

# Opho Presbyterian Church

opohochurch.org

**9 May 2021 – Easter 6**

## *Welcome!*

*Whoever you are, you are welcome here at Opho 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.*



**MY COMMAND IS THIS:  
LOVE EACH OTHER AS  
I HAVE LOVED YOU.**

**JOHN 15:12**

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 worship leader  
before taking photographs or other recordings during a service,  
in accordance with the church media policy displayed in the Morrison Lounge.*

## Welcome

### Call to Worship

As the autumn leaves fall,  
**let's remember that God is making all things new.**

As the grass stops growing  
and the branches become bare,  
**let's remember that this pause is what allows  
the new to shoot and grow.**

As we sit in this space between Easter and Pentecost,  
**let's remember that God is renewing us,**  
**and that God is renewing the world.**

*please stand as the Bible is carried in and for the first hymn*  
**Hymn WOV 61 Lord, your almighty word**

### Opening Prayer

### Assurance of Pardon

...we are forgiven, we are set free. **Thanks be to God**

### 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*

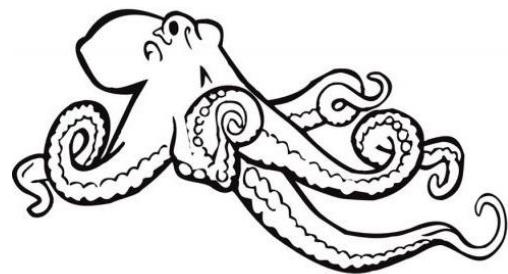
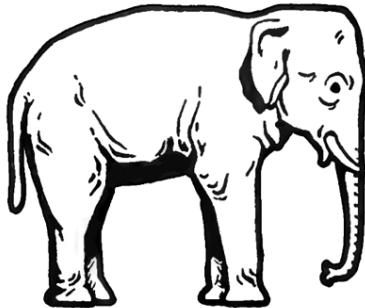
### Community Time – welcome, notices, anniversaries

Birthday greetings today.  
May God bless you we pray.  
Live for Jesus dear [name or friends],  
May he guide you always.

### Chat Time

## Youth Hymn words and music Colin Gibson AA 76

I've never seen an elephant, and an elephant's never seen me.  
I can't swing like a monkey can from the branch of a tropical tree.  
I don't roar like a lion does, but a lion can't read my books;  
I'm not as huge as a hippo is, but a hippo hasn't my looks.  
*Thank you God, Thank you God, for it's very plain to see,  
that the animals like the way they are, and I'm glad that I like me.*



I've never met an octopus, and no octopus ever met me.  
I can't dive like a dolphin does through the waves of an indigo sea.  
I can't flop like a flounder can, or sing like a whale in the blue;  
I can't leap like a flying fish, but the fish can't think like I do.  
*Thank you God, thank you God, for it's very plain to see  
that the fish all like the way they are, and I'm glad that I like me.*

I've never heard a mocking bird, and a mocking bird's never heard me.  
I can't climb like a sky lark climbs, or nest on the top of a tree.  
I can't hold what a pelican, but a pelican cannot cry;  
I can dream of an aeroplane even though I cannot fly.  
*Thank you God, thank you God, for it's very plain to see,  
that the birds all like the way they are, and I'm glad that I like me.*

*please remain standing at the end for the Offertory Prayer.*

## Offertory Prayer

**We bring our gifts to you, Living God,  
in gratitude and hope.**

**In dedicating them, we dedicate ourselves again  
to be your people in the world,  
in the strength and enabling power  
of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## Bible Readings

*First Reading* Acts 11:1-18

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

People: **Thanks be to God**

*Gospel Reading* John 15:12

Reader: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

People: **Praise to Christ the Word**

**Sermon** Growing Pains *followed by time for reflection*

**Hymn** words Frederick Faber (alt. Colin Gibson), *Hope Is Our Song* 135

There's a wideness in God's mercy,

Like the wideness of the sea;

There's a kindness in God's justice,

Which is more than liberty.

There is no place where human sorrows

Are more deeply felt than heaven:

There's no place where human failings

Have such kindly judgements given.

For the love of God is broader

Than the measures of our mind;

And the heart of the Eternal

Is most wonderfully kind.

But we make that love too narrow

By the limits of our own;

And we magnify God's strictness

With a zeal Love will not own.

There is grace enough for thousands

Of new worlds as great as this;

There is room for fresh creations

In that endless world of bliss.

If our love were but more simple,

We would trust the living Word;

And our lives would fill with gladness

In the joy of Christ our Lord.

## Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

....we say together

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.

## Hymn words and music Sydney Carter CH4 530

One more step along the world I go,  
One more step along the world I go;  
From the old things to the new,  
Keep me travelling along with you:  
*And it's from the old I travel to the new;*  
*Keep me travelling along with you.*

Round the corners of the world I turn,  
More and more about the world I learn;  
All the new things that I see  
You'll be looking at along with me.  
*And it's from the old I travel to the new;*  
*Keep me travelling along with you.*

As I travel through the bad and good,  
Keep me travelling the way I should.  
Where I see no way to go,  
You'll be telling me the way, I know.  
*And it's from the old I travel to the new;*  
*Keep me travelling along with you.*

Give me courage when the world is rough,  
Keep me loving though the world is tough;  
Leap and sing in all I do,  
Keep me travelling along with you:  
*And it's from the old I travel to the new;*  
*Keep me travelling along with you.*

You are older than the world can be,  
You are younger than the life in me;  
Ever old and ever new,  
Keep me travelling along with you:  
*And it's from the old I travel to the new;*  
*Keep me travelling along with you.*

## **Commissioning**

....Let us go in peace.

**We go in the name of Christ.**

## **Benediction with sung Amen**

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*It is good to have you worshipping with us today.  
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.*

## **Keeping in Touch**

Parish directories with contact details of parishioners are available on the back pew. Please take one if you need it. If you would like to be emailed about church news and coming events, please give your email address to the Parish Clerk, Philip Somerville, or email him at psomer39@gmail.com



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

**Leading the Service:** The Rev. Clare Lind

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

**Music:** Music Group

**Readings:** Julie-Ann Fleming

**Prayers:** Abby Smith

**Morning Tea:** Marian Weaver and Bronwen Strang

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

**Hall Cleaning:** Bronwen Strang

### **Opportunities for ministry week ending 16 May**

**Door Duty:** Abby Smith and Hamish Spencer

**Music:** Gaynor Haig

**Readings:** Jenny Bunce

**Prayers:** Andrew Smith

**Morning Tea:** Meegan and Pam Cloughley

**Church Cleaning:** Benjamin Thew

**Hall Cleaning:** Allison and Will Mulder

**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. Just put them in the hall. If you need help to get them there, contact Fiona Stirling (027 483 2028). Thank you!

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

### Diary of Coming Events

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>Opho 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>Opho Signal</i>
27 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson

