

# Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

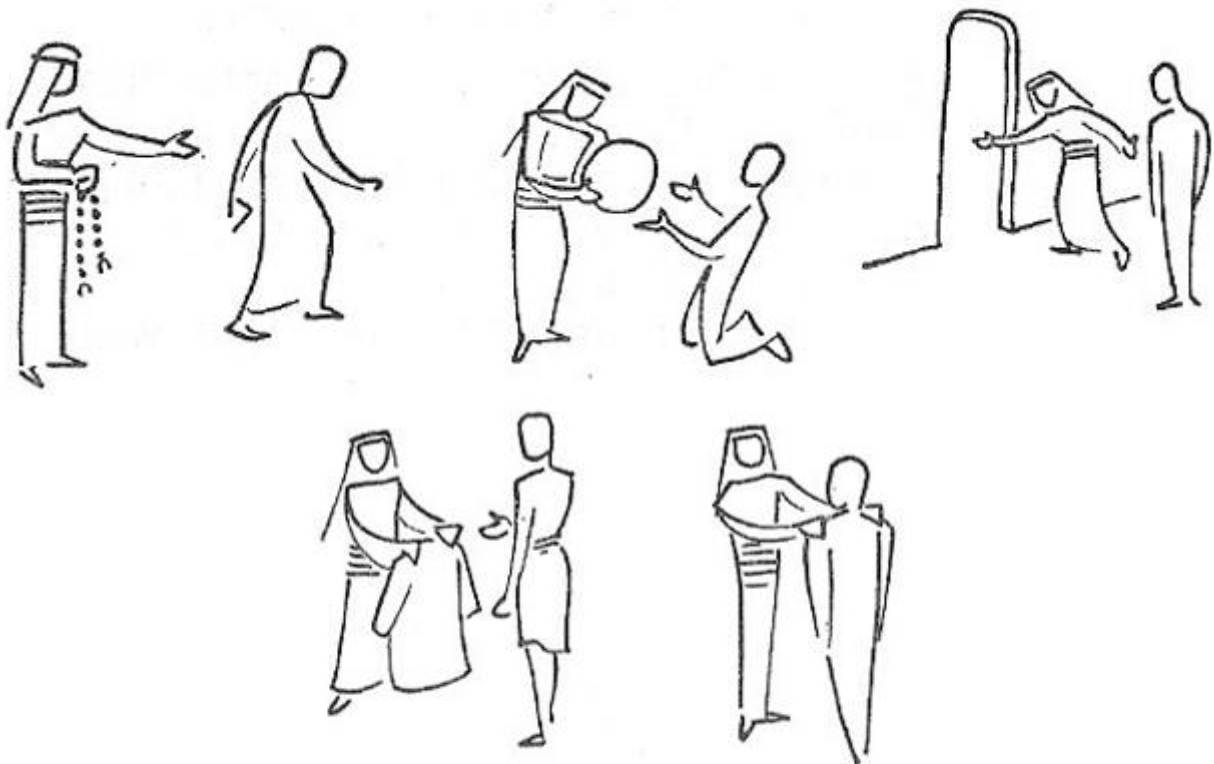
opohochurch.org

**8 February 2026 – 5th 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.*



*“The kind of fasting I want is this” (Isaiah 58:6-7)*

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

We have been called the salt of the earth.

**Let us remain hidden and distinctive.**

We have been called the light of the world.

**Let us shine brightly in the midst of pain or confusion.**

We have been called a city set on a hill.

**Let us, like Jerusalem, lift our gates, lift our hearts,  
lift our voices in the worship of God,  
the sovereign of hosts and the saviour of the humble.**

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

### **Hymn** words and music Bernadette Farrell CH4 543

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.*

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*

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*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone. *Refrain*

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*

## Prayer

## Prayer of Confession

## Prayer of Forgiveness

## The Peace

May 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, 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

**Hymn** words © Shirley Murray, music © Colin Gibson, tune *Tenderness* AA 143

Touch the earth lightly,  
use the earth gently,  
nourish the life of the world in our care:  
gift of great wonder,  
ours to surrender,  
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger,  
who create hunger,  
agents of death for all creatures that live,  
we who would foster  
clouds of disaster,  
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening,  
birth from the burning,  
water that blesses and air that is sweet,  
health in God's garden,  
hope in God's children,  
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living,  
God of all loving,  
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,  
teach us, deflect us,  
Christ re-connect us,  
using us gently and making us one. *Please remain standing for the Offertory Prayer.*

## Offertory Prayer

O God, through the offering of these gifts, may we become  
a more open people ...  
open-minded in hearing your word and wisdom,  
open-hearted in healing a broken world,  
open-handed in heeding your call for charity and enacted love.

**With thanks for all good gifts,  
we present a portion of our substance  
and the whole of ourselves. Amen.**

## Bible Readings

*Isaiah 58:1-12*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Matthew 5:13-20*

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Praise to Christ the Word.**

## Sermon

**Hymn** words Marty Haugen, tune *Two Oaks* CH4 198

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 love is found  
in water, wine and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground,  
where peace and justice meet.

Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space,  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:  
*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.*

## **Intercessory Prayer**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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 Marty Haugen, tune *Gather us in* CH4 623

Here in this place new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away,  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings,  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in – the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in – the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young – our lives are a mystery,  
we are the old who yearn for your face,  
we have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in – the rich and the haughty,  
gather us in – the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth,  
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
give us to eat the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true

Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away,  
but here in this place the new light is shining,  
now is the Kingdom, now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us for ever,  
gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in – all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

### **Sending Out and Benediction**

Christ is the way.

**Follow and find freedom.**

Christ is the life.

**Receive and rejoice.**

Christ is the truth.

**Seek, sure that those who seek find.**

All the blessings of God, Creator, Christ, and Spirit, be with you,  
and all whom you love, now and all your days.

*(sung)* **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:** The Rev. Russell Thew  
**Door Duty:** Jenny Bunce and Daniel Larsen  
**Music:** David Murray  
**Readings:** Daniel Larsen  
**Prayers:** John Roxborough  
**Sound and Data Projector:** Benjamin Thew  
**Flowers:** Fiona Stirling  
**Morning Tea:** Shona and Philip Somerville  
**Hall Cleaning:** Michael Ovens

**Opportunities for ministry week ending 15 February**

**Door Duty:** Gregor Macaulay and Andrew Smith  
**Music:** Alan Baker  
**Readings:** Gregor Macaulay  
**Prayers:** Mark Ranby  
**Sound and Data Projector:** John Roxborough  
**Flowers:** Allison Mulder  
**Morning Tea:** Jane Bloore and Chris Young  
**Hall Cleaning:** Sanel and Rudie Tomlinson

**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

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
1 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Quarterly Communion
6 March ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
8 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Meegan Cloughley
11 March ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
15 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 March ~ Friday	Material due for April Ōpoho Signal
22 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
23 March ~ Monday	Otago Anniversary Day
26 March ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
29 March ~ Palm Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith

