

*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)

**April 23, 2023**

**3rd Sunday of Easter**

**10:30 am**



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

*“Look at a tree, a flower, a plant. Let your awareness rest upon it. How still they are, how deeply rooted in Being. Allow nature to teach you stillness.”*

– Eckhart Tolle, German-born spiritual teacher and self-help author

# We Gather in God's Name

## Prelude

## Welcome & Announcements

## Reflection

## Opening Words

The earth and everything in it was created by God: the world and all who live in it.

**We recognize the Dakota people as the traditional stewards of the land where we now worship. We acknowledge the historic and on-going harm done to Indigenous people.**

We are called as a people of faith to do justice, act mercifully, and walk humbly with God.

**Therefore, we commit to repair relationships through action, honesty, listening, truth-telling, repentance, and restoration.**

## Centering Time/Lighting of the Christ Candle

## Call to Worship

Ignatius Esele

We have come here seeking to worship the God of all Creation.

**We have come to stand on holy ground!**

We have come to sing God's praises, as trees and plants sing God's praise with their blooming.

**We have come to sing praises to our Creator!**

We have come to experience the mighty rush of the Spirit like our surrounding flowing waters.

**We have come to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit! We have come to experience the God of Creation in this sacred space. Let us worship God!**

\*Prayer of Confession

Ignatius Esele

**Holy God, we confess that for many of us the history of how we came to be here is more complex than we understand. We confess that we have lost our connection to our local habitat—to the names of the birds of the air, and the fish of the waters, and every crawling thing that you have created. We confess that we are a people who have lost our connection to the dirt under our feet. The very substance into which you breathed life.**

**Transform us, O God, and give us roots. Empower us to discover the history of this sacred place where you have called us. Embolden us to reconcile with all children of God who called this place home, and to honor their care for the land. Help us to learn the seasons of this sacred place—to learn the native flowers and trees, native birds and wildlife. Open our eyes to the seeds that have been sown here for millennia and the intentional care you have taken in crafting our habitat. May we be rooted and grounded in the family of God in our midst. Amen.**

\*Assurance of Grace

Ignatius Esele

There is nowhere that we can run to escape God’s love and compassion. **In the generous gift of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. As Children of God, we are invited into the meaningful work of following faithfully after Jesus here, in this place. Amen.**

\*Passing of the Peace

Ignatius Esele

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**      “For the Beauty of the Earth” (vss 1 & 5)      14

**Scripture**      Genesis 1:1–5, 26–31 (OT: p. 1, 1 | LPOT: p. 1, 2)

**Reflection**

**Hymn**      “All Creatures of Our God and King” (vss 1–3)      15

**Scripture**      Psalm 104 (NT: p. 554 | LPNT: p. 682)

**Reflection**

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

#### **Call to Offering**

**Anthem/Offertory**      “All Things Bright and Beautiful”      *by John Rutter*

#### **\*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 & Commitment to Care for the Earth**

“Because we care for and love the earth, we can’t but cry out in lament and despair for the earth. Because we care for our families, our children, and children everywhere, we can’t help but despair over the state of the earth and the future of the world we are passing on to them. Unless that kind of grief and lament and anger is put to speech, it can never become energy. Laments are all an expression of grief, but they are also an expression of hope. Hope is an insistence that things cannot remain this way and they must be changed.”      *(Walter Brueggemann)*

**Today we join in a renewal of our covenant with God and with one another. Standing together as followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the healing and protection of God's creation. We commit to stand against all threats to life, and to resist all powers that would destroy it.**      *(next page)*

**We commit to the discovery of some new beauty every day in God's creation: the sunrise and the sunset, the birds, flowers, trees, rainbows, stars, and the many forms of life that inhabit the earth.**

**We commit to listen to the animals as they try to teach us, the birds as they try to tell us, the plants of the earth and the fish of the sea as they declare to us their message of hope and healing for the world.**

**We will remember always that God speaks to us through the beauty of God's good creation, and we will try our best to answer God's call to revere all that God has created.**

**May we, together with people everywhere, awaken and begin to co-create the foundation of a new world so that the future of all life on our planet and the future of human lifeways can be protected and healed. 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**

"Touch the Earth Lightly"

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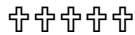
**\*Benediction**

Christ calls us to be his disciples, to serve him with love and compassion, to serve Earth and the peoples of Earth. Will you care for creation?

**With Christ, we will celebrate and revere all life! With Christ, we will care for creation! With Christ, we will help heal our Earthly home!**

**Postlude**

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



*Participants in worship today include:*

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

Liturgist: **Ignatius Esele** | Musicians: **Chancel Choir;**

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

Sound, Light, Video: **Gordon Goodwin, Randy Dop & Ruth Dukelow;**

**Chancel flowers** are given by **Anne & Larry Klueh, and Jill & Ron Dubis,**  
in *memory* of **father Steve St. Martin,** and **the Greimels,**  
in *honor* of **Sue's mother, Jean Mooney's 90th birthday.**



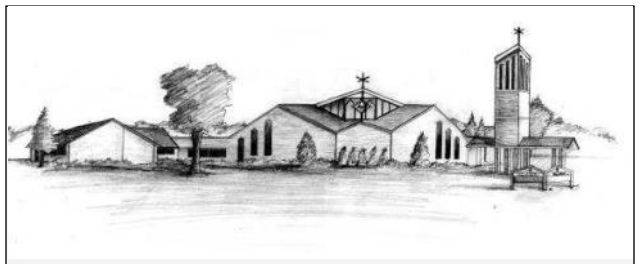
## Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

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

952-888-4621

# OAK GROVE & COMMUNITY



- Apr 25 | Prayer Shawl Ministry (10am–Noon)  
Contact: Nancy Kachel (952-884-1895)
- Apr 27 | Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30 am)  
Contact Jack Kley (952-831-4138)  
*Denny's (4209 American Blvd W)*
- Apr 27 | Bible Study (12–1 pm)  
*via Zoom (<https://bit.ly/2YttqhM>)*
- Apr 27 | Grief Support Coalition (4:30–6 pm)  
Topic: Navigating Life After Loss  
*St. Bonaventure Catholic Church  
(901 E 90th St, door #6)*
- Apr 27 | Antiracism Accountability (6:30–8 pm)  
*via Zoom (<https://bit.ly/3JQoN4I>)*
- Apr 29 | Oak Grove Cleanup Day (8:30a–2:30 pm)
- May 2 | Burgers 'n Brew Men's Fellowship  
Contact Jim McCarl (952-948-2991)  
*Zeke's (7700 W Old Shakopee Rd)*
- May 2 | Evening Star Circle (5–7:00 pm)  
Contact Connie Nesbitt (612-702-0684)
- May 4 | Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30 am)  
Contact Jack Kley (952-831-4138)  
*Denny's (4209 American Blvd W)*
- May 13 | Creative Hands Crafting (9am–Noon)  
Contact Ruth Dukelow (952-923-0799)
- May 13 | Shred Event (10 am–Noon)  
Youth Fundraiser: \$10/bag or \$20/box  
*Oak Grove Parking Lot*

## **Oak Grove Craft & Hobby Fair Sunday, April 30 (9–10:15 am)**

If you love painting, quilting, or wood-working, or if you have a hobby or collection that is unique, this is a chance to share your talents and interests.

If your collection is too large, or you are unable to attend, we are hoping to be able to create a video so you can still take part. Children and youth are especially encouraged to participate!

If you wish to participate, there will be a sign-up in the narthex or contact Ron Dubis (612-868-9194).

## **Interested in joining Oak Grove?**

Class will be held following the 10:30 am service on Sunday, April 30 (lunch and childcare available) and during education hour on Sunday, May 7 (9:15–10:15 am), with introductions to the membership at the 10:30 am worship service.

Questions? Contact Sandy Crum (952-715-1252). We would love to have you join!

## **Oak Grove's Purpose**

Oak Grove is a joyful, inclusive, compassionate community of faith seeking to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

## **Values**

Beyond our faith in God, our example in Jesus, and guidance from the Holy Spirit, our congregational values are the underlying ethic by which we define our community.

Authenticity

Celebratory Joyfulness

Compassion

Deep Relationships

Humble Curiosity

Inclusivity

Justice

## **Statement of Land Acknowledgement**

We collectively acknowledge that Oak Grove Presbyterian Church is located on the traditional and ancestral lands of Indigenous people. We reside on land that holds great historical, spiritual, and personal significance for the Dakota, Native Nations and Indigenous people of the region. The land was ceded by the Dakota to the U.S. Government through treaties created and upheld with racist underpinnings.

By offering this land acknowledgment, we affirm tribal sovereignty and will work to hold Oak Grove Presbyterian Church accountable to Indigenous people and Nations. We recognize, and continually seek to support and advocate for the sovereignty of the Native Nations in this territory and beyond.

For more information, please visit our website [www.oakgrv.org](http://www.oakgrv.org).