

# Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

opohochurch.org

**28 January 2024 – Epiphany 4**

***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.*



*Isaiah 40:31*

Offerings of money for the work of this parish, money for the Dunedin Night Shelter, and goods for Presbyterian Support's Foodbank 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

Kia noho a Ihowā ki a koutou.

*The Lord be with you.*

**Mā Ihowā koe a manaaki.**

*The Lord bless you.*

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

**Hymn** words Bernadette Farrell, tune *Christ be Our Light* 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. *Chorus*

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed. *Chorus*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

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

Many the gifts, many the people,

many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,

making your kingdom come. *Chorus*

## 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, anniversaries

Birthday greetings today.

May God bless you we pray.

Live for Jesus dear [name *or* friends],

May he guide you always.

**Chat Time** *The Lion and the Bull* retold by Rodaan Al Galidi

**Song** words African-American spiritual, tune *It's Me O Lord* CH4 493

*It's me, it's me, O Lord,  
standing in the need of prayer.*

*It's me, it's me, O Lord,  
standing in the need of prayer.*

Not my brother or my sister, but it's me, O Lord,  
standing in the need of prayer;  
not my brother or my sister, but it's me, O Lord,  
standing in the need of prayer. *Refrain*

Not my mother or my father, but it's me, O Lord,  
standing in the need of prayer;  
not my mother or my father, but it's me, O Lord,  
standing in the need of prayer. *Refrain*

Not the stranger or the neighbour, but it's me, O Lord,  
standing in the need of prayer;  
not the stranger or my neighbour, but it's me, O Lord,  
standing in the need of prayer. *Refrain*

*Please remain standing for the Offertory Prayer.*

## **Offertory Prayer**

**Bless our gifts, Living God,  
and grant that this offering may be for us  
a sign of a greater giving:  
the offering of our time and our talents,  
our loyalty and our love,  
indeed, the offering of our whole life  
for the service of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Bible Reading *Isaiah 40:1-3 & 25-31***

**Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.  
Thanks be to God.**

## **Sermon**

### **Hymn** words © Joy Dine, tune *Hyfrydol* WOV 148 (ii)

God who sets us on a journey  
to discover, dream and grow,  
lead us as you led your people  
in the desert long ago;  
journey inward, journey outward,  
stir the spirit, stretch the mind,  
love for God and self and neighbour  
marks the way that Christ defined.

Exploration brings new insights,  
changes, choices we must face;  
give us wisdom in deciding,  
mindful always of your grace;  
should we stumble, lose our bearings,  
find it hard to know what's right,  
we regain our true direction  
focused on the Jesus light.

End our longing for the old days,  
grant the vision that we lack –  
once we've started on this journey  
there can be no turning back;  
let us travel light, discarding  
excess baggage from our past,  
cherish only what's essential,  
choosing treasure that will last.

When we set up camp and settle  
to avoid love's risk and pain,  
you disturb complacent comfort,  
pull the tent pegs up again;  
keep us travelling in the knowledge  
you are always at our side;  
give us courage for the journey,  
Christ our goal and Christ our guide.

## **Intercessory Prayer**

### **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 Elizabeth J. Smith, tune *Camberwell* WOV 170 (ii)

God gives us a future, daring us to go  
into dreams and dangers on a path unknown.  
We will face tomorrow in the Spirit's power,  
we will let God change us, for new life starts now.

We must leave behind us sins of yesterday,  
for God's new beginning is a better way.  
Fear and doubt and habit must not hold us back;  
God gives hope and insight and the strength we lack.

Holy Spirit, teach us how to read the signs,  
how to meet the challenge of our troubled times.  
Love us into action, stir us into prayer,  
till we choose God's life and find our future there

**Benediction** words Joy Cowley, tune *Marlborough Sounds* AA 95

May the mystery of God enfold us,  
may the wisdom of God uphold us,  
may the fragrance of God be around us,  
may the brightness of God surround us.

May the wonder of God renew us,  
may the loving of God flow through us,  
may the peace of God deeply move us,  
may the moving of God bring us peace.

Use of all music from sources other than *With One Voice*  
is licensed under the copyright licence CCLI 239741.

*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.*

**Today's service was brought to you by**  
**Leading the Service:** The Rev. Clare Lind  
**Door Duty:** Mark Ranby and Michael Ovens  
**Music:** Music group  
**Reading:** Judy Rodda  
**Prayers:** Andrew Smith  
**Sound and Data Projector:** Daniel Larsen  
**Flowers:** Shona Somerville  
**Morning Tea:** Abby Smith and Hamish Spencer  
**Church and Hall Cleaning:** Shona and Philip Somerville

**Opportunities for ministry week ending 4 February**

**Door Duty:** Shona and Philip Somerville  
**Music:** David Murray  
**Readings:** Marian Weaver  
**Sound and Data Projector:** Sanel Tomlinson  
**Flowers:** Allison Mulder  
**Morning Tea:** Meegan and Pam Cloughley  
**Church Cleaning:** Allison and Will Mulder  
**Hall Cleaning:** Aileen Conboy

**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

<b>28 January ~ Sunday</b>	<b>After church: Abby's Jam Palace, in hall</b>
4 February ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion
6 February ~ Tuesday	Waitangi Day – public holiday
7 February ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
8 February ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge 7.30 p.m.: Christian Development Committee, Morrison Lounge
11 February ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Gregor Macaulay
15 February ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
18 February ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 February ~ Tuesday	Material due for March <i>Ōpoho Signal</i>
25 February ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Harvest Thanksgiving
27 February ~ Tuesday	7 p.m.: Writing Group, Marine Science tea room, first floor, 310 Castle Street

## Abby's Jam Palace



The Jam Palace will be open for business  
in the hall after church today.