

# Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

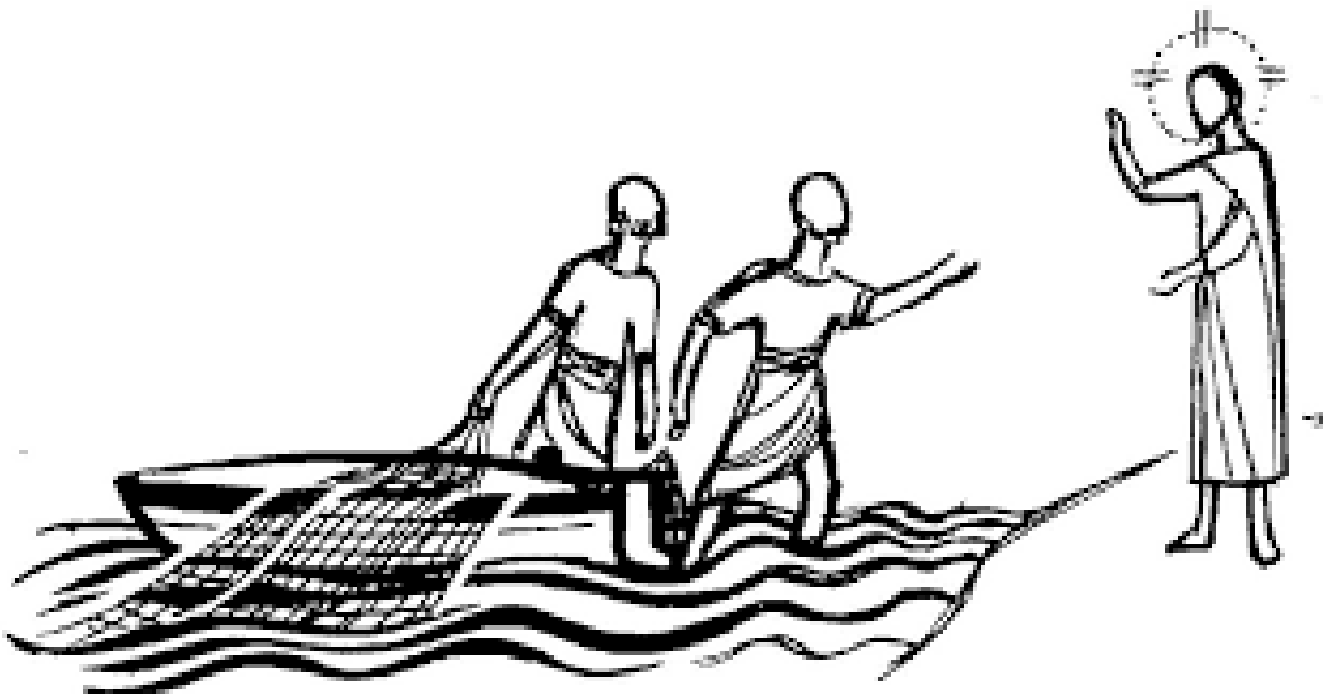
opohochurch.org

**18 January 2026 – 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany**

***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.***

## **Call to Worship**

Ata mārie!

**Good morning!**

Haere mai!

**Welcome!**

Ka haere tatau ki te karakia.

**We gather together to worship.**

**Hymn** words John L. Bell and Graham Maule, tune *Kelvingrove* CH4 533

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.

Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

## **Prayer of Confession**

## **Prayer of Assurance**

... We are forgiven;

**we are set free.**

We rejoice together in your love and grace.

**Praise be to God.**

## **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 anō hoki; and also with you**

*we exchange a sign of peace with each other*

**Community Time** – welcome, notices, news, anniversaries, etc.

Birthday greetings today.

May God bless you we pray.

Live for Jesus dear [name *or* friends],

May he guide you always.

**Chat Time** *Lord of the Dance*

**Children's Song** words and adapted American Shaker tune  
by Sydney Carter WOV 183

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,  
at Bethlehem I had my birth:

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;*

*I am the Lord of the Dance, said he;*

*and I'll lead you all wherever you may be,*

*and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,  
but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me;  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John –  
they came with me and the dance went on: *Refrain*

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame:  
the holy people said it was a shame.  
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,  
and they left me there on a cross to die: *Refrain*

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;  
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back.  
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone; *[pause]*  
but I am the dance and I still go on: *Refrain*

They cut me down and I leap up high,  
I am the life that'll never, never die;  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he: *Refrain*

*Please remain standing for the Offertory Prayer.*

### **Prayer of Offering**

You give us so much, and we aim to follow you,  
so here we are, passing it on.  
Here, and at the food bank, at the night shelter, at the bank,  
we are giving back some of the great blessings you gave us.  
**Accept our offerings, accept our work, accept our love.**  
**Amen**

### **Bible Readings**

*Isaiah 49: 1-7 The Lord's Servant Commissioned*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*John 1: 35-50 The First Disciples*

This is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Praise to Christ the Word.**

### **Reflection** *Being a Follower*

**Hymn** words Jim Strathee (alt.), tune Light of the World WOV 669

*'I am the light of the world.  
You people come and follow me!'  
If you follow and love,  
you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.*

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and the shepherds  
have found their way home,  
the work of Christmas is begun: *Refrain*

to find the lonely and the lost,  
to heal their broken souls with love,  
to feed the hungry children  
with warmth and good food,  
to feel the earth below, the sky above; *Refrain*

to free the prisoners from their chains,  
to make the powerful care,  
to re-build the nations  
with strength of goodwill,  
to be at one with people everywhere; *Refrain*

to bring hope to every task you do,  
to dance at a baby's new birth,  
to make music in  
an old man's heart,  
and sing to the colours of the earth. *Refrain*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

### **We sing together the Lord's Prayer**

(music by Richard Gillard and John Smith, arr. Guy Elwyn Jansen 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**

**Hymn** words Traditional Samoan, tune *O Le Faafetai*, WOV 629

Faafetai i le Atua,	<i>Thanks to God</i>
Le na tatou tupu ai,	<i>who has given us life</i>
Ina ua na alofa fua	<i>when God freely loved</i>
Ia te i tatou uma nei.	<i>all of us.</i>
Ia pepese, ia pepese	<i>Sing, sing</i>
Alleluia, faafetai,	<i>Alleluia, give thanks.</i>
Ia pepese, ia pepese	<i>Sing, sing</i>
Alleluia, faafetai.	<i>Alleluia, give thanks.</i>

Faafetai i lona Alo	<i>Thanks to his Son</i>
Le na afio mai luga	<i>who came from above,</i>
Le ua fai ma faapaolo	<i>who protects you</i>
Ai le puapuaga.	<i>from all suffering.</i>
Ia pepese, ia pepese	<i>Sing, sing</i>
Alleluia, faafetai,	<i>Alleluia, give thanks.</i>
Ia pepese, ia pepese	<i>Sing, sing</i>
Alleluia, faafetai.	<i>Alleluia, give thanks.</i>

Faafetai i le Agaga,	<i>Thanks to the Spirit</i>
Le fesoasoani mai,	<i>who helps</i>
E manuia ai talosaga,	<i>to bless our prayers</i>
Atoa uma mea e fai.	<i>and whatever we do.</i>
Ia pepese, ia pepese	<i>Sing, sing</i>
Alleluia, faafetai,	<i>Alleluia, give thanks.</i>
Ia pepese, ia pepese	<i>Sing, sing</i>
Alleluia, faafetai.	<i>Alleluia, give thanks.</i>

## **Benediction**

**May the Lord our God, Jesus Christ our Saviour,  
and the Holy Spirit our inspiration and delight call us all,  
and may we willingly follow where they go,  
today, in the days to come, and all our lives. Amen**

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*Everyone is welcome to stay for morning tea after the service.*

**Today's service was brought to you by**

**Leading the Service:** Abby Smith

**Door Duty:** Mark Ranby and Michael Ovens

**Music:** Alan Baker

**Readings:** Jenny Bunce

**Sound and Data Projector:** Benjamin Thew

**Flowers:** Judy Rodda

**Morning Tea:** Daniel Larsen

**Church Cleaning:** Jane Bloore

**Hall Cleaning:** Fiona Stirling

**Opportunities for ministry week ending 25 January**

**Door Duty:** Sanel and Rudie Tomlinson

**Music:** Music Group

**Readings:** Marian Weaver

**Prayers:** Sanel Tomlinson

**Sound and Data Projector:** Kieran Somerville

**Flowers:** Judy Rodda

**Morning Tea:** Abby Smith

**Church Cleaning:** Jane Bloore

**Hall Cleaning:** Fiona Stirling

**Parish Clerk:** Hamish Spencer 021 279 7986 [opohoclerk@gmail.com](mailto:opohoclerk@gmail.com)

**Minister:** The Rev. Clare Lind 021 0276 1962  
[opohominister@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:opohoclerk@gmail.com)

### Coming Events at Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

20 January ~ Tuesday	Material due for February <i>Opoho Signal</i>
25 January ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
27 January ~ Tuesday	7 p.m.: Writers' Group, Morrison Lounge
31 January ~ Saturday	9 a.m.-12 noon: Parish Council retreat, Morrison Lounge
1 February ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion
6 February ~ Friday	Waitangi Day – public holiday
8 February ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Meegan Cloughley
10 February ~ Tuesday	7.30 p.m.: Christian Development Committee, Morrison Lounge
11 February ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
12 February ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
15 February ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 February ~ Friday	Material due for March Ōpoho Signal
22 February ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Harvest Thanksgiving
26 February ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge

### ***Lenten Book Club: God, AI, and Us***

Hewitson Library has recently added dozens of titles on the subject area of artificial intelligence (AI) and theology. Please see:

<https://hewitson.mykoha.co.nz/cgi-bin/koha/opac-shelves.pl?op=view&shelfnumber=165&sortfield=itemcallnumber> .

Opoho Church members are invited to join other Presbyterians from around the country in a six-part series of short book club discussions via Zoom. These will be held from 7.30 to 8.10 on the Monday evenings in Lent, 23 February to 30 March. Each week we will read a chapter taken from six books that the Library now holds on the AI topic. We can learn and grow together, in our knowledge of how AI will affect theology in particular and our world in general.

Please contact Jay Robinson (Director, Presbyterian Research Centre) at [jay.robinson@prcknox.org.nz](mailto:jay.robinson@prcknox.org.nz) by Monday 26 January so that the readings can be sent out in advance.