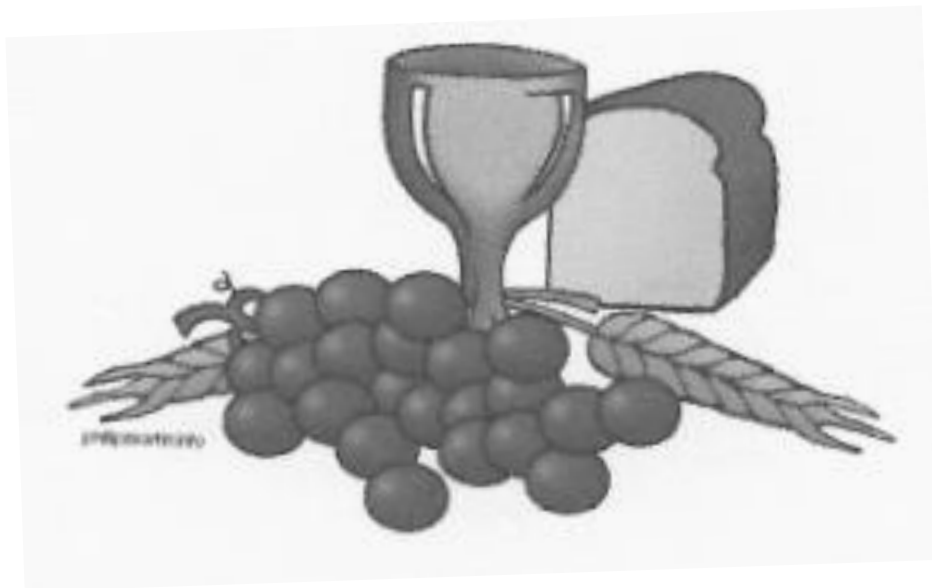


# Opoho Presbyterian Church

opohochurch.org

**2 May 2021 – Easter 5 – Communion**



## **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.*

# The Welcome

## Call to Worship

We come to this place  
where God pours out love on us.

**We join our voices in praise,  
as our fears are left behind.**

We gather with these people,  
those who seek to follow Jesus,  
**so we might walk the paths of service  
hand in hand.**

We open our hearts to the gifts of the Spirit,  
**so that grace and peace  
might be the fruit we bear.**

## We sing our Opening Hymn

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

Here in this place new light is shining:  
now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this place our fears and 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 forever;  
gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

## **Opening Prayers of Approach and Confession**

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

### **Sharing the Peace**

**First Reading**      *1 John 4:7-21*  
This is the Word of God  
**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Reading**    *John 15:1-8*  
In this is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

### **A Word with the Children**

## **We sing a Hymn of Supplication**

words Charles Wesley (alt.), tune *Hyfrydol* WOV 148(ii)

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, on earth be found  
fix in us a humble dwelling,  
all your faithful mercies crown;  
Jesus, you are all compassion;  
pure, unbounded love impart.  
Visit us with your salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit  
into every troubled breast;  
let us all in you inherit,  
let us find your promised rest;  
take away our love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all your life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more your temples leave.  
You we would be always blessing,  
love you as your angels love,  
pray and praise for your unfailing,  
wounded arms outstretched above.

Finish, then, your new creation;  
pure and spotless may we prove;  
let us see your great salvation  
perfectly restored in you;  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
crowned as saints, we ever shall be  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

## **Sermon** *BRANCHES OF THE VINE*

### **A Time of Silence for Reflection**

### **We present our Tithes and Offerings**

We recognise and bless the gifts brought to the Table  
and those which wing their way electronically  
from our bank to the Church's account

### **Prayer of Dedication**

### **Invitation to participate at the Table**

### **We sing our Communion Hymn**

words Timothy Dudley-Smith, tune *Passion Chorale* WOV 255

We come as guests invited  
when Jesus bids us dine,  
his friends on earth united  
to share the bread and wine;  
the bread of life is broken,  
the wine is freely poured  
for us, in solemn token  
of Christ our dying Lord.

We eat and drink, receiving  
from Christ the grace we need,  
and in our hearts believing  
on him by faith we feed;  
with wonder and thanksgiving  
for love that knows no end,  
we find in Jesus living  
our ever-present Friend.

One bread is ours for sharing,  
one single fruitful vine,  
our fellowship declaring  
renewed in bread and wine:  
renewed, sustained, and given  
by token, sign and word,  
the pledge and seal of heaven,  
the love of Christ our Lord.

### **The Eucharistic Prayer of Thanksgiving**

As much as we are loved by our God,  
**so we are to love one another!**  
Beloved of God, come to this Table  
with your hearts wide open.

**For God has promised to dwell in us.**

Here at the Table of wonder and grace,  
we are fed by the One who loves us.

**Though we have never seen God,  
we know and testify to the One  
who give us all we need.**

.....

we join our voices, singing your praises:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of grace and peace.**

**All the ends of the earth sing of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes to guide our way.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

.....

that mystery we call faith:

**Christ walked down wilderness road to death;**

**Christ cast aside the grave, raised to life;**

**Christ will come again to guide us to glory.**

**The sharing of Bread and Wine**

**Concluding Prayer**

**We share the Parish News**

**We sing our Concluding Hymn**

words Brian Wren, tune *Dunedin* AA 155

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.

The cross stands empty to the sky.

Let streets and homes with praises ring.

Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound

to distant years in Palestine,

but saving, healing, here and now,

and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift, and war,  
where colour, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives where even hope had died.

Women and men, in age or youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age.  
Till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love and praise.

### **Benediction and the sung Amen**

*When the Worship is over the Service begins  
Every Christian is a Minister*

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#### **Today's service was brought to you by**

**Leading the Service:** The Rev. Graeme Munro

**Door Duty:** Andrew Smith and Daniel Larsen

**Music:** David Murray **Readings:** Gregor Macaulay and Sarah Ranby

**Morning Tea:** Bronwen Strang and Daniel Larsen

**Church Cleaning:** Judy Rodda and Kirk Hamilton

**Hall Cleaning:** Bronwen Strang

#### **Opportunities for ministry week ending 9 May**

**Door Duty:** Mark Ranby and Shona Somerville **Music:** Music Group

**Readings:** Julie-Ann Fleming **Prayers:** Abby Smith

**Morning Tea:** Marian Weaver and Jane Bloore

**Church Cleaning:** Judy Rodda and Kirk Hamilton

**Hall Cleaning:** Bronwen Strang

**Parish Clerk:** Philip Somerville 473 886 psomer39@gmail.com

**Interim Moderator:** The Rev. Ed Masters 027 637 9818



## Church Fair – Saturday 15 May 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

The fair is almost upon us. There is still time to bring saleable things that you no longer need. If you need them 'gone' sooner put them under the hall stage. If you need help to get them there contact Fiona Stirling (027 483 2028).

### Diary of Coming Events

6 May ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month: <i>1 John</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road
<b>8 May ~ Saturday</b>	<b>3-4 p.m.: 'Meet and Greet' with the Rev. Clare Lind and her husband (Don), Morrison Lounge (and/or hall and/or lawn, depending on numbers and weather)</b>
<b>9 May ~ Sunday</b>	<b>10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind</b>
13 May ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
15 May ~ Saturday	11 a.m.-2 p.m. Church Fair
16 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Silvia Purdie, followed by <b>Congregational Meeting</b>
18 May ~ Tuesday	7.30 p.m.: Christian Development Committee, Morrison Lounge
20 May ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge Material due for June <i>Opoho Signal</i>
23 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson
30 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Russell Thew
6 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Graeme Munro, Communion
7 June ~ Monday	Public holiday – Queen's Birthday
10 June ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge 7.30 p.m.: Bible Books of the Month: <i>2 and 3 John</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road
13 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Olivia Dawson
17 June ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
20 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Marian Weaver Material due for July <i>Opoho Signal</i>
27 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson