

Opening Prayer

Gar Nordin

O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set the glory above the heavens. When we look at the heavens, the moon and the stars that you created; who are we that you even notice us. Yet we are created a little lower than the angels. God, you have crowned us with glory and honor. Oh God our God how majestic is your name in all the earth. Amen.

We Listen for God's Word

Time with the Young and Young at Heart

Mary Koon

**Near or far apart,
You're always in my heart.
God's love is here to stay,
Close and far away.**

**Resting in God's peace,
Praying for God's hope,
Serving God's joy,
United in God's love.**

Sending Song

"Near or Far"

J McKinnon

Anthem

"Comfort My People"

Callahan

Scripture

Genesis 15:1-6

Anne Fisher

Message

"Numbering the Stars"

Anne Fisher

We Respond to God's Word

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

Anne Fisher

Offering Music

"Canticle of the Turning"

Cooney

Prayer of Dedication

Gar Nordin

Lord we give thanks that in the coming of Christ we have hope in the face of darkness and a peace that passes all our understanding. Fill us with your love and joy as we proclaim Emmanuel, God is with us. Amen.

Sacrament of Communion

Invitation

Mary Koon

Song of Invitation No. 516 "For the Bread Which You Have Broken"

¹ For the bread which you have broken,
for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken,
now we give you thanks, O Lord.

² By this promise that you love us,
by your gift of peace restored,
by your call to heaven above us,
hallow all our lives, O Lord.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Anne Fisher

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.**

Words of Institution

Anne Fisher

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

Mary Koon

**Mighty God, holy is your name. We thank you for bringing us together
in any way that is possible and feeding us with the bread of life. As
we leave this time together in our different places, send your Spirit
to accompany us, so that we may share in your magnificent work;
lifting up those who are laid low; showing mercy to all in need of
human kindness: and feeding bodies and hearts of all those who
are hungry. Amen.**

We Go Out in God's Name

Closing Song No. 106 "Prepare The Way, O Zion"

¹ Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.

Refrain: O blest is Christ who came
in God's most holy name.

² He brings God's rule, O Zion;
he comes from heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding. (*Refrain*)

³ Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
your Savior's rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.

All lands will bow rejoicing,
their adoration voicing. (*Refrain*)

Benediction

Anne Fisher

Sending Song No. 26 "Earth and All Stars!"

**Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets! Sing to the Lord a new
song! Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm! Sing to the
Lord a new song! God has done marvelous things. We too sing
praises with a new song!**

Postlude

Nancy Hauser

†††††

Participants in worship today include:
Vocalists: **CeCe Klueh** and **Gar Nordin**;
Organist: **Nancy Hauser** | Pianist: **Judy Cooper**;
Sound, Light, Video: **Gordon Goodwin, Mac Davis** and **Randy Dop**.

Chancel flowers are given by **LeRoy & Jane Horn**,
in *memory of John Howard, Parker Horn, Joe Petersen, Dennis Cossey*
and all those affected by HIV/AIDS, and
Nancy Hauser in memory of parents, Bob & Glenna Jensen.

Oak Grove Announcements

Light a Candle

Send us a picture of you and your household holding lit candles to sgjerset@oakgrv.org by Dec. 21 for it to be in the Christmas Eve montage.

The Perfect Gift

God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift, Jesus Christ. In Jesus, we receive the perfect gift of God being with us, and of being with those in need – the gift of being together when we are near, and being together when we are apart.

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of our Presbyterian Church offerings. Half of what is received goes to a Presbyterian-related school for minority students and half is for current retired church workers who are in critical need. Please give as you can to the Christmas Joy offering. You can give online or mark your check accordingly.

Virtual Coffee Hour

Join host Larry Klueh Sundays at Noon. Please zoom in to enjoy one another's company and catch up in a relaxed (virtual) way!

Join the Zoom meeting: <https://bit.ly/3nTMrCr>.

Meeting ID: 896 8075 0816 | Passcode: 323213. For audio only, call 312-626-6799 and use the Meeting ID and passcode.

Chancel Flower Sign-up for 2021!

We will continue to have colorful arrangements for our Sunday worship services, virtual or in-person. Select a date in memory of or in honor of a loved one, group or event. The cost is \$30 due at sign-up. Contact Sharon Fields at 952-831-0504 (a landline) or urbanfields2.1@q.com to sign up and reserve your special date.

Pop-Up Christmas Pageant: Dec. 9

You are invited to join in our first ever (and only!) Oak Grove Intergenerational Zoom Christmas Pageant!

ALL AGES are invited to Zoom in on Wednesday, Dec. 9 at 6:30 pm as we tell the story of Jesus' birth. The pageant will have music, some basic reading, given ahead of time to those who are interested, and some improv.

You are invited to wear a "head" costume if you wish to be an angel, shepherd, star, Mary, Joseph or a sheep! You are also invited to have the characters from a home nativity close by to "act out" the parts of the story.

We hope this experience will be a multi-generational way to share the miracle of God's presence among us this season.

Join the Zoom meeting: <https://bit.ly/3nt9inl>

Meeting ID: 898 343 9400 | Passcode: 383326. For audio only, call 312-626-6799 and use the Meeting ID and Passcode.

Caroling: Dec. 13

Do you, like me, have the urge to go caroling? Let's try it – Covid style. Sunday, Dec. 13 after church we'll do a parking lot Carol Sing. You'll need to stay in your cars (with windows down) and wear your mask. Leaders will start each song and we'll do the best we can!

Singing will start around 12:30 pm. If weather is extremely cold or snowy, we'll cancel and hopefully reschedule. Questions? Contact Judy Cooper (jcooper835@gmail.com).

Starlight Drive-Thru: Dec. 16

Join us for an **ALL AGES** "Starlight Drive-Thru" in our parking lot. We will have luminaria, snacks, caroling and a prayer. This will be a wonderful way to say hello and share a little holiday cheer.