

# Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

opohochurch.org

15 March 2026 – 4th Sunday in Lent

*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.*



*Samuel Dedicated by Hannah at the Temple*  
by Frank W.W. Topham (1838-1924, English)

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** *1 Samuel 2:6-8, The Message*

God brings death and God brings life,  
brings down to the grave and raises up.

**God brings poverty and God brings wealth;  
God lowers and also lifts up.**

God puts poor people on their feet again;  
and rekindles burnt-out lives with fresh hope,  
restoring respect to their lives – a place in the sun!

**For the very structures of earth are God's;  
God has laid out his operations on a firm foundation.**

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

**Hymn** words Timothy Dudley-Smith, *based on* The Magnificat *from*  
The New English Bible, tune *Woodlands* WOV 109

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
his holy name – the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;  
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his word!  
Firm is his promise and his mercy sure.  
Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!

**Prayer**

## **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** *The Things We Overlook*

**Children's Hymn** words Shirley Murray, tune Jillian Bray AA 123

Small things count, so Jesus said:  
cups of water, crumbs of bread,  
small things done because we're kind  
count as big things in God's mind.

Small things make the big things grow:  
grains of yeast inside the dough,  
puffs that fill a big balloon,  
notes that make a happy tune.

Every hair that's on our head,  
every sparrow, Jesus said,  
God takes care of, counts and knows,  
God loves us from top to toes!



*Please remain standing for the Offertory Prayer (overleaf).*

## **Offertory Prayer**

**For the beauty of your world and its fruitfulness,  
we praise you, Living God.**

**For the beauty that you are teaching us to notice in each other,  
we give you thanks.**

**We bring these gifts in gratitude,  
asking that you would use them and us  
to draw attention to your goodness  
and the ways that you are all around us. Amen**

## **Acts of Compassion – Lenten story series *Simon Rae***

### **Bible Reading *1 Samuel 1:19-28***

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Sermon**

**Hymn** words © John. L. Bell & Graham Maule,  
tune *Ye Banks and Braes* CH4 718

We cannot measure how you heal  
or answer every sufferer's prayer,  
yet we believe your grace responds  
where faith and doubt unite to care.  
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,  
survive to hold and heal and warn,  
to carry all through death to life  
and cradle children yet unborn.

The pain that will not go away,  
the guilt that clings from things long past,  
the fear of what the future holds,  
are present as if meant to last.  
But present too is love which tends  
the hurt we never hoped to find,  
the private agonies inside,  
the memories that haunt the mind.

So some have come who need your help  
and some have come to make amends,  
as hands which shaped and saved the world  
are present in the touch of friends.  
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here  
to mend the body, mind, and soul,  
to disentangle peace from pain,  
and make your broken people whole.

## **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 Shirley Murray, tune *Kotuku* AA 113

Our life has its seasons, and God has the reasons  
why spring follows winter, and new leaves grow,  
for there's a connection with our resurrection  
that flowers will bud after frost and snow,  
*so there's never a time to stop believing,  
there's never a time for hope to die,  
there's never a time to stop loving,  
these three things go on.*

There's a time to be planting, a time to be plucking,  
a time to be laughing, a time to weep,  
a time to be building, a time to be breaking,  
a time to be waking, a time to sleep,  
*but there's never a time ...*

There's a time to be hurting, a time to be healing,  
a time to be saving, a time to spend,  
a time to be grieving, a time to be dancing,  
a time for beginning, a time to end,  
*but there's never a time ...*

**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 after the service.*



*Hannah Presenting Samuel to Eli*  
Samuel van Hoogstraten (1627-1678, Dutch)

**Today's service was brought to you by**  
**Leading the Service:** The Rev. Clare Lind

**Door Duty:** Shona and Philip Somerville

**Music:** Alan Baker

**Readings:** John Roxborough

**Prayers:** Andrew Smith

**Sound and Data Projector:** Benjamin Thew

**Flowers:** Judy Rodda

**Morning Tea:** Judy Rodda and Kirk Hamilton

**Hall Cleaning:** Shona and Philip Somerville

**Opportunities for ministry week ending 22 March**

**Door Duty:** Julie Mander and Daniel Larsen

**Music:** Singers and guitarists

**Readings:** Benjamin Thew

**Prayers:** Sanel Tomlinson

**Sound and Data Projector:** Benjamin Thew

**Flowers:** Judy Rodda

**Morning Tea:** Christine Cleugh and Jane Bloore

**Hall Cleaning:** Shona and Philip Somerville

**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

18 March ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Minister's Office (postponed from 11 March)
20 March ~ Friday	Material due for April <i>Ōpoho Signal</i>
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
5 April ~ Easter Sunday	Daylight saving ends – clocks go <i>back</i> one hour 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion
6 April ~ Easter Monday	Public holiday
8 April ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
9 April ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
12 April ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Jay Robinson
19 April ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 April ~ Monday	Material due for May <i>Opoho Signal</i>
21 April ~ Monday	Easter Monday – public holiday
23 April ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
25 April ~ Saturday	ANZAC Day
26 April ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
27 April ~ Monday	Public holiday

