

*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

Nov. 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

10:30 am



A Thought to Ponder (from the Social Justice Committee)

“Violence against women is learned. Each of us must examine – and change – the way in which our own behavior might contribute to, enable, ignore or excuse all such forms of violence.” – Patrick Stewart, English Actor

We Gather in God's Name

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Eric & Morgan Duvall

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent includes the four weeks before Christmas, and it is the time when we get ready for the birth of Jesus, the coming of Jesus' light into the world. This is our Advent wreath. It is round, reminding us that God's love has no beginning or end, but is eternal. The candles represent Jesus' light, born into the world anew. Each Sunday, we will light a candle, so that our wreath grows brighter as the December days grow darker. We begin, today, with the candle of hope.

When we look around, it's easy to think that injustice, racism, homophobia, disparities in economics and politics may have the last say. The rich are getting richer and the poor getting poorer. Yet commercialism is booming, while someone somewhere will fall asleep under a bridge tonight....

In the face of injustice and despair, we light a candle of hope...

May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.

May the light from this candle say to all that God's hope is coming on earth as it already is in heaven...

People of God, be not afraid, God's hope is at hand...

*Opening Hymn

"While We Are Waiting, Come"

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*Opening Prayer

Karen Gerdes

God of hope, we celebrate the promise of the coming Christ and a world made new. Be made known in our waiting and watching, so that our lives might reflect your love, hope, and peace in all we do and say. Fill this church with your Spirit and let it be a place of radical hospitality, of justice and humility. We pray in the name of the one who is to come. AMEN.

*Passing of the Peace

Karen Gerdes

Friends, we are beloved of God. Let us greet one another in this holy season as children of God. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you! (*Exchange the peace with those around you.*)

We Listen for God's Word

Time for the Young & Young at Heart

Hymn of Response "People, Look East" (verse 1) 105

Scripture Matthew 24;36–44 (NT: p. 27 | LPNT: p. 33)

Meditation "Hope"

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Call to Offering

Anthem/Offertory "This Child, Emmanuel" *arr. Jeremy Walton*

*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

God of grace, we offer you our treasure and our lives. Use them to bring hope, peace, joy and justice to all who have need in a weary world. We pray in the name of Jesus, our brother, Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*^ Father, Mother or Creator*)

Our God^ 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 Go Forth in God's Name

*Closing Hymn

"Lift Up Your Heads"

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*Benediction

Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*



Participants in worship today include:

Presiding Pastors: **Bart Roush & Mary Koon;**

Advent Candle Lighters: **Eric & Morgan Duvall** | Liturgist: **Karen Gerdes;**

Flautist: **Enid Lange** | Organist/Pianist: **Nancy Jensen;**

Vocalists: **Chancel Choir** | Director of Music: **Judy Cooper;**

Sound, Light, Video: **Greg Johnson, Pierce Flanagan & Ruth Dukelow;**

Volunteer Custodian: **Al Greimel;**

Chancel flowers are given by **Nancy Jensen,**
in *memory* of *parents, Bob & Glenna Jensen,*
and **Mary Bowen-Eggebraaten & Noel Eggebraaten,**
in *loving memory* of *our parents & Mary's sister.*

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

**Welcome, Oak Grove
members and visitors, we're
glad you're here!**

We are proud to be a Matthew 25, Green Care and More Light Congregation.

The congregation of Oak Grove values its roots that go back more than 150 years, even as we follow the movement of the Spirit into new ways of being and doing.

We always welcome your suggestions.

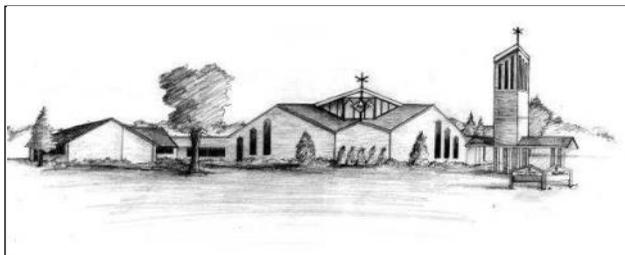
The Sunday's Greeters:

Dick & Marilyn Twete

**Woven Voices Concert
Saturday, Dec. 3 (7:30 pm)**

Woven Voices, a chamber choir composed of experienced sopranos and altos from various Minnesota-based choirs, will be presenting their Winter "Solstice" Concert.

Free will offering gratefully accepted. No ticket required. Masking is optional, and you must be COVID symptom-free to attend.



Prayer Requests

Please contact the church office to let us know when you have new requests or updates for family and friends, or when a death occurs so we can support and care for you or your loved one.

ogpc@oakgrv.org

952-888-4621

**River Heights Chorale Concert
Sunday, Dec. 4 (3:00 pm)**

River Heights Chorale will present their Christmas Concert, "That's Christmas to Me." The Chorale is a volunteer choir committed to sharing quality choral music with the community and to help students, through scholarships, achieve their musical goals beyond high school.

No tickets are needed; however free will donations are accepted. Please come and enjoy an afternoon of beautiful holiday music.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Morning Hospitality!

Coffee, hot tea, and cold bubbly water are available on Sundays in time for joining Adult Faith Formation at 9:00 am.

The social hall is open for all to join in refreshment and conversation 10–10:30 am. Please make plans to join any table. If you are willing to be a welcoming host and can arrive at church around 8:45 am, please let the church office (952-888-4621) know.

Calling All Handcrafters & Bakers

We will be holding a hybrid Alternative Christmas Marketplace on Sunday, Dec. 4, 9–10:30 am and following worship service. We are looking for donations of handcrafted items, as well as jams, baked goods and other edibles. All items will be priced for sale (no bidding/silent auction).

If you have handcrafted items or baked goods to donate, please drop them by the church office on or before Friday, Dec. 2, or you can drop them off at church between 1–3:00 pm on Saturday during setup. Question? Contact Sharon Nolte at sharonnolte@yahoo.com or 952-884-1014.

Family Advent Fair:

Wednesday, Nov. 30 (5:30–7:00 pm)

Families of children and youth are invited to join in for pizza, Advent Wreath Making, candle dipping and more! We'll gather to welcome the season of Advent with food and fun. Please reserve your spot by emailing Mary (mkoon@oakgrv.org) or calling the church office.

Alternative Christmas Marketplace:

Sunday, Dec. 4 (9–10:30 am)

Join us for a small marketplace in Gideon Pond Hall. During this time, there will be coffee, juice, and cinnamon rolls to enjoy as well as there will be entertainment from some of our very own Oak Grovers.

Additionally, there will be a photo booth, and handcrafted items for sale. Also, we will have those who have shared their talents in the kitchen with items like baked goods, jams, pickles, and other items for sale.

Please note, the decaffeinated Mexican whole bean coffee is NOT available. If you have already returned your order form and purchased the decaffeinated Mexican coffee your money will be refunded. We apologize for the inconvenience.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men's Fellowship at Zeke's: Tuesday, Dec. 6 (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. Questions? Contact Jim McCarl at 952-948-2991.

Presbyterian Women Bible Study: Tuesday, Dec. 6 (5:00 pm)

The Evening Star Circle meets the first Tuesday of the month at Oak Grove and is led by Connie Nesbitt. For the month of December, we will meet at the home of Paula Uvodich.

Presbyterian Women is a wonderful way to deepen your faith, get to know other people at church, and make a difference in the lives of women and children around the world. Mary Pol, Bart Roush and Mary Koon will facilitate the study! New members are always welcome!

Presbyterian Women Knit Tree: through Sunday, Dec. 11

The Presbyterian Women's "Knit Tree" will be back up this year! Please help fill it with warm accessories (hats, scarves, mittens, etc.) for all sizes which will be donated to Cornerstone for their "Santa Shop" and beyond. Thanks for your help!

Golden Name Tags

Visitors to Oak Grove wear golden name tags. Welcome them by introducing yourself.

A Notice from the Presbytery's Antiracism Task Force (Pastor Mary Koon is a member)

Want to take the next faithful step with your antiracism journey? The Antiracism Task Force is inviting you to show your interest in a pilot antiracist accountability small group for January 2023. If there's further interest, we may be able to open up more cohorts later in the year!

Learn more about the group at:
<https://rb.gy/f9ddth>

OAK GROVE & COMMUNITY

Dream Day at Oak Grove: Saturday, Dec. 3 (9 am to 12:30 pm)

Join us as we begin to answer questions, like: Where is God acting in the community, and where does God wish us to join in that activity? What does it look like for our future if we move toward the reality of where God is leading us? What ministries and mission are we being called to start, expand, or stop? During this phase we will engage in theological and prayerful consideration of what God's future for Oak Grove as a faith community looks like.

Men's Prayer Breakfast: Thursdays

Join other Oak Grove men for a time of fellowship while enjoying breakfast. The group meets weekly on Thursdays (7:30 am) at Denny's (4209 American Blvd W, Bloomington 55437). Questions? Contact Jack Kley at 952-831-4138.

Chancel Flower Sign-up!

Every week beautiful flowers grace the Sanctuary. Contributing flowers is a way to glorify God and beautify the chancel area. The contribution can be in honor or memory of someone, in celebration of milestone events or as thanksgiving for friends and family. Your dedication will appear in the Sunday bulletin for your chosen date.

There are two arrangements available each Sunday at a cost of \$30 each. After Sunday service, you are welcome to bring your arrangement home or, if you prefer, the Deacons can bring it to someone on the prayer list. Contact Sharon Fields at urbanfields2.1@q.com or 952-831-0504 to sign up and reserve your special date.

