

# Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

opohochurch.org

**4 January 2026 – Epiphany – Communion**

***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.*



Matthew 2: 1-12

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

### Call to Worship

People of the world, it is time to seek out the Christ Child.

**Arise, shine, for our light has come.**

People of Dunedin, it is time to respond to the signs of hope.

**Arise, shine, for our light has come.**

People of Ōpoho, North East Valley and Districts,  
it is time to revel in the mysteries of light.

**Arise, shine, for our light has come.**

People of God, it is time, it is time to worship in this place.

**Arise, shine, for our light has come.**

*Please stand as the Bible is carried in and for the first hymn.*

**Hymn** words John Samuel Bewley Monsell, music Henry Thomas Smart, tune *Moredun* CH4 201

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
gold of obedience and incense of lowliness  
bring, and adore him; the Lord is his Name!

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness:  
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,  
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth thou canst reckon as thine;  
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,  
he will accept for the Name that is dear,  
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling, and hope for our fear.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
gold of obedience and incense of lowliness  
bring, and adore him; the Lord is his name!

## Prayer

## Prayer of Confession

**O God, our guide who once used a star to lead people to Christ,  
we confess our poor sense of direction.**

**We let ourselves become confused, easily distracted, and lose our way.**

**We fail to follow the signs you provide. Forgive our waywardness, O God.**

**Lead us to Christ so that we may follow his way to you.**

## Assurance of Pardon

### The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*we exchange a sign of peace with each other*

## 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.

**Hymn** words James Montgomery vs. 1, 2, 3 & 5,

v. 4, unattributed text in *The Christmas Box*, 1825, tune *Iris* CH4 324

Angels from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Come and worship*

*Christ, the new-born King.*

*Come and worship,*

*worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Shepherds in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant Light:

*Refrain*

Wise men, leave your contemplations;  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations;  
ye have seen his natal star:

*Refrain*

Though an infant now we view him,  
he will share his Father's throne,  
gather all the nations to him;  
every knee shall then bow down:  
*Refrain*

All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One:  
*Refrain*

## Bible Readings

*Isaiah 60:1-6*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Matthew 2:1-12*

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Praise to Christ the Word.**

*Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (read responsively)*

Teach the king to judge with your righteousness, O God;  
to share with him your own justice,

**so that he will rule over your people with justice  
and govern the oppressed with righteousness.**

May the land enjoy prosperity; may it experience righteousness.

**May the king judge the poor fairly;  
may he help the needy and defeat their oppressors.**

May your people worship you as long as the sun shines,  
as long as the moon gives light, for ages to come.

**May the king be like rain on the fields,  
like showers falling on the land.**

May righteousness flourish in his lifetime, and may prosperity  
last as long as the moon gives light.

**The kings of Spain and of the islands will offer him gifts;  
the kings of Arabia and Ethiopia will bring him offerings.**

All kings will bow down before him; all nations will serve him.

**He rescues the poor who call to him,  
and those who are needy and neglected.**

He has pity on the weak and poor;  
he saves the lives of those in need.

**He rescues them from oppression and violence;  
their lives are precious to him.**

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

**Communion Hymn** words William Chatterton Dix (alt.) tune *Dix* CH4 326

As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onwards, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,  
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
thee, whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
at thy homely cradle bare;  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day  
keep us in the narrow way;  
and, when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright,  
need they no created light;  
thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
thou its sun which goes not down;  
there for ever may we sing  
alleluias to our King.

*Please remain standing for the Offertory Prayer.*

### **Offertory Prayer**

**Loving God, as Magi approached the child Jesus, we follow a star of hope, we come with awe and wonder, and we bring gifts – ourselves, our time, our money, and our commitment. May we move into this new year, changed by coming here. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Thanksgiving Prayer**

**The Lord be with you.**

**And also with you.**

**Lift up your hearts.**

**We lift them to the Lord.**

**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**It is right to give our thanks and praise. It is truly right.... joining with all created things to say:**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

### **Breaking of the Bread and Distribution**

*Communion is open to all who wish to receive it.  
We have gluten-free bread and use unfermented grape juice.*

Let us pray together the prayer Jesus taught his followers:  
**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 forever. Amen.**

**Hymn** words Frederick Lucian Hosmer CH4 473,  
tune *St Anne* CH4 161

‘Thy kingdom come!’ – on bended knee  
the passing ages pray;  
and faithful souls have yearned to see  
on earth that kingdom's day.

But the slow watches of the night  
not less to God belong;  
and for the everlasting right  
the silent stars are strong.

And lo, already on the hills  
the flags of dawn appear;  
gird up your loins, ye prophet souls,  
proclaim the day is near:

The day in whose clear-shining light  
all wrong shall stand revealed,  
when justice shall be throned with might,  
and every hurt be healed:

When knowledge, hand in hand with peace,  
shall walk the earth abroad,  
the day of perfect righteousness,  
the promised day of God.

### **Sending Forth**

The light of God's purposes has shone upon us.  
Carry that light into another week.  
**The star of God's promises that led us to worship  
now leads us to serve in God's world.**

When we have met God in the light,  
we cannot dwell comfortably in the shadows.

**We cannot enjoy our abundance and wealth  
without thanksgiving and generous sharing.**

The glory of God shines on you today.

Others will see your radiance and rejoice with you.

**We seek God's peace that we may share it,  
God's wisdom that we may live by it, in Christ's name. Amen.**

**Benediction (sung) Amen.**

*As you leave, please place your empty communion glass  
in the container on the trolley at the back of the church.*

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

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

**Leading the Service:** The Rev. Russell Thew

**Door Duty:** Philip and Shona Somerville

**Music:** David Murray **Readings:** David Murray

**Sound and Data Projector:** Benjamin Thew

**Morning Tea:** Judy Rodda

**Church Cleaning:** Andrew Smith **Hall Cleaning:** Daniel Larsen

**Opportunities for ministry week ending 11 January**

**Door Duty:** Philip and Shona Somerville

**Music:** Singers and guitarists

**Readings:** Simon Rae **Prayers:** Marian Weaver

**Sound and Data Projector:** Judy Rodda

**Morning Tea:** Bronwen Strang

**Church Cleaning:** Andrew Smith **Hall Cleaning:** Daniel Larsen

**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)

## Coming Events at Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

11 January ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Mary Somerville
18 January ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith
20 January ~ Tuesday	Material due for February <i>Ōpoho Signal</i>
22 January ~ Thursday	Borer treatment of church, Morrison Lounge, and hall – no part of buildings to be entered from 9 p.m. Wednesday 21 January to 9 p.m. Friday 23 January
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 <i>Ōpoho Signal</i>
22 February ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Harvest Thanksgiving
26 February ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge

### 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)

