

Opoho Presbyterian Church

opohochurch.org

14 May 2023 – 6th 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.*



“Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young.” (Psalm 84: 3)

(Photo: Ian Thomson, Knox Church)

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 (Psalm 84)

How lovely are your dwellings, O God,
how beautiful are the holy places.

**In the days of my pilgrimage I yearn for them:
they are the temples of your living presence.**

**I have a desire and longing to enter my true home:
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

For the sparrow has found a house for herself,
and the swallow a nest to lay her young.

Even so are those who dwell in your house –
they will always be praising you.

**And your Spirit makes a home deep within us:
let us welcome and delight in your presence.**

(Please stand as the Bible is carried in and for the first hymn)

Hymn WOV 347 How lovely is your dwelling place (Tune: St Peter WOV 158
ii)

How lovely is your dwelling-place,
O Lord of hosts, to me;
my thirsting soul longs eagerly
within your courts to be.

Beside your altars, Lord of all,
the swallows find a nest;
happy are those who dwell with you
and praise you without rest,

and happy those whose hearts are set
upon the pilgrim ways:
you are the water when they thirst,
their guide towards your face.

How blest are they that in your house
for ever give you praise:
one day with you is better spent
than thousands in dark ways.

The Lord will hold back no good thing
from those who justly live;
to all who trust, the Lord of hosts
with all his blessings give.

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

...we are forgiven, we are set free. **Thanks be to God**

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.

Chat Time

Youth Hymn WOV 77 For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,

*Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,

*Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,

for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight.

*Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,

*Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

For each perfect gift of thine
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,

*Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

For the church that evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore
her pure sacrifice of love,

*Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

(Please remain standing at the end for the Offertory Prayer)

Offertory Prayer

As children we learnt at the kitchen table to say “thank you”, may our worship and our gifts be expressions of our thankfulness for all that you have given us good Lord.

Bible Readings

First Readings Isaiah 66: 10-13

1 John 4: 7-12, 20-21

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

People: **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Reading Luke 2: 40-52

Reader: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

People: **Praise to Christ the Word**

Sermon "Letting Go"

Hymn Who is my mother? (AA 158) Words © Shirley Murray

Who is my mother?
Who is my brother?
All those who gather round Jesus Christ:
Spirit-blown people
born from the Gospel
sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.

Differently abled,
differently labelled
widen the circle round Jesus Christ,
crutches and stigmas,
culture's enigmas
all come together round Jesus Christ.

Love will relate us -
colour or status
can't segregate us round Jesus Christ:
family failings,
human derailings,
all are accepted, round Jesus Christ.

Bound by one vision,
met for one mission
we claim each other, round Jesus Christ.
Here is my mother,
here is my brother,
kindred in Spirit, round Jesus Christ.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

...we sing together

**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. Amen, amen.** WOV 676

Hymn WOV 14 Now thank we all our God

Now thank we all our God,
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and Holy Ghost,
one Lord in highest heaven:
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Commissioning

....Let us go in peace.
We go in the name of Christ.

Benediction

And may the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and always. **[Sung] Amen**

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Everyone is welcome to stay for morning tea in the Morrison Lounge and/or Hall after the service – through the door at the back of the church.

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

Today's service was brought to you by

Leading the Service: The Rev. Russell Thew

Door Duty: Benjamin Thew and Shona Somerville

Music: David Murray

Readings: Rudie Tomlinson

Prayers: Abby Smith

Sound and Data Projector: Kieran Somerville

Morning Tea: Pam and Meegan Cloughley

Church Cleaning: Michael Ovens

Hall Cleaning: Shona and Philip Somerville

Opportunities for ministry week ending 21 May

Door Duty: Sanel and Rudie Tomlinson

Music: Singers and Guitarists

Readings: Meegan Cloughley

Prayers: Benjamin Thew

Sound and Data Projector: Daniel Larsen

Morning Tea: Abby Smith and Marian Weaver

Church Cleaning: Michael Ovens

Hall Cleaning: Shona and Philip Somerville

Parish Clerk: Hamish Spencer 021 279 7986 opohoclerk@gmail.com

Minister: The Rev. Clare Lind 021 0276 1962 opohominister@gmail.com

Coming Events at Opoho Presbyterian Church

14 May ~ Sunday	11.15 a.m.: Art-Based Contemplation Series
17 May ~ Wednesday	7 p.m.: Poems Prayers Psalms and Prose – a friendly writing group, 310 Castle Street
18 May ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
20 May ~ Saturday	Material due for June <i>Opoho Signal</i>
21 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind 11.15 a.m.: Art-Based Contemplation Series
27 May ~ Saturday	11 a.m.: Presbyterian Archives Open House
28 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind After church: Abby's Jam Palace
4 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Quarterly Communion
5 June ~ Monday	King's Birthday – public holiday
7 June ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
8 June ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
11 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Paul Ranby
15 June ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
18 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 June ~ Tuesday	Material due for July <i>Opoho Signal</i>
25 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Olivia Dawson

Poems Prayers Psalms and Prose – Opoho Writers' Group

Wednesday 17 May, 7 p.m.

Marine Science tea room,
first floor, **310 Castle Street**

(a square brick building almost on the corner of Frederick Street and the one-way south, between Cumberland and Hayward Colleges).

Maybe bring a small plate of something to share.

You can reach me on 027 606 3552 if there is any problem or question.

Abby Smith

