</i> , a hymnbook sing-along, in church
20 June ~ Friday	Matariki – public holiday Material due for July <i>Opoho Signal</i>
22 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith and Gregor Macaulay 6-8.30 p.m.: <i>Finding New Favourites</i> , a hymnbook sing-along, in church
26 June ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
29 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson 6-8.30 p.m.: <i>Finding New Favourites</i> , a hymnbook sing-along, in church

