

*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

Dec. 5, 2021

2nd Sunday of Advent: Peace

10:15 am

We Gather in God's Name

Prelude

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
“Silent Night”

Hand Bells

Welcome & Announcements

Bart Roush & Mary Koon

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Courtney & Mike Ramirez

Reader: We long for peace, O God, the peace that passes all understanding. We wait with expectation for the day when all will live in peace, not just the absence of war, but peace in our hearts and minds.

The prophet Isaiah shares the promise of peace: (Isaiah 2:3b–4)

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.” The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

In a year where we have known anger and division, we can have peace because God is with us. We light the candle of peace.

Hymn: “While We Are Waiting, Come”

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While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come. With peace and justice, come; with peace and justice, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, with peace and justice, come.

Let us pray:

During this holy season of Advent, fill the world with your peace. God of peace, we seek you. We seek you in the broken places of our lives, in the unrest and violence in our cities. We know that there will be no peace without justice. May your peace fill our hearts and your grace overflow our lips so that we might reflect your peace for all the world.

Opening Song	“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”	87
¹ “Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God. “Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load. To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them! Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.”	³ Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain. Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign. For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad, and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.	

We Listen for God’s Word

Children’s Time	Story of the Poinsettia	Bart Roush
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Sending Song	“People, Look East”	105
People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.		

Anthem	“What Is This Fragrance?”	
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Scripture	Matthew 3:1–12 (NT: p. 2 LPNT: p. 3)	Mary Koon
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Message		Mary Koon
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Sacrament of Communion

The juice is non-alcoholic.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Mary Koon

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bart Roush

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.

**Other options include: Creator or Mother*

Words of Institution

Bart Roush

Sharing of the Bread & Cup*

Mary Koon

Leader: The Holy Child of Bethlehem descends to us,

Unison: and is born in us in these days.

Leader: Let us share the bread.

Unison: We hear Christmas angels their great glad tidings tell.

Leader: Let us drink deeply for in every time Christ abides with us.

Unison: In every time and every place Christ abides in us.

*From "[Gifts in Open Hands](#)" used with permission

Prayer following Communion

Bart Roush

Peace-giver, Blessor of tables shared and some tables turned over, we rise or roll from our places at this most welcoming meal prepared anew to live Advent hospitality, by becoming your chair-people, not leaders, but ushers and servers for the worldwide banquet of grace. Amen.

We Go Forth in God's Name

Closing Song

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

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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.

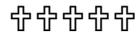
³ Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.

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.

Benediction

Mary Koon

Postlude



Additional participants in worship today include:

Hand Bells: **Linda Johnson, Carol Long, Jane Propsom & Nancy Scott;**

Organist: **Nancy Hauser;**

Sound, Light, Video: **Pierce Flanagan, Randy Dop & Andy Snyder**

Chancel flowers are given by **Jane & LeRoy Horn**,
in *recognition* of **World AIDS Day** and in *memory* of **John Howard**,
Parker Horn, Joe Petersen & Dennis Cossey; and
Nancy Hauser, in *memory* of **parents Glenna & Bob Jensen**.

Oak Grove Announcements

Adult Faith Formation: Sunday, Dec. 5

Please join us each Sunday, 11:15 am to noon, for interesting and informative presentations designed to expand our minds and grow our faith. Pastor Bart will talk about what it means to be a “Matthew 25” Church!

Join the Zoom Meeting: <https://bit.ly/3yS9v93>

Meeting ID: 871 4123 8835 | Passcode: 383326

For audio only, call 312-626-6799 and use the ID and Passcode.

Special Offering: Christmas Joy (Nov. 28–Dec. 19)

When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church — past, present and future.

- 50% assists current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.
- 50% will make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color — offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come.

You can help by sending your check to Oak Grove Presbyterian Church and specify Christmas Joy on the memo line. When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot! Thanks for your consideration!

Oak Grove Announcements

Refugee Resettlement: Monday, Dec. 6 (6:30–8:00 pm)

Tomorrow, all Oak Grovers (and friends) are invited to join online our online orientation/training for becoming a Refugee Resettlement Partner church. Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/3nFkAaR>

For more information check out this overview link <https://bit.ly/3xeHity> and/or feel free to contact Karen Alonzi, Sue Greimel, Cathy Jo Colburn or Kathy Howell (phone numbers and emails are available from the church office).

Men's Fellowship at Zeke's: Tuesday, Dec. 7 (noon)

Join us for "Burgers 'n' Brew" the first Tuesday of the month at Zeke's Place (7700 W Old Shakopee Rd). This event pairs young(er) and old(er) men for a time of fellowship while enjoying lunch. Pick up someone who needs a ride and develop new friendships.

Carols, Cookies and Care: Saturday, Dec. 11 (10:30–11:30 am)

Please drop-off donations (toilet paper, diapers and baby wipes) for VEAP at church and then join us for Christmas carols and eat cookies outdoors. Social Justice will also have a table at the event to make Agape bags to hand out to folks on the street. We already have some of the items to be placed inside the bags but also need warm gloves or socks, and non-perishable snacks. Thank you!

Church Office Hours

Please note, the church office will be closed Friday, Dec. 24 (starting at noon) through Monday, Jan. 3 for the holidays.