

*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. 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 am

Let There Be Christmas

By Joseph M Martin | Orchestration by Stan Pethel



A Thought to Ponder (from the Social Justice Committee)

“People come here penniless but not cultureless. They bring us gifts. We can synthesize the best of our traditions with the best of theirs. We can teach and learn from each other to produce a better America.”

– Mary Pipher, American Clinical Psychologist and Author

Christmas Overture & Processional Hymn

(Please watch for the cue to stand and join in singing.)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Congregation & Choir:

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels.
O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

Choir:

Sing, choirs of angels. Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above.
Glory to God; all glory in the highest.
O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Congregation & Choir:

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee; born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.**

Choir:

Come, all ye faithful. Come, all ye faithful.
Let there be song! Let there be song! Let there be song!

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Adam, Carrie, David & Evan Wilkens

Because too many people are wandering in the wilderness, because too many people are sitting in the valley of the shadow of death, we light candles...

Because people all over the world are suffering and we are often too busy to notice, we light candles... *(continued)*

Today we stop everything and light these candles: one for hope, one for peace, one for joy, and one for love... *(the blue and pink candles are lit)*

May the light from these candles overwhelm the world.

May the light from these candles illuminate the valley of the shadow of death.

May the light and the fire from these candles burn away everything that is preventing God's Love from being born among us.

People of God, be not afraid, even now – even now – God's love is overwhelming the world...

Let There Be Faith

The Advent Rose

Like a rose blooming in the winter, like a candle burning bright,
Like a star shining in the shadows, like a love song in the night,
Hope comes softly. Hope comes gently like a promise over all;
Falling graceful as a snowflake from the loving heart of God.

Like a lark singing to the silence, like a fragrance in the air,
Like a wind moving through the forest, like the whisper of a prayer,
Peace comes softly. Peace comes gently, bringing mercy, bringing grace.
Heaven's blanket of assurance, warming touch of love's embrace.

Let the valleys ring with music. Let the desert bloom and thrive;
For a Rose opens in the moonlight, bringing hope and joy and life;
Bringing love to heal the nations, bringing comfort to the soul,
Bringing truth to light the darkness, bringing grace to make us whole.
Like a rose blooming in the winter, bringing grace to make us whole.

Let There Be Hope

The Divine Expectation

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us. Let us find our rest in Thee.
Come. Come. Come, Lord Jesus. Come today.
Come. Veni Emmanuel!

(over)

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth, Thou art.
Dear desire of every nation, enter every longing heart.
Come. Come. Come, Lord Jesus, Come today.
Come. Veni Emmanuel!

Born Thy people to deliver, born a Child, and yet a King.
Come, Almighty, to deliver. Let us all Thy grace receive.
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.

By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone.
By Thine all sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne.
Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling. All Thy faithful mercies crown.

Come to us, O Child of wonder. Come and sing redemption's song.
Come, O come, and break our bonds asunder. Come and bring a glorious dawn.
Come. Come. Come, Lord Jesus. Come today.
Come. Veni Emmanuel.
Come, Emmanuel! Alleluia

Let There Be Peace

O Little Town of Bethlehem (*congregation may remain seated*)

Congregation & Choir:

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth;
And praises sing to God, the King, and peace to all the earth!**

Choir:

How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is given.
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.

Congregation & Choir:

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend on us we pray.
Cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell,
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.**

Prayer of Approach

by Ann Weems

One: And in these days a decree goes out to all the world, for these are taxing times. We are called again to go to Bethlehem, no matter the state of our health or our world.

All: We come, obedient and faithful, for we have heard the message, we have dreamed the dream that God will come to dwell among us.

One: We come, expectant with joy, pregnant with anticipation, for God has done great things for us.

All: We come searching for a sign; bearing our gifts, we come.

One: We come, called from the silent hillsides of our hearts, startled and frightened by the magnitude of light, we huddle together toward Bethlehem.

All: We come, one by one, and yet, as one, dancing into the Promise...
(silent prayer)

Passing of the Peace

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.)*

Time for the Young & Young at Heart

Let There Be Love

Carols from a Quiet Manger

Still, still, still, come see the Child so still.

As Mary gently rocks her Baby, angels softly sing His praises.

Still, still, still, come see the Child so still.

Still, still, still, can you hear the falling snow?

For all is hushed, the world is sleeping; holy star its vigil keeping.

Still, still, still, can you hear the falling snow?

Fairest Lord Jesus, born in a manger, God with us, Emmanuel.

Hope of the nations, Joy of creation, You are my glory and my King.

Sleep, sleep, sleep. Close your eyes, my Love and dream.

No crying as I gently hold You. Let my tender arms enfold You.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, Close Your eyes, my Love, and dream.

Close Your eyes, my Love, and sleep.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, sleep Baby, sleep.

Let There Be Joy

Arise! (Hodie Christus natus est)

Arise, ye sleepers. Awake from the night.

Come and see the Savior's everlasting light.

The Child who in a manger lay, has wakened the dawn to a glorious day!

Hodie Christus natus est. Hodie Christus natus est.

Arise, ye sleepers. Awake from your rest.

Come and see the Child who evermore will bless.

Through Him, the battle of sin will be won.

Awake from the darkness. Your Light now has come!

Hodie Christus natus est. Hodie Christus natus est.

Arise, sleepers; awake. This is the day the Christ is born.

Arise, sleepers; awake. Lift high your praise this glorious morn.

Arise, ye sleepers. Awake from the night.

Come and see the Savior's everlasting light.

The Child who in a manger lay has wakened the dawn to a glorious day!

Hodie Christus natus est. Hodie Christus natus est. Hodie! Hodie! Hodie!

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Call to Offering

Anthem/Offertory “Bring a Torch”

arr. Wagner

Let There Be Wonder

Bleak Midwinter’s Gift

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan.
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow;
In the bleak midwinter long ago.

Heaven cannot hold Him; nor earth sustain.
Heav’n and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed,
The Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a Shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet what I can, I give Him: give my heart.
I give my heart; give my heart.

Let There Be Grace

Let There Be Christmas

Let there be music. Let there be praise.
Let there be singing to fill every space.
Let there be starshine, dazzling and white.
Let there be worship. Let there be Christmas tonight.

Let there be carols. Let there be song.
Let there be angels to sing loud and strong.
Let there be candles, gentle and bright.
Let there be worship. Let there be Christmas tonight.

(over)

Christmas, come now, and fill us with love.
Bring your spirit of grace from above.
Christmas, come let our hope be restored.
Bring us news that a Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!

Let there be glory, let there be peace.
Let there be promise. Let justice increase.
Heaven has spoken, "Let there be Light!"
Come, all ye faithful. Let there be Christmas tonight.
Let there be music. Let there be singing.
Let there be worship. Let there be Christmas tonight.
Come to the manger. Kneel and adore Him.
O let there be Christmas tonight. Silent night.

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.**

Let There Be Life

A Joyful Gathering of Carols *(watch for cue to stand)*

Congregation & Choir:

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King.
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns. Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed, a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging, angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
“Christ the Babe is Lord of all.”

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin mother and Child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar. Heavenly hosts sing, “Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born.”

The first Noel, the angel did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay.
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful, all ye nations rise. Join the triumph of the skies.
With th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Choir:

Let there be hope! Let there be peace!
Let there be love! Let there be joy!
Let there be music! Let there be singing!
Let there be Christmas!

***Benediction**

Postlude

“O Leave Your Sheep”

arr. Wagner



Participants in worship today include:

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

Advent Candle Lighters: **Adam, Carrie, David & Evan Wilkens;**

Handbell Choir Directory & Pianist: **Nancy Jensen;**

Chancel Choir Director: **Judy Cooper;**

Flute: **Enid Lang** | Soprano Sax: **Dale Copeland;**

Trumpets: **Marc Chelgren & Amanda Smith;**

Trombone: **Gordon Barry** | Baritone: **Andy Hayden** | Bass: **Andy Nail;**

Soloists: **Emma Wasko, Cece Klueh & Becky Dop;**

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

Volunteer Custodian: **Al Greimel;**

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

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

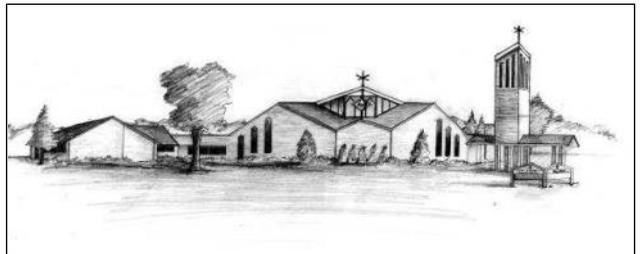
We are proud to be a Matthew 25, Green Care and More Light Congregation.

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 Greeter:

Barb Johnson



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

CHOIR (48) & HANDBELL MEMBERS (11)

Sopranos

Doodee Backstrom
Sonya Butler
Deb DeMeester
Karen Diller
Jane Ekerberg
Ev Gebhard
Karen Gerdes
Judy Kingery
Cece Klueh
Sharon Nolte
Sarah Olson
Sharon Solomon
Verona Stoesz
Marilyn Twete
Emma Wasko

Altos

Kylie Borchardt
Emilie Christy
Becky Dop
Jill Dubis
Jane Horn
Kathy Howell
Anne Klueh
Carol Long
Sarajane Myers
Patty Nail

Altos continued

Nancy Scott
Dorothy Sorensen
Darlene Thronson
Marikay Wolf

Tenors

Don Alman
Cathy Colborn
Al Greimel
Chris Hawks
Jan Lichtenberger
Gar Nordin
Marsha Pridgeon
Mary Render

Bass

Mark Borchardt
Bob Crum
Bob Gerdes
David Hansen
LeRoy Horn
Jim McCarl
Dick Nichols
Eugene Orr
Pdon Pinkham
Dick Reinke
Russ Snyder
Bob Sorensen

Handbell Ringers

Sharon Fields
Amanda Fineran
Mary Hedgcock
Linda Johnson
Carol Long
Jody Milton
Sue Powers
Jane Propsom
Nancy Scott
Paula Uvodich
Candy Williamson

UPCOMING SERVICES

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

The short service will be followed by a brief time for light refreshments and fellowship.

Christmas Eve Services:
Saturday, Dec. 24

4:00 pm: *Intergenerational Service*

10:00 pm: *Candlelight Service*

Christmas Day Service:
Sunday, Dec. 25

9:30 am: *Christmas Hymns & Stories*

New Year's Day Service:
Sunday, Jan. 1 (9:30 am)

Year-End Giving

In order for year-end contributions to be tax deductible for the year 2022, they must be postmarked or delivered to the church on or before Dec. 31, 2022. Stock donations can take longer to administrate. If you are considering donating shares of stock, please contact Laura Nemcek at the church office (952-512-2052) as soon as possible for details.

Please note 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.



The rosebud on the chancel this week is in honor of
Eloise Fern Greimel, born on Dec. 14, 2022.

Parents are Joel & Addy, big sister is Josie
and proud grandparents are Al & Sue Greimel.

Welcome Eloise!
