

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

Loving God... Changing Lives!



OAK GROVE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2200 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington Minn. 55431

952-888-4621 | www.oakgrv.org

Dec. 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

10:30 am



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

"I am not what happened to me, I am what I choose to become."

– Carl Jung, Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst

We Gather in God's Name

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Lisa & Bill Pomroy

Reader 1: In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. (Isaiah 64:1-3)

Reader 2: In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, "Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come" (Mark 13:35).

Congregation: **We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kin-dom all around us.**

Reader 1: We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God's activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.

Hymn of Response "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (verse 1) 85

Call to Worship Dave Johnson

In this season of expectation

we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah.

Into the bustle of our lives and the hard to find moments of solitude

we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah.

(next page)

Into our homes and situations along with friends and families

we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah.

Into our hearts, and those often hidden parts of our lives

we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah.

In this season of anticipation

We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah. Let us worship God.

***Opening Hymn**

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

104

***Prayer of Confession**

Dave Johnson

God of tenderness and love, breathe your grace into our lives. Forgive our wandering ways and guide us along your paths of peace. When we lose our way, and forget the reason and purpose of this season, carry us back to you. Lead us up to that high mountain of faith and hope, that we might truly proclaim: "Here is our God!" In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

Dave Johnson

Hear the good news of the psalmist's proclamation: If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night," Even the darkness is not dark to God, and the night is as bright as the day.

The God who promised never to leave us or forsake us has come to us in Jesus Christ, who binds up the broken-hearted, heals all our infirmities, and relieves our burdens. Thanks be to God!

****Passing of the Peace**

Dave Johnson

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 “Come, Come Emmanuel”

91

Scripture Isaiah 40:1–11 (OT: p. 667 | LPOT: p. 816)

Message

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Call to Offering

Anthem/Offertory “Comfort, My People”

by Ian Callanan

***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**

We give our offering hopefully, hoping that you can use these gifts, hoping that these gifts can further your kingdom, hoping that your kingdom will come. Your kingdom, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Sacrament of Communion

Communion will be by intinction; please take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and return to your seat. If you are unable to come forward, a server will come to you.

The juice is non-alcoholic. Gluten free is available as well.

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread & Cup

Prayer following Communion

We thank you, God, for breaking into our world and pouring into our lives and our experiences. We thank you, God, for this meal of thanksgiving and the stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells. Amen.

We Go Forth in God's Name

*Closing Hymn

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

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*Benediction

Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

#During hymn, children 3, 4, & 5 years old may leave for Children's Church



Participants in worship today include:

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

Liturgist: **Dave Johnson** | Candle Lighters: **Lisa & Bill Pomroy;**

Musicians: **Chancel Choir** | Liturgical Dancer: **Violette Gibson;**

Greeter: **Larry Pearson;**

Sound, Light, Video: **Andy Snyder, Randy Dop & Ruth Dukelow**

Chancel flowers are given today by

Jane & LeRoy Horn, for *World AIDS Day* and in *memory* of **Joe Petersen, Dennis Cossey, Parker Horn & John Howard**, and by **Nancy Jensen**, in *memory* of **Bob & Glenna Jensen**.

OAK GROVE & COMMUNITY

Adult Faith Formation on Sundays (9–10:00 am)

Dec. 10: Emily Gagnon, Volunteer Experiences Coordinator for the Bloomington Public Schools, will discuss the many opportunities and ways to help connect to and inspire students. Your time, energy, and positive presence as a volunteer will make a world of difference in the lives of every student.

Knit Tree: The Presbyterian Women's "Knit Tree" is back up! Please help fill it with warm accessories (hats, scarves, mittens, etc.) for all sizes which will be donated to Cornerstone for their "Santa Shop" and beyond. We will collect items for the knit tree through Sunday, Dec. 10. Thank you!

Tour Westminster Presbyterian Church and their Christmas Art & Creches Thursday, Dec. 14 (10:30 am)

The Deacons are sponsoring a tour at Westminster Presbyterian Church. We will meet at Oak Grove at 10 am to carpool to Westminster where we will have a guided tour with some history of the church and their Christmas art and creches. Anyone who is interested in going to lunch after can join us (location to be determined). Please sign up in the Narthex by Dec. 10. Questions? Contact Lisa Pomroy at lisaorbill@msn.com.

Year-End Giving: Just a friendly reminder, all donations for this calendar year need to be received at Oak Grove by Dec. 31. Please note, any items that arrive in the mail after that date will be recorded in next year's contributions unless the postmark is Dec. 31 or earlier, then it can be included in your 2023 giving statement.

If you desire to **donate stocks**, please be sure your financial broker gets the stock transfer into our account by Dec. 31. We have instructions to facilitate this transaction. Any questions, please contact Laura Nemcek in the church office for the information your financial planner needs.

The Deacons' Bench: Please visit the Deacons' Bench, located just outside the social hall and write a note to someone on the prayer list! We have Get Well, Sympathy, Birthday, and plain note cards. Place the recipient's name on the envelope and we will address it (if a church member) and mail it for you. This is a beautiful way to share Christ's love.

OAK GROVE & COMMUNITY



Dec. 5 | Burgers 'n Brew Men's Fellowship (noon)
Contact Jim McCarl (952-948-2991)
Zeke's (7700 W Old Shakopee Rd)

Dec. 5 | Evening Star Circle (3–5:00 pm)
Contact Connie Nesbitt (612-702-0684)

Dec. 6 | WoW! Dinner & Programs (5:45 pm)
Chicken & Mashed Potatoes
(\$7 adults, \$4 kids, \$20 family)

Dec. 7 | Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30 am)
Contact Jack Kley (952-831-4138)
Denny's (4209 American Blvd W)

Dec. 7 | Bible Study (12–1:00 pm) via Zoom
Contact Pastor Bart or Pastor Mary

Dec. 9 | Glenn Pettit Memorial Service (11 :00 am)
Visitation begins at 10 am
A luncheon will follow the service
<https://bit.ly/glenn-pettit>

Dec. 11 | Singles Fellowship (5–6:00 pm)
Contact Jane Jacobson (612-267-9068)
Zeke's (7700 W Old Shakopee Rd)

Dec. 11 | Soul Sisters (7–8:30 pm)
Home of Karen Gerdes
Contact Pastor Mary

All events are at Oak Grove unless otherwise noted.

2024 Chancel Flower Sign-ups

All are invited to contribute flowers to beautify the sanctuary and enrich our worship each week.

Your contribution of \$30 for each bouquet can be made in honor or memory of someone, in celebration and/or thanksgiving of loved ones. Each dedication will be acknowledged in the Sunday bulletin.

Contact Sharon Fields at 952-831-0504 or urbanfields8@gmail.com or to sign up and reserve your special date.

Gold Name Tags

Are you wondering why some worshippers have gold-colored name tags? They are worn by people who are not yet members of Oak Grove. We do this so that people can warmly greet those with the different name tags. Please welcome them by introducing yourself.

River Heights Chorale Concert: Today (3:00 pm)

River Heights Chorale presents “Winter Soundscapes” in the Oak Grove Sanctuary. Free will offering gratefully accepted. No ticket required. Please come and enjoy an afternoon of beautiful holiday music.

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.