

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. 24, 2022

Christmas Eve

10:00 pm



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

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.

Prelude

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath & Christ Candle

Mike & Courtney Ramirez

Because injustice and despair threaten to overwhelm us, we pray for hope.
(Light the first candle in the Advent wreath.)

Because so many swords have not yet been beaten into plowshares, we pray for peace. *(Light the second candle in the Advent wreath.)*

Because grief and loss weigh so heavily, we pray for joy.
(Light the third candle in the Advent wreath.)

Because hatred is still so strong, and because people all over the world are suffering, we pray for love.
(Light the fourth candle in the Advent wreath.)

God has come to us as a child. Christ is present in our world.
(Light the center candle in the Advent wreath.)

May the light and the fire from these candles burn away everything that is preventing the God of hope, peace, joy and love from being born among us.

Beloved community, be not afraid, even now the light of Christ is overwhelming the world.

*Opening Hymn

“Joy to the World”

134

*Christmas Prayers

Leader: Tonight, we are excited.

People: Bless us with wonder.

Leader: Tonight, we are expectant.

People: Bless us with gladness.

Leader: Children of God, let us be the children we were created to be: free to imagine, free to believe, with faith wide open to receive what is wonder-filled. *(continued)*

People: O God, as the story is told tonight, as people around the world tell it again, let the miracle of your love bring about new life throughout all creation.

Leader: Come into the hearts of those who have not yet met you, who have not imagined the breadth and depth of your love, that they may be filled with the wonder of your birth, and experience the wonder of being loved, embraced, and welcomed by you.

People: And come anew to the hearts of those who already know you, that there may be a renewal into even greater faith, greater joy, and greater love.

Leader: Loving God, as we celebrate the nativity of Jesus, let the ancient song become new singing to fill every heart with hope, peace, joy, and love; to lift every heart into the presence of Immanuel; God with us.

All: Amen.

The Story of Christmas in Lessons & Carols

First Lesson	Isaiah 9:2–3a, 6–7	
Hymn	“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”	107
Second Lesson	Micah 5:2–4	
Hymn	“O Little Town of Bethlehem”	121
Third Lesson	Luke 1:26–35, 38	
Anthem	“Born in the Night, Mary’s Child”	
Fourth Lesson	Matthew 1:18–24	
Hymn	“Love Has Come”	110
Fifth Lesson	Luke 2:1, 3–7	
Hymn	“Still, Still, Still”	124
Sixth Lesson	Luke 2:8–16	
Hymn	“Angels We Have Heard on High”	113

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Call to Offering John 1:1–5, 14

Anthem/Offertory “Jesus Come” *Bringle/Morris*

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.

Song of Preparation “O Holy Night”

Christmas Meditation

Sharing the Christmas Candle

The pastors or choir members will give a light to the person sitting at the end of each pew. The light should then be passed from person to person until everyone’s candle is lit. When it is your turn to pass the light, please hold your lit candle upright while your neighbor’s unlit candle is tipped to light. After the benediction, please extinguish candles carefully and return them to the boxes by the exits. Thank you!

***Singing by Candlelight** “Silent Night, Holy Night!” 122

*Benediction

Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

†††††

Participants in worship today include:

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

Advent Candle Lighters: **Mike & Courtney Ramirez** | Soloist: **Cece Klueh;**

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

Sound, Light, Video: **Greg Johnson & Bob Gerdes;**

Greeters: **Bob & Karen Gerdes;**