

*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. 21, 2022

Longest Night Service

7:00 pm



Prelude

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

Tonight, we gather here in this place of refuge,

For we are lost, we are lonely, we are afraid.

Tonight, we gather daring to wonder if God has indeed come in Jesus – discerning the rejection we have known, intimate with our failed relationships, holding our heartache in hands of tenderness.

Coming with our hearts full of hope, and our heads filled with doubts.

Tonight, we gather just as we are,

For God has promised to meet us here and to welcome us for who we are.

***Opening Hymn** “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (vss 1–2) 88

***Prayer of Invocation & Illumination**

Stories of Light & Words of God’s Promises

Scripture Genesis 1:1–5

Meditation

Hymn In the Bleak Midwinter (vss 1–2) 144

Scripture Exodus 13:17–22

Meditation

Hymn While We Are Waiting, Come (vss 1 & 3) 92

Scripture Isaiah 60:1–3

Meditation

Hymn Wait for the Lord (refrain only, sung 3 times) 90

Scripture Luke 1:46–55

Meditation

Hymn O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vss 1, 5 & 7) 88

A Time of Intercession & Lighting Candles of Remembrance and Concern

After the prayers of intercession and when the music begins, you are invited to light a candle to allow light to begin to shine forth in the darkness. During this time, you are also invited to reflect on the following writings by Ann Weems:

Into this silent night

Into this silent night, as we make our weary way, we know not where, Just when the night become its darkest and we cannot see our path, Just then is when the angels rush in, their hands full of stars.

The Christmas Spirit

The Christmas Spirit is that hope which tenaciously clings to the hearts of the faithful and announces in the face of any Herod the world can produce and all the inn doors slammed in our faces and all the dark nights of our souls that with God all things are still possible, that even now unto us a child is born.

It Is Not Over

It is not over, this birthing. There are always newer skies into which God can throw stars. When we begin to think that we can predict the Advent of God, that we can box the Christ in a stable in Bethlehem, that's just the time that God can be born in a place we can't imagine and won't believe. Those who wait for God watch with their hearts and not their eyes, listening, always listening for angel words.

***Closing Hymn**

“God Weeps with Us Who Weep and Mourn”

787

***Benediction**

Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*



Participants in worship today include:

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

Organist/Pianist: **Nancy Jensen** | Director of Music: **Judy Cooper;**



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.



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

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