

*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](http://www.oakgrv.org)

**Feb. 26, 2023**

**1st Sunday in Lent**

**10:30 am**



**A Thought to Ponder** (from the Social Justice Committee)

*“Race is the child of racism, not the father.”*

– Ta-Nehisi Coates, American Author & Journalist

## We Gather in God's Name

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Centering Time/Lighting of the Christ Candle**

**Call to Worship** (*based on Isaiah 43:1–3*)

Larry Klueh

God says, “Do not be afraid, for I have rescued you.

**God calls us by name, we are God's.**

When we pass through the waters,

**God will be with us.**

And through the rivers,

**They shall not overwhelm us.**

When we walk through the fire,

**We shall not be burned, and the flame will not consume us.**

For God is the Holy One, our Savior.

**Come, let us worship God, who leads us into life.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”

394

(*sung to alternate tune Regent Square*)

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Larry Klueh

**God of the depths, searcher of hearts, you know the tumult of our lives – a busyness that bruises those nearest, a loneliness that claws at the soul, a fearfulness that leads to distrust. You know our longing for a more centered life – time for reflection and prayer; gracious unhurried times with friends and family; renewing rest and exercise; growing moments to deepen our faith and witness.**

**God of our days and our wishes, lead us into this holy time of Lent so we can let go of that which pulls us from your path. Give us the courage to persist in prayer, excel in kindness, and walk gently on the earth. Heal the wounds we carry, forgive the errors we commit, and lead us to new life.**

## **\*Assurance of Grace**

Larry Klueh

The gift of forgiveness from God, through Jesus Christ, makes us able, with the power of the Holy Spirit, to choose to forgive, renew and live again in right relationship with each other and with our God.

**We are forgiven and given grace. Thanks be to God!**

## **\*Passing of the Peace**

Larry Klueh

Let us greet one another as new beings, reconciled to God and one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

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

## **We Listen for God's Word**

### **Time for the Young & Young at Heart**

#### **Hymn of Response**

“Lord of All Hopefulness” (verse 1)

683

#### **Scripture**

Matthew 4: 1–11 (NT: p. 3 | LPNT: p. 3)

#### **Message**

### **Presentation of Tithes & Offerings**

#### **Call to Offering**

**Anthem/Offertory** “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” *Linda Cable Shute*

## **\*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 the wilderness, we give these offerings in gratitude, rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us. We give these offerings in faith, trusting that you will provide for our needs. We give these offerings in hope, knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world. And with these offerings, we give ourselves; May we live with generous hearts, with open hands. 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.**

### **We Go Forth in God's Name**

#### **\*Closing Hymn**

**"God, We Long for Our Own Comfort" *Carolyn Winfrey Gillette***

**(Tune: HOLY MANNA 8.7.8.7 D God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens)**

**God, we long for our own comfort; we want life that's full and sure —  
Stones to bread, right now, abundant; we forget what shall endure.  
When we look to things around us for our pleasure, out of greed,  
God, we pray that you'll remind us: it's your Word we really need.**

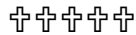
**We confess we push the limits; faith gives way to testing pride:  
"Be dramatic, make a statement, prove that God is on your side."  
When we're tempted to show others that you'll do what we request,  
God, remind us to be humble — not to put you to the test.**

**We bow down to what is evil to achieve the things we choose;  
We don't see when sin is subtle; we don't see what we might lose.  
May we look again to Jesus who, though tempted, turned from wrong.  
By your Spirit, guide and lead us; keep us watchful, faithful, strong.**

#### **\*Benediction**

#### **Postlude**

***\*Please rise in body or in spirit.***



*Participants in worship today include:*

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

Liturgist: **Larry Klueh** | Musicians: **Chancel Choir;**

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

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

**Chancel flowers** are given by **Oak Grove,**  
in *memory* of **Kyle Jacobs, friend of Oak Grove.**

## 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.

**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](mailto:ogpc@oakgrv.org)

952-888-4621

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Sunday Parking at Oak Grove**

If you have excellent mobility, please consider parking at the Old Town Hall or funeral home across Penn Ave and walking over. This way, we can care for our members and visitors who need to park close to the building. Thank you for your compassion and help!

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry: Tuesday, Feb. 28 (10 am to noon)**

We meet at church the fourth Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am. The patterns, yarn and needles are provided. We are looking for more people who love to knit or crochet. This ministry started over 16 years ago at Oak Grove. Recipients say they feel surrounded with prayers and love. All are welcome. Questions? Contact Nancy Kachel at 952-884-1895. We hope you will join us!

### **WoW! Dinner & Programs: Wednesdays**

This mid-week gathering is a time of fellowship. Join the church family; no reservations are needed. Dinner begins at 5:30 pm and each meal includes salad and dessert. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. Faith Formation begins at 6:15 pm and choir will rehearse at 7:15 pm.

March 1: Chicken Breasts, Mac & Cheese

March 8: Chili

### **WoW! for Adults: March 1–22**

Please plan to spend your Wednesday evenings with us as we engage in the PCUSA program, *Trouble the Water: Conversations to Disrupt Racism and Dominance*.

Each week during the four-week series, we will practice centering prayer and breathing, watch a video, have some quiet reflection and conversation .

### **Men's Prayer Breakfast: Thursdays**

Join other Oak Grove men for a time of fellowship while enjoying breakfast. The group meets weekly on Thursdays (7:30 am) at Denny's (4209 American Blvd W, Bloomington 55437). Questions? Contact Jack Kley at 952-831-4138.

### **Adult Bible Study: Thursdays**

Join Pastor Bart and/or Pastor Mary each week on Thursdays (noon–1:00 pm) via Zoom to look at the scripture that will be the basis for the sermon the following Sunday. No pre-reading is needed. We will read the scripture together and then dive in!

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Adult Faith Formation

Please join us before worship on Sundays, 9–10:00 am for interesting and informative speakers and topics designed to expand our minds and grow our faith. If you have an idea or speaker you'd like to see, please let us know.

Feb. 25–March 26: We will read and study the book, *The Last Week: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus's Final Week in Jerusalem*, by Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan

### Intergenerational Weekend: March 3–5

Join us for a weekend of relaxation, recreation and fellowship with friends of all ages at Clearwater Forest. The cost is \$160 per room (double bed & single bed) for the weekend plus \$20 per person for food (\$10/child, infants under 2 are free). Sign up at church. Questions? Contact Larry Pearson at 952-835-9480.

### Easter Honorarium/Memorial

On Sundays, March 5, 12 and 19, we'll be available for you to sign up to donate in honor, in memory, or in celebration of a special event as we decorate the chancel for Easter and the following Sunday. Your donations will be used to purchase colorful flower arrangements and any remaining amount will be given to VEAP. Flowers will then be donated to homebound members and/or people on the prayer list.

### Men's Fellowship at Zeke's: Tuesday, March 7 (noon)

Join us for "Burgers 'n' Brew" the first Tuesday of the month at Zeke's Place (7700 W Old Shakopee Rd). This event pairs young(er) and old(er) men for a time of fellowship while enjoying lunch. Pick up someone who needs a ride and develop new friendships. Questions? Contact Jim McCarl at 952-948-2991.

### Presbyterian Women Bible Study

The Evening Star Circle meets the first Tuesday of the month (**March 7 at 5 pm**) at Oak Grove and is led by Connie Nesbitt.

The Goodrich Nord Circle meets the second Wednesday of the month (**March 8 at 9:30 am**) 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.

Presbyterian Women is a wonderful way to deepen your faith, get to know other people at church, and make a difference in the lives of women and children around the world. Mary Pol, Bart Roush and Mary Koon will facilitate the study! New members are always welcome!

# OAK GROVE & COMMUNITY

## Minnesota Timberwolves vs. Portland Trailblazers: Sunday, April 2 (2:30 pm)

Join fellow Oak Grovers to see the Timberwolves take on the Trailblazers. Tickets are \$35 and are in section 218. We will also participate in the "fan tunnel" greeting the players as they go out for warmups.

All tickets will be digitally delivered via the Timberwolves mobile app so please be sure to download it.

Sign up using the online registration form (<https://bit.ly/3XtxveL>) or contact Ron Dubis (612-868-9194). The sign up deadline is March 12.

## Deacon Health Ministry: Request for Home Medical Equipment

Do you have medical equipment that you are not using any more? If so, we would love to accept donations of gently used, fully functioning equipment that we can lend to others when they might need it. If you would like to contribute, please contact Jim McCarl at 952-948-2991 or [jjmccarl33@gmail.com](mailto:jjmccarl33@gmail.com).

## Collections for VEAP During Lent

We are encouraging each household to bring **one item** to church **each week** to help restock VEAP's onsite pantry shelves. Each week we will focus on a particular item that is **most asked for but least available**.

- Feb. 26–March 5: sugar
- March 5–12: cooking oil
- March 12–19: laundry detergent, dish soap, hand soap
- March 19–26: toilet paper, paper towels
- March 26–April 2: diapers

Checks, made payable to Oak Grove, are also acceptable. Please write "VEAP" on the memo line.

## Pastors' Discretionary Fund

The Pastors' Discretionary Fund is funded entirely by special donations from the congregation and is not a part of our general budget. We use the fund to help those in need at the discretion of the pastors.

Some of those needs include rental assistance, car insurance, medications, and cost of living expenses. If you feel called to contribute to the Pastors' Discretionary Fund, please write a check and put "pdf" in the note or contact Pastors Bart or Mary. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



## Legislation for PFML

Final committee hearings on Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) are happening soon in the Minnesota House, and

negotiations are heating up. It's crucial that every legislator hears from their constituents this weekend that they expect them to deliver a strong public program that guarantees 12 weeks off to ALL Minnesota workers in the case of a new child, a death in the family, or a serious medical illness.

### **Here are two action steps to take now:**

1. Send an email (<https://bit.ly/PFMLinMN>) to your legislators in support of Paid Family and Medical Leave
2. Ask 10 people who share your values to do the same by texting them the above link.

No matter the color of our skin, our income, or our occupation, we deserve the time we need to care for our loved ones. But right now, the wealthiest corporations in Minnesota are putting everything they've got into stopping or severely weakening Paid Family and Medical Leave. They are fearmongering and pumping out misinformation to try and stop a Paid Leave program that is working in many states and guaranteed in most of the rest of the world.

Elected officials are feeling the heat from corporate lobbyists. But together we can make clear that the vast majority of

Minnesotans support a strong Paid Family and Medical Leave program that includes every worker. We can be the wind at the backs of the legislators, so they have clarity that it's time to deliver.

## Minnesota Legislation Update

Last week, included in our bulletin was an update on legislation activity at our state Capitol. There is a change (due to weather) in the date for the **Kids Count on Us Day of Action**.

The rescheduled date is now **Thursday, March 2 (9am–Noon)** at Christ Lutheran Church on Capitol Hill (105 University Ave W, Saint Paul, MN 55103).

If you are interested in being involved in this important event for Minnesota's children, please visit <https://bit.ly/41ldgDb> for more information and to register, or contact Lydia Boerboom from ISAIAH at [lboerboom@isaiahmn.org](mailto:lboerboom@isaiahmn.org).

