

# Opoho Presbyterian Church

opohochurch.org

**23 February 2025 – Seventh Sunday after Epiphany  
Harvest Thanksgiving**

***Welcome!***

*Whoever you are, you are welcome here at Opoho Church.  
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 vital quest.*



*Matthew 13: 1-9*

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.

***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**

Anei te rā o te Atua;  
this is the day that the Lord has made.

**Me koa tatou kua mārama;**  
**let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

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

**Hymn WOV 629 Faafetai i le Atua**

## **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**

**Hymn WOV 59 We plough the fields and scatter**

*Please remain standing for the Offertory Prayer.*

### **Offertory Prayer** *sung*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
praise him, all creatures here below,  
praise him above, you heavenly host,  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## **Bible Readings**

*Matthew 13:1-13*

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Praise to Christ the Word.**

*Galatians 6:7-10*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Sermon**

### **Hymn** words and music Abby Smith

It takes courage, he said, to scatter your seeds  
when you know there are stones, and each little bird feeds,  
and somehow the ground seems to conjure up weeds.  
It feels like a waste, but it's what the world needs.  
It takes courage, he said, to scatter your seeds.

*He carries the bowl in the crook of his arm,  
digs his hand in, the seeds dusty and warm,  
scatters them out with a wide graceful throw,  
hoping that some will take root, thrive and grow.*

It takes courage, he said, to reach out your hand  
Will you follow his path in an unfriendly land?  
Put your arms around someone who just cannot stand?  
Can you reach for his robe where it touches the sand?  
It takes courage, he said, to reach out your hand.

*You carry the bowl in the crook of your arm,  
dig your hand in, the seeds dusty and warm.  
scatter them out with a wide graceful throw,  
hoping that some will take root, thrive and grow.*

It takes courage, he said, to look for the lost,  
to leave home behind, no matter the cost.  
Will you sail over seas where the wild waves are tossed?  
Will you climb the high hills which are shining with frost?  
It takes courage, he said, to look for the lost.

*We carry the bowl in the crook of our arms,  
dig our hands in, the seeds dusty and warm,  
scatter them out with a wide graceful throw,  
hoping that some will take root, thrive and grow.*

## **Intercessory Prayer**

### **The Lord's Prayer WOV 676**

### **Hymn words and music Colin Gibson FFS 63**

These hills where the hawk flies lonely,  
beaches where the long surf rolls,  
mountains where the snows meet heaven,  
*these are our care.*

Pastures where the sheep graze calmly,  
orchards where the apples grow,  
gardens where roses cluster,  
*these are our prayer.*

Forests where the tree ferns tower,  
rivers running strong and clear,  
oceans where the great whales wander,  
*these are our care.*

Race meeting race as equals,  
justice for age-old wrong,  
worth for every man and woman,  
*these are our prayer.*

Cities where the young roam restless,  
lives brought to deep despair,  
homeless and powerless people,  
*these are our care.*

Places where the Word is spoken,  
hands held in serving love,  
faiths of our many cultures,  
*these are our prayer.*

All that the old world gave us,  
all that the new world brings,  
language, ideas and customs,  
*these are our care.*

Life finding joy and value,  
faith seeking truth and light,  
God heard and seen in all things,  
*this be our prayer.*

## **Benediction**

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us. Amen.**

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*Everyone is welcome to stay for lunch  
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](mailto:opohoclerk@gmail.com)

**Today's service was brought to you by**  
**Leading the Service:** The Rev. Clare Lind  
**Door Duty:** Shona and Philip Somerville  
**Music:** David Murray  
**Readings:** Maurice Andrew  
**Prayers:** Marian Weaver  
**Sound and Data Projector:** Benjamin Thew  
**Flowers:** Fiona Stirling  
**Morning Tea:** Sanel and Rudie Tomlinson  
**Church and Hall Cleaning:** Sanel and Rudie Tomlinson

**Opportunities for ministry week ending 2 March**

**Door Duty:** Daniel Larsen and Michael Ovens  
**Music:** David Murray  
**Readings:** Jane Bloore  
**Sound and Data Projector:** Meegan Cloughley  
**Flowers:** Judy Rodda  
**Morning Tea:** Shona and Philip Somerville  
**Church Cleaning:** Kirk Hamilton and Judy Rodda  
**Hall Cleaning:** Benjamin Thew

**Parish Clerk:** Hamish Spencer 021 279 7986 opohoclerk@gmail.com  
**Minister:** The Rev. Clare Lind 021 0276 1962  
opohominister@gmail.com



**Any changes or additions to events** listed here or in the *Opoho Signal* will be posted as they are known on the website at <http://opohochurch.org/events-and-activities/>

### Coming Events at Opoho Presbyterian Church

<b>23 February ~ Sunday</b>	<b>After worship: potluck lunch</b>
2 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Quarterly Communion
9 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Gregor Macaulay, <i>Psalm 23</i>
12 March ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
13 March ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
16 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith
20 March ~ Thursday	Material due for April <i>Opoho Signal</i>
23 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Meegan Cloughley
24 March ~ Monday	Otago Anniversary Day
27 March ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge (a week later than usual)
30 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
6 April ~ Sunday	Daylight saving ends – clocks go <i>back</i> one hour 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion
9 April ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
10 April ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
13 April ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Jane Bloore
17 April ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
18 April ~ Friday	Good Friday – public holiday
20 April ~ Easter Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind Material due for May <i>Opoho Signal</i>
21 April ~ Monday	Easter Monday – public holiday
25 April ~ Friday	ANZAC Day – public holiday
27 April ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind



