

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

**Dec. 10, 2023**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**10:30 am**



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

"Human rights are not a privilege conferred by government. They are every human being's entitlement by virtue of [their] humanity." – Mother Teresa, saint and missionary

## We Gather in God's Name

### Prelude

### Welcome & Announcements

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Lassiter Family

Reader 1: In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins" (Isaiah 40:1)

Reader 2: We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

Congregation: **We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.**

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of God's shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.

*Light two candles of the Advent wreath.*

**Hymn of Response**      "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (verse 2)      85

### Call to Worship

Mary Pol

Good news! The Holy One, God Almighty, claims us as God's very own!

**Rejoice in the Lord!**

Good news! The times of trouble are nearly over!

**Rejoice in the Lord, always!**

Good news! God is in our midst, ready to renew us with holy love!

**Rejoice in the Lord, always! Again we say rejoice!**

Good news! Good news! The peace of the Lord will dwell in our hearts!

**We lift up our hearts in thanksgiving and worship God!**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Mary Pol

**God Who Watches, in this season we often speak of watching and waiting for you, but we know deep down, you are waiting for us. You are watching and waiting for us to sing our songs of justice like Mary. You are watching and waiting for us to declare that there is a new day like Zechariah. You are watching and waiting for us to bring good news like Gabriel to those who may think they are insignificant and unworthy. You are watching and waiting for us to do our part in this incredible drama of your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. We've delayed too long, O God. We've put caring for the earth off onto the next generation. We've put living into peace onto the shoulders of politicians. We've wiped our hands and believed we don't need to do anything, but you are the one who is watching us, O God.**

**May we repent and turn back to your ways. May we enter this season of Advent reminded that we are the ones who must act. We are the ones who must change. We are the ones who can build up your kin-dom. Call us out of our slumber. Call us out of our seats in the audience. Call us into action, for your kin-dom to come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Grace**

Mary Pol

Listen! For this is Good News! God's Grace is wider than our wildest imaginings. God's Grace embraces us as we are and where we are and draws us out to be the people we were created to be.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

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

Mary Pol

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

**Special Music** "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" Handbells

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

**#Hymn of Response** "While We Are Waiting Come" (vss 1 & 3) 92

**Scripture** Isaiah 61:1–11 (OT: p. 691 | LPOT: p. 846)

**Message**

**Presentation of Tithes & Offerings**

**Call to Offering**

**Anthem/Offertory** "The Yearning" *by Craig Courtney*

**\*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**

**As we offer our treasure and hearts to you, O God, may they be used to pass on the promise of hope, of peace, of life, of community to all in need of your gifts and presence in their lives. 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

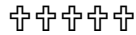
**\*Closing Hymn** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vss 1–2, 6–7) 88

**\*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: **Mary Pol** | Candle Lighters: **Emily, Azad, Junia & Ezra Lassiter;**

Musicians: **Handbells, Children's Handbells & Chancel Choir;**

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

Director of Children's Handbells: **Eugene Orr;**

Sound, Light, Video: **Greg Johnson, Randy Dop & Ruth Dukelow**

Chancel flowers are given today by **the Greimels**, in *memory* of **Al's mom, Dawn Greimel**, and by **Jack & Leona Kley**, in *memory* of **daughter Linda Kley**.

## 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.

### 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

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

Dec. 17: Join us for cookies and conversations in the social hall. Please note, faith formation will be on holiday hiatus Dec. 17–31. We will restart on Jan. 7, 2024.

## **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](mailto: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.

## **Advent/Christmas at Oak Grove**

- Sunday, Dec 17: Christmas Pageant (10:30 am)
- Thursday, Dec. 21: Longest Night Service (7:00 pm), in-person only
- Sunday, Dec. 24: Advent Worship (10:30 am)  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (5:00 pm)
- Sunday, Dec. 31: First Sunday of Christmas Worship (10:30 am)
- Sunday, Jan. 7: "The Work of Christmas Continues,"  
a special music Sunday (10:30 am)

# OAK GROVE & COMMUNITY



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

Dec. 12 | Lunch Bunch (11am–2:00 pm)  
Contact Pastor Mary

Dec. 13 | Goodrich-Nord Circle (9:30–10:30 am)  
Pres. Homes (9901 Penn Ave S)  
Contact Meg Robles (612-670-1257)

Dec. 13 | WoW! Dinner & Programs (5:45 pm)  
Lasagna  
(\$7 adults, \$4 kids, \$20 family)

Dec. 14 | Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30 am)  
Contact Jack Kley (952-831-4138)  
*Denny's (4209 American Blvd W)*

Dec. 16 | Pageant Dress Rehearsal &  
Grown-Ups Day Out (9:30am–Noon)  
Contact Pastor Mary

Dec. 19 | Tea for Caregivers (10:30–11:30 am)  
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](mailto:urbanfields8@gmail.com) or to sign up and reserve your special date.

## Contact Information Changes

If you move or change your phone number or email address, please let the church know so we can update our records. Send any and all changes to [ogpc@oakgrv.org](mailto:ogpc@oakgrv.org) or call 952-888-4621. Thanks for helping us keep everyone connected!

## Deadline for Giving Catalog

If you have not turned in your giving catalog form yet there is still time. You have until Thursday, Dec. 14 to do so, but please hurry as we must get all donations in and processed before year end.

## **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).