

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
952-888-4621 | www.oakgrv.org

Jan. 31, 2021	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	10:45 am
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We Gather in God's Name

Prelude	"I Must Tell Jesus"	Hand Bells
Welcome & Announcements		Mary Koon
Lighting of the Christ Candle		Catherine Dukelow
Call to Worship	from <i>The Message</i> (Psalm 111)	Nancy Scott

One: Give thanks to God with everything you've got.

All: God's works are so great, worth a lifetime of study and endless enjoyment!

One: Splendor and beauty is God's craft: God's generosity never gives out!

All: God is never out-of-date, never obsolete, rustproof!

One: All God does is honest and true; the Good life begins in knowing God!

All: When we do that, we will know the blessing of God. Hallelujah!

Opening Song No. 634 "To God Be the Glory" (*on screens*)

¹ To God be the glory;
great things he has done!
So loved he the world
that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life
an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate
that all may go in.

Refrain:

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;
let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;
let the people rejoice!**

**O come to the Father
through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory:
great things he has done!
² Great things he has taught us;
great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing
through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher
and greater will be
our wonder, our transport,
when Jesus we see. (*Refrain*)**

Opening Prayer

Nancy Scott

Almighty God, Light from Light, who commands the universe and all that is made, your Word is the power that makes whole what is broken, the force of good, and the food of peace. Teach us now as you taught in the synagogue. Heal us now so that in all that we say and do, the freedom we have in you may be for others, too; in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We Listen for God's Word

Time for the Young & Young at Heart

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

"What a Friend We Have In Jesus"

Hand Bells

Scripture Lesson

Mark 1:21–28

Anne Fisher

Message

"Surprise!"

Anne Fisher

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Mary Koon

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 & Our Gifts

Mary Koon

Offering Music

"Blessed Assurance"

Hand Bells

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. AMEN.

Prayer of Dedication

Nancy Scott

For Earth, which you have molded, for creatures and animals, plants, water, air, and fire, for Jesus who died and rose again, for the breath of life, we give you thanks, O God. Use us for good wherever there is need, in the name of all that you have first given us, especially Christ Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

We Go Out in God's Name

Closing Song No. 611 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (on screens)

¹ Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

² All thy works with joy surround thee;
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.

³ Mortals, join the happy chorus
which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

Benediction

Anne Fisher

Sending Song No. 291 "Spirit of Gentleness"

Refrain: Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness,
calling and free. Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness,
wind, wind on the sea.

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes; from the
bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams. Our elders see
visions; our youth clear their eyes. With bold new decisions,
your people arise. (*Refrain*)

Postlude



Participants in worship today include:

Liturgist: **Nancy Scott**;

Hand Bell Players: **Linda Johnson, Carol Long, Jane Propsom**
and **Nancy Scott**;

Organist: **Nancy Hauser** | Pianist: **Judy Cooper**;

Sound, Light, Video: **Greg Johnson, Mac Davis** and **Bob Gerdes**.

Chancel flowers are given by **Pamara Ritter**, in
memory of father, Marvin Thornton, and grandmother, Stella Thorton;
and by **Arlene Jullie** in *memory of father, Rev. Ellis Graves*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 way! Join the Zoom meeting at: <https://bit.ly/3hxYbrw>. Use Meeting ID: 845 2763 1073 and Passcode: 665615 . For audio only, call 312-626-6799 and use the 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.

Comment on Minnesota Clean Car Proposed Rules by March 15: Learn more about Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) proposed rules by attending information sessions online and/or via phone at:
www.pca.state.mn.us/air/clean-cars-mn-rulemaking

To comment on the proposed MPCA rules before March 15, go to:
www.pca.state.mn.us/air/clean-cars-mn-rulemaking
fresh-energy.org/clean-cars-comment/

For more info and/or questions, contact John Crampton, Green Committee, at 612-396-6010 or jcrampt48@gmail.com.

Frank William Bliss II

JULY 23, 1951 – JANUARY 22, 2021



The Bliss family is deeply saddened to announce the death of our patriarch, Frank Bliss.

Link: <https://bit.ly/3pA69Uc>

Frank was born in 1951 to Frank and Dorothy in China Lakes, Calif., where his Marine father was stationed. Frank grew up with his sisters, Judy and Mary. He played football for Northwestern University and became a PE teacher while he earned his master's degree. He would go on to teach Special Education in Oklahoma and Minnesota.

In 1980, Frank married the love of his life, Beverly. They welcomed their son, Cameron and then adopted 7 more children, Hayley, Scott, Kyle, Gabriel, Brandt, Michael, and Brandy. They also adopted their son, Bob, as an adult. Frank was an energetic and loving father who took pride in watching each of his children grow into adulthood. Frank and Beverly also made their home welcoming to each of their children's friends. The family home was always busy, happy, and full.

Frank was a giant of a man who possessed great faith in God and an endless well of love for his fellow man. This love led him to Agape Ranch, two properties near Clarkdale, Ariz. and Chandler, Okla. There, he helped to care for men and women with intellectual disabilities and/or addictions. Later in life, that same love and faith led him around the U.S. meeting with people and churches urging action rather than sermons. He travelled to the U.S./Mexico border to help the migrant population living in camps. His biggest adventure was several months spent in India and Nepal. He travelled with a small bag, a solar powered CPAP to help him sleep, and a sense that he was called to help where he could.

Frank was larger than life in so many ways. He had to duck to go through most doors. He had to search for shoes big enough to hold his feet, but even if he had stood 4 feet tall, the legacy he left behind would have been that of a giant. He was unforgettable to anyone lucky enough to spend time in his company. He shared his thoughts openly and listened kindly. He often prayed with people he barely knew once he heard their troubles. He was a man of action, and a man with grand plans. He was a hero to many, a friend to all.

Frank was met at Heaven's gate by his parents and his grandson, Sterling. He leaves behind 6 grandchildren, 9 children, and his loving wife. Each of us, and many more, will wait for the day that we see him again.

Memories

I'm deeply saddened to hear of Frank's passing. He was such a kind and patient man, who cared deeply for our students at Roosevelt. His baseball cards in his fanny pack were a huge hit. Sincere condolences.

– *Cory Myhran*

I worked with Frank for years at Jefferson. We attended many tech and other training sessions together. He also took over doing the web page for me when I was overloaded with work, which I appreciated greatly. He was always so kind to everyone, and very funny. Frank was a very special person who cared about everyone. Wishing his family peace.

– *Deborah Smith*

I'll always remember getting to spend time with Frankie as one of my favorite counselors at camp courage. I enjoyed getting to know your family. I'll miss you. Sending love to you Frank you'll be remembered. To your family to I'm sorry for your loss. Frank was an amazing person and I'll be thinking of you guys.

– *Simon Harriss*

The news came as a shock. I had always hoped you, Frank and your family would return to Oklahoma and we would see you again at Dwight Mission. I have always felt great admiration for you both. My God be with you.

– *Tina Coffin*

Our condolences for the loss of Frank. We can't imagine what it's like losing the center of your world. He was so kind, funning, and thoroughly focused on the development of children with developmental needs. He really helped us to understand and challenge our son. Some of our memories of him include him with his little dog in his backpack, dieting (seemed like he was always on a diet), and talking about aquaculture and driving across America in an electric car.

– *Rob, Tamara & Jett Ashenafi, and Gia Schryver*

My wife, Vilia, and I are so shocked and saddened to hear of Frank's passing. He was one of my fraternity brothers at Northwestern and the best man at our wedding in 1971. A day or so before the wedding, people in the wedding party went bowling. Just before Frank rolled his first ball, he turned to us and said, "May the best man win."

We had lost touch with him for many years, but he recently reached out and we happily renewed our friendship. He was so kind and generous and helped so many people during his life. We send our condolences to Bev and the rest of his family. We will always remember this kind, loving man.

– *George Sauerberg*

It's with great sadness that I received the news of Frank's passing. The world will miss his generous, loving and welcoming spirit! I will miss his genuine, kind and faithful way of following Christ. May you know the comfort and peace of God's spirit at this time and in the time ahead.

– *Nancy Gatlin*

The news of Franks passing is very sad to hear, I am just one of many educators in the Minneapolis Public Schools who were touched by Franks kindness, optimism, genuine loyalty to the climate, housing, stability for all as he walked through life always thinking of others.

His pure love of everyone's child not just his own showed daily. He will never be forgotten by those of us that were blessed to know him deeply. Frank was also very supportive of my Special Olympics team and attended many years of competitions where he always took videos to share with our schools... so very sorry.

– *Diane Whipkey*

We were always so inspired by Frank's compassion and faith. For him, nothing was impossible and everyone was lovable. We are grateful for his memory, saddened by his loss, and rejoicing that he walked this earth.

– *Joe Gatlin*

We are so sorry to hear of Frank's passing. We are sending our love to Bev and the family, and wish you peace in your grieving.

– *Gary & Lorraine Brugh*