

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. 11, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

10:30 am



A Thought to Ponder (from the Social Justice Committee)

“Activism works. So, what I’m telling you to do now is to act. Because no one is too small to make a difference.”

– Greta Thunberg, Climate and environmental activist

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Meg Robles, James Robles & Mari Freeberg

When we look around, we recognize that there is a lot of sadness in our world. In our own community, families are precariously housed, people are in prison, and some people have become invisible and forgotten...

So many are dealing with grief and loss, people dreading the holidays because they've lost a loved one, or because they're recently divorced, or because they don't want to spend another Christmas alone...

In the face of sadness, of grief and loss, we light a candle of joy...

(pink candle is lit)

May the light from this candle overwhelm the world...

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

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

*Opening Hymn "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" 93

*Prayer of Approach Violette Gibson

Good and gracious God, hear our prayer for all who wait for a smile, a handshake, a welcome, for a heart of joy. Let your Spirit bring healing beyond hurt, peace beyond conflict, and dawn after a long night. Kindle in us a love for you and for others that is so big, so extravagant, that it cannot help but spill into the world. *(silent prayer)*

*Passing of the Peace Violette Gibson

We are all beloved children of God! This is our joy! The peace of Christ be with you.

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

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Call to Offering

Anthem/Offertory “What Child is This?”

arr. Shackley

***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.

Poetry

“The Coming of God”
by Ann Weems

Violette Gibson

***Hymn**

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

128

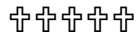
Christmas Pageant

“Jesus is Born”

***Benediction**

Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*



Participants in worship today include:

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

Advent Candle Lighters: **Meg Robles, James Robles & Mari Freeberg;**

Liturgist: **Violette Gibson** | Organist/Pianist: **Nancy Jensen;**

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

Sound, Light, Video: **Gordon Goodwin, Randy Dop & Greg Johnson;**

Volunteer Custodian: **Rod Myers;**

Chancel flowers are given by **Leona & Jack Kley**, in *memory*
of *daughter Linda*, and **Nancy Kachel**, in *honor of family*.

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:

Karyn & Mike Arazi



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

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nursery Volunteers Needed

We are delighted to have paid nursery staff again at Oak Grove! We continue to have need for some additional volunteer support. If you (or your youth over 13) are willing and able to help care for our little ones once a month during worship, please contact Mary. An extra set of hands and eyes are helpful and share our value of nurturing our littlest ones! Thank you in advance.

From the Sanctuary Guild

The Sanctuary Guild would like to display your crèches again this year. If you have a special one that you would like to share, please bring it to the church office the first week of December. Be sure your name is on your crèche.

Contact Information Changes

If you move... or change your phone number or email address, please let the church know so we can update our records. Send any/all changes to ogpc@oakgrv.org or call 952-888-4621. Thanks for helping us keep everyone connected!

Palestinian Olive Oil

For many years now we have sold olive oil and the spice za'atar at Oak Grove to provide support to the Palestinian people. Proceeds from selling the oil help support education, especially for girls, hospitals, and the replanting of olive trees.

We would like to start selling again at church twice a month before and after the service. Would you be willing to staff a table for this? If you are looking for a meaningful way to help this part of the world, this is for you! Please contact Bob or Sandy Crum (952-888-2114) for more information and to volunteer! Thank you!

Antiracism Accountability Discussion

For December, this group encourages all to set aside an hour to delve into the collection of Antiracism Resources on Oak Grove's website (<https://bit.ly/3UiHfqw>).

Consider sharing your reflections in a conversation. We invite you to join us in online conversations, resuming Jan. 26 (fourth Thursday of the month).

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Singles Fellowship: Monday, Dec. 12 (5:00 pm)

Singles Fellowship is a group of single adults who get together at Zeke's Place (7700 W Old Shakopee Rd) for socialization and support. No need to RSVP. Questions? Contact Jane Jacobson at 612-267-9068.

Soul Sisters: Monday, Dec. 12 (7:00 pm)

We will gather at Pastor Mary's house (821 Hilltop Rd, Mendota Heights 55118). This group is open to all women for friendship, support, and conversation. No RSVP is needed. Questions? Contact Pastor Mary.

Presbyterian Women Bible Study: Wednesday, Dec. 14 (9:30 am)

The Goodrich Nord Circle meets the second Wednesday of the month at Pres. Homes (9901 Penn Ave S, Bloomington) in the second-floor dining room in Gideon Pond and is led by Meg Robles and Bev Heise. New members are always welcome!

Oak Grove Christmas Cantata: Sunday, Dec. 18 (10:30 am service)

The Oak Grove Chancel Choir, Hand Bell choir, soloists, instrumentalists and narrators will present the cantata, "*Let There Be Christmas.*" There will also be opportunities for the congregation to join in on some carols. May your hearts and spirits be touched by the beautiful arrangements of these carols. Please join us for this special service!

Ladies Who Lunch: Wednesday, Dec. 21 (noon)

Please join us at the home of Iris Karow. We will enjoy a light lunch and discuss "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek" by Kim Michele Richardson. All women are invited to participate in friendship and great conversation! Please let Mary or Iris know you can make it so we can have enough food!

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Longest Night Service: Wednesday, Dec. 21 (7:00 pm)

Come out, and join with us in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle, and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness.

Everyone, regardless of church background (or lack of it) is welcome. The short service will be followed by a brief time for light refreshments and fellowship.

Intergenerational Christmas Eve Service: Saturday, Dec. 24 (4:00 pm)

We are very excited to worship together again on Christmas Eve. We are looking for children, youth, and adults who are interested in being part of an intergenerational pop-up choir for the service. We would also like some children and youth readers and musicians. If you would like to be part of this service, please let Mary know!

Singles Fellowship: Jan. 1, 2023 (4:00 pm)

Join us at the home of Jody Milton (9401 Lyndale Ave S, Bloomington) for potluck, games and fun! Please RSVP by calling Jody at 612-730-3962.

Oak Rovers: Saturday, Jan. 14 (3:00 pm)

Join us at the Ames Center (12600 Nicollet Ave, Burnsville 55337) to see "*Plowing Thru by the Church Basement Ladies.*" We have reservations for 20 but can accommodate more. Tickets are \$36 (cash or check) and we will carpool from church at 2 pm. Sign up at church on Dec. 11. Questions? Call Patsy Fisk (952-977-9900).

Women's Retreat: Jan. 20–22, 2023 (note the date change)

Please join us for the Oak Grove Presbyterian Women's Retreat at Clearwater Forest. The theme is "*Rest and Resilience*" with special guest speaker Jacque Fletcher.

Register at: <https://bit.ly/3VhsA0j>.

Accommodations: Leaning Tree Lodge (two to a room) and semi-private baths, bedding and towels included. Cost is \$120, but some scholarship funds are available. Please indicate if your attendance depends on this assistance. Questions? Contact Sue Greimel (612-805-2896 or sue.greimel@gmail.com).

OAK GROVE & COMMUNITY

The Children's Ministry team would like to thank everyone who worked to make the pageant a success:

- Emma Wasko and Judy Cooper for their excellent music leadership and dedication to our children.
- Our Wednesday and Sunday morning teachers and leaders: Karen G, Linda, Alicia, Sue, Stephen, Laura, Lizanne, Cece, Anne, Chris, Karen D, Sarah and Jim.
- The Sanctuary Guild for decorating the sanctuary so beautifully.
- Don Alman for photos of the children.
- Oak Grove children, grown-ups and friends for practicing music, learning cues, and helping tell the story of Jesus' birth!
- Deacons for cheerfully supervising our Parents' Day Out and gift-making yesterday.
- Staff of Oak Grove for support of Children's Ministries.
- The tech crew for all things tech—y that enhance our worship experience.

OAK GROVE HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Please note that the Oak Grove church office will be closed during the following times:

Friday, Dec. 23: the office will close at noon

Monday, Dec. 26–Friday, Dec.30: the office will be closed for the holidays

Monday, Jan. 2: the office will be closed in observance of New Year's Day

If there is an urgent matter, please contact Pastor Bart Roush at 210-551-1136.