

Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

opohochurch.org

30 November 2025 – First Sunday of Advent

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 Marie and welcome to you all this Advent Sunday.

We are called to worship,

whatever that looks like, right now, to each of us.

We are called to worship

with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

We are called to worship

with love, joy, peace, and hope.

We are called to worship

each in our own way.

We might pray, we might think, we might doze,

we might worry, we might rejoice.

Each of us came here from somewhere different,

but now we are here

together

Let us gather ourselves

together.

We Light the Candle of Hope

*image is from the A Rocha Eco Church
Advent Art Project*

We light the Candle of Hope.

We light the Candle of Hope.

We light the Candle of Hope.

And we sing *please stay seated –
the Bible is brought in*

words and music © Colin Gibson WOV 636

He came singing hope

and he lived singing hope;

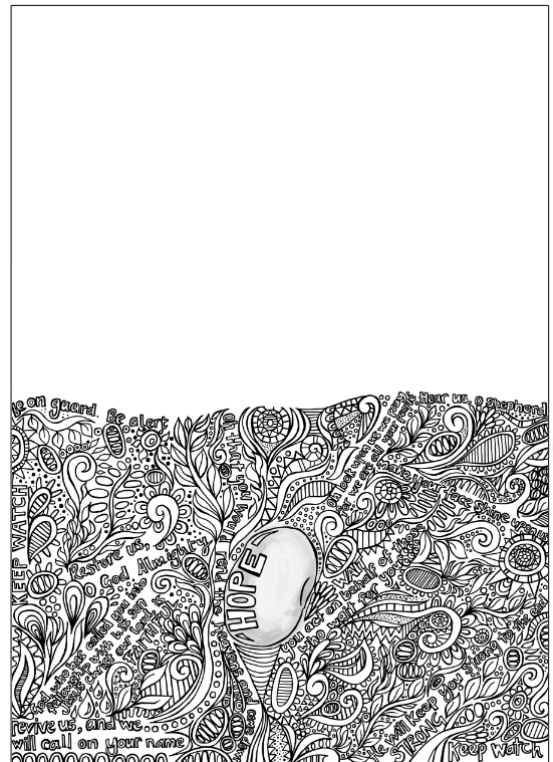
he died, singing hope.

He arose in silence.

For the hope to go on

we must make it our song;

you and I be the singers.



Passing the Hope

We greet each other and wish each other **Hope be 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.

Prayers of Confession and Assurance

Hymn words Shirley Murray, music Barry Brinson *Hope is Our Song* 102

*Nothing, nothing in all creation
can separate us from the love of God.
Nothing, nothing in all creation
can separate us from the love of God.*

This is our faith: trouble may break us,
grief overtake us, sickness and death,
this is our creed: no place so distant
God is not present, knowing our need,
*for nothing, nothing in all creation
can separate us from the love of God.
Nothing, nothing in all creation
can separate us from the love of God.*

Powers of our day, angel and devil,
danger and evil make their own play;
God's love is sure, unseen but seeing
heart of our being, comfort and cure,
for nothing ...

Never alone, though human error,
turmoil or terror shake every bone,
hope is our song: hope that is joyous,
born with Christ Jesus, where we belong,
for nothing ...

Chat Time

Hymn words Shirley Murray, music Richard Madden AA 12

Child of Christmas story, stable straw and star,
small and sweet and gentle, tell us who you are.

Child whose baby finger, round our own is curled,
come to melt our hearts, and come to change the world.

Child of Jew and Gentile, child of white and black,
tell us how to love you, teach us what we lack.

Child of Mary's courage, birthed in human pain,
tell us what your name is, be our hope again.

Please remain standing for the Offertory Prayer.

Offering

We bring our separate selves here to your house.

Together we bring our hope for the world.

We contribute what we can.

We contribute how we can.

Bless our offerings and let them make a difference.

Bible Readings

Isaiah 2: 1-5 The Lord's Future Reign

Romans 8: 38-39

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection *Hope in Advent*

Hymn words Shirley Murray, music Colin Gibson, *Carol Our Christmas* 30(ii)

Look toward Christmas! Advent is here:

welcome December, changing the year,

whistle up, shepherds! saddle up, kings!

chorus up, angels, flexing your wings.

Sing, sing alleluia! sing, sing alleluia!

Sing, sing out the story, sing about hope and peace!

Set the world singing, make the world glad!
Now is good reason not to feel sad,
hear John the Baptist shout to prepare:
Good News is coming, Earth, be aware.
Sing, sing alleluia! sing, sing alleluia!
Sing, sing out the story, sing about hope and peace!

Mary and Joseph soon is the day,
ready the donkey, start on your way:
you are the chosen, willing to trust,
joyful your burden carrying Christ.
Sing, sing alleluia! sing, sing alleluia!
Sing, sing out the story, sing about hope and peace!

Prayers of Intercession

Together we sing **The Lord's Prayer** 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.

Words of Thanks

Benediction words Shirley Murray, tune Colin Gibson AA 99

Now as we go, kind Spirit keep us,
in all we see, Christ be our focus,
in all we do, his story shape us,
that we may grow
to God's good purpose.

Now as we go, sister and brother,
give us good care one of the other,
more hope to share,
more strength to gather,
more life to know in faith together.

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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: Abby Smith

Door Duty: Sanel and Rudie Tomlinson

Music: Music Group

Readings: Sanel Tomlinson

Prayers: Abby Smith

Sound and Data Projector: Daniel Larsen

Flowers: Fiona Stirling

Morning Tea: Bronwen Strang and Hamish Spencer

Church Cleaning: Christine Cleugh

Hall Cleaning: Bronwen Strang

Opportunities for ministry week ending 7 December

Door Duty: Benjamin Thew and Bronwen Strang

Music: David Murray

Readings: Andrew Smith

Sound and Data Projector: Hamish Spencer

Flowers: Fiona Stirling

Morning Tea: Shona and Philip Somerville

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

30 November ~ Sunday	11.30 a.m.: Advent choir practice in church
7 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Quarterly Communion 11.30 a.m.: Advent choir practice in church
10 December ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
11 December ~ Thursday	12.30 p.m.: Fellowship Community Christmas Lunch, in hall
14 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind – Lessons and Carols 2 p.m.: Sing Your Heart Out – community carol singing in church
18 December ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, 15 Gamma Street
21 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Julie Mander and children
24 December ~ Wednesday	11.30 p.m.: Christmas Eve service, the Rev. Clare Lind
25 December ~ Thursday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind – Christmas Day
28 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Benjamin Thew
4 January ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Russell Thew, Communion
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>Opoho 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



St. Andrew's Day