

*We are a joyful, inclusive, compassionate community of faith
seeking to do justice, act mercifully, and walk humbly with our God.
Loving God...Changing Lives*



OAK GROVE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2200 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington Minn. 55431
Tel: 952-888-4621 | Website: www.oakgrv.org

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| Dec. 20, 2020 | Fourth Sunday of Advent | 10:45 am |
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Thoughts to Ponder

“When you do things from your soul, you feel a river moving in you, a joy.”

– Rumi

“Joy is the serious business of Heaven.”

– C.S. Lewis, Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer

We Gather in God’s Name

Prelude “O Come All Ye Faithful” Evan Wilkens

Welcome & Announcements Mary Koon

Musical Introit “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Evan Wilkens

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle: Joy Bruce, Lisa & Hannah Ervin

In the midst of broken hearts and broken dreams, disappointments and unfulfilled expectations this season, we turn our eyes to the radiant star of joy. In a year where one day seems to blend into another, where normal holiday routines cannot happen and life can seem overwhelming, we wait. On this fourth Sunday in Advent, may Your dazzling star fill us with joy that it might spill into the world. We light the candle of joy.

Opening Song No. 93 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” *(on screens)*

¹ Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here.

² Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart

from earthly use for heaven’s employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

³ Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.

Opening Prayer*

Carrie Wilkens

One: Into our world, as into Mary's womb...

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

One: Into the forgotten places, as into the stable...

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

One: Into the lives of the poor, bringing hope;
Into the lives of the powerful, bringing caution;
Into the lives of the weary, bring rest;
Into the lives of the wise, bringing restlessness;
And into our lives and longings,
Whatever our estate...

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

One: This is the good news;
Christ is coming, and blessed are those who wait on the Lord.

All: Therefore come quickly, Lord. AMEN.

We Listen to God's Word

Children's Time

Anne Fisher

Sending Song

"Near or Far"

J McKinnon

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.

Anthem

"Hallelujah" (Light Has Come) Jane Samsal & Emma Wasko

Scripture & Message

"Mary's Joy" (through the eyes of Elizabeth)
based on Luke 1:26-56**

Mary Koon

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.**

We Respond in God's Name

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

Anne Fisher

Offering Music

Vocal Anthem

Jane Samsal & Emma Wasko

Hymn of Praise No. 88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

**O, come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy strife and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Prayer of Dedication

Carrie Wilkens

**Generous God, your blessings abound. Receive our gifts and the
whole of our lives, and sanctify them to your service. May our giving
and our serving be filled with joy. AMEN.**

Closing Song No. 100 "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout" (*on screens*)
Canticle of the Turning

¹ My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings
of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight
on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west
shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears,
for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.**

² Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,

**and your mercy will last
from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might,
put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. (*Refrain*)**

⁴ Though the nations rage
from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod
can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. (*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:

Viola: **Evan Wilkens;**

Liturgist: **Carrie Wilkens;**

Vocalists: **Jane Samsal** and **Emma Wasko;**

Organist: **Nancy Hauser;**

Pianist: **Judy Cooper;**

Sound, Light, Video: **Greg Johnson, Randy Dop** and **Gordon Goodwin.**

*From The Wild Goose Resource Group. Cloth and the Cradle: Wild Good Publications: Glasgow, 1997. (Page 57 “Into our world as into Mary’s womb”)

** Mary’s Joy (through the eyes of Elizabeth)

In the first chapter of Luke (Luke 1: 5–25) we read the story of Zachariah and Elizabeth. Zachariah was a priest, married to Elizabeth. They had no children, but longed for a child. When they were quite old, Zachariah was met by an angel in the Temple where he was burning incense. The angel told him that his prayer for a child would be answered and that Elizabeth would become pregnant. Zachariah challenged the angel (it’s a funny scene – read it!) and because he wouldn’t believe the heavenly messenger, was struck dumb until the day that his son, John and baptizer, was born .

Oak Grove Announcements

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.

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

Starlight Drive-Thru: The event was a resounding success! The parking lot was dark and lit by luminaria and there were a bunch of caroling stations around, snacks, and folks donated soooo much toilet paper for VEAP. A little bit of joy, for sure!

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 at: <https://bit.ly/3nTMrCr>. Use Meeting ID: 896 8075 0816 and Passcode: 323213. For audio only, call 312-626-6799 and use the Meeting ID and passcode.

Loaves & Fishes: Oak Grove will be a Meals To-Go site during weekdays (4–7:00 pm shifts) beginning Jan. 4. Want to help? Call the church office (952-888-4621) and leave your name if interested. No firm commitment needed at this time.

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.

Alternative Marketplace: Thank You, Thank You, Thank You Oak Grove. We are overwhelmed at your wonderful generosity for the support of the Alternative Christmas Marketplace during this difficult time for many. All Alternative Christmas Marketplace records have been broken. The Mission Committee can't thank you enough for your support.

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| KIVA | \$2,230 |
| SLT scholarships for Guatemala | \$1,500 |
| Clearwater Forest | \$715 |
| Supportive Housing | \$2,430 |
| Olive Oil & Herbs | \$395 |
| Coffee | \$110 |
| Presbyterian Mission Agency | \$9,190 |
| TOTAL = | \$16,570.00 |

Adult Faith Formation: The program on Sunday Jan. 17 (9:30 am) will be presented by the Green Committee and Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL) of Northern Minnesota. It's called "Bringing Renewable Energy and Empowerment to Low Income Communities to End Energy Poverty." RREAL is a leader in helping Native American Nations construct community solar gardens, solar for Habitat for Humanity houses, solar assistance for low-income people through community action programs. RREAL also develops community-based solar projects in Uganda and Liberia. In addition, RREAL has led in installing solar on schools and has developed renewable energy curricula for grades K-8 which is being used in schools throughout Minnesota.

<https://www.rreal.org>

Our goal is to begin a discussion of how Oak Grove can marry our church's efforts and expertise in social justice, mission, supportive housing, education and environmental stewardship to serve the wider community of low-income people in our communities. For more information, please contact John Crampton at 612-396-6010.