

*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

4:00 pm



Artwork by Molly

Prelude

Call to Worship: Micah 5:2-4

Mary Koon

Lighting of the Advent Wreath & Christ Candle

Lucic Family

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.

***Hymn of Response** “Love Has Come”

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Special Music

Claire Diller, piano & Evan Wilkens, viola

Welcome

Bart Roush & Mary Koon

***Opening Prayer**

Gabe Chimchirian

(adapted from “Christmas Comes” by Ann Weems)

Christmas comes every time we see God in other persons.

The human and the holy meet in Bethlehem or in Bloomington, or in Baghdad, for Christmas comes like a golden storm on its way to Jerusalem – determinedly, inevitably...

Even now it comes in the face of hatred and warring—

no atrocity too terribly to stop it, no Herod strong enough, no hurt deep enough, no curse shocking enough, no disaster shattering enough.

(next page)

For someone on earth will see the star!

May we be the ones to hear the angel voices and run to Bethlehem.

**Let us commit ourselves to pray and work for peace and justice,
knowing that Christ is born! AMEN**

***Passing of the Peace**

Gabe Chimchirian

Jesus is born! Hallelujah! May the peace of Christ be with you.

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

The Christmas Story Luke 2: 1-7 David Wilkens

***Carol** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vss 1–2) 121

The Christmas Story Luke 2: 8–14 Julianna Lucic

***Carol** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (vss 1 & 3) 119

The Christmas Story Luke 2: 15–20 David Wilkens

***Carol** "Away in a Manger" (vss 1–2) 114

Message Gloria!!!! Mary Koon

***Carol** "Joy to the World" (vss 1–2 & 4) 134

Christmas & The Lord's Prayer Bart Roush

(*^ 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.**

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Call to Offering

Anthem/Offertory "Go Tell It on the Mountain" Intergenerational Choir

***Responsive Carol** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (verse 3)

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***Prayer of Dedication**

Julianna Lucic

We give thanks, O God, for the baby born in Bethlehem, Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with us.

We bring our gifts in response to the love that came into this world.

May our gifts and our lives further Christ’s work of peace, justice, healing and hope.

We pray in the name of the Christ child born this night. AMEN

Scripture Reading John 1:1–5

Bart Roush

Sharing the Christmas Candle

The pastors or ushers will give a light to the person sitting by the center aisle in 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!

***Carol** “Silent Night, Holy Night!”

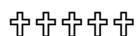
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***Benediction**

Mary Koon

Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*



Participants in worship today include:

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

Advent Candle Lighters: **Caitlin, Tom, Julianna & Taylor Lucic;**

Readers: **Julianna Lucic, Gabe Chimchirian & David Wilkens;**

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

Sound, Light, Video: **Bob Gerdes & Cece Klueh;**

Greeters: **Fred & Karen Alonzi;**