

We Gather in God's Name

Prelude

Organ

Welcome & Announcements

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

Larry Klueh

The Word became Flesh and lived among us,

And we have experienced the glory of God.

The glory of God's only Son,

Full of grace and truth.

For it is through the Christ, close to the Creator's heart,

Who has made God known to us.

We worship God, in whose image we are made,

And who has been made known to us through Jesus Christ.

Let us worship God!

*Opening Hymn

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (vss 1, 4, 3)

133

***Prayer of Confession**

Larry Klueh

We confess, O God, that it is hard to be hopeful when there is so much pain and sorrow in the world. We confess, O God, that we keep our heads down and fail to envision where you are at work in our world and lives in a new way. We fail to perceive you, even as you are revealed to the world. Be revealed to us, O God, in new and uplifting ways. May hope and joy be revealed to us long after the ornaments and lights are put away for another year. May your justice, mercy, and love be revealed to us when we so desperately need it. Be revealed in our hearts, O God, so that we might break open your light into the world. In Jesus' name, we pray that all things will be revealed. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace** *(from Lamentations 3:21–23)*

Larry Klueh

“But this I call to mind, and therefore, I have hope. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God’s mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.” While everything else is constantly in flux, changing at a rapid pace, God’s steadfast love endures forever.

God loves us more than we can possibly imagine or comprehend. We will trust God’s love and with that knowledge go out and love one another. It’s as simple as that, to begin to change the world: love one another. Amen.

***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: Epiphany Stars

Hymn of Response

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” (verse 1)

377

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

The Work of Christmas Continues in Song & Readings

Scripture	John 1:1–4 (NT: p. 59 LPNT: p. 71)	
Reading	“The Work of Christmas”	<i>by Howard Thurman</i>
Anthems	“Breath of Heaven”	<i>by Eaton & Grant/arr. Lloyd Larson</i>
	“Ancient Peoples Searched the Sky”	<i>by Tice/Morris</i>
Reading	“The Cross in the Manger”	<i>by Ann Weems</i>
Anthem	“Somebody Build a Manger”	<i>by Joel Raney</i>
Reading	“It Is Not Over”	<i>by Ann Weems</i>
Anthems	“The Hands That First Held Mary’s Child”	<i>by Dan Forrest</i>
	“Welcome to Our World”	<i>by Chris Rice</i>
Reading	“Christmas is Waiting to be Born”	<i>by Howard Thurman</i>
Anthem	“The Work of Christmas”	<i>by Dan Forrest</i>

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Call to Offering

Anthem/Offertory “Gabriel’s Oboe” *by Morricone*

***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 long for the time when the meek shall inherit the earth and all who hunger and thirst after justice shall be satisfied, and we believe that, despite the persistence of evil, now is always the time when more good can be done and we can make a difference. May it be so, through the offering of these gifts and the offering of our 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**

"Love Has Come"

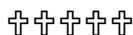
110

***Benediction**

Postlude

Organ

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*



Participants in worship today include:

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

Musicians: **Chancel Choir** | Soloists: **Becky Dop & Cece Klueh;**

Liturgist: **Larry Klueh** | Flute: **Enid Lang** | Oboe: **Karyl Rice;**

Sax/Clarinet: **Dale Copeland** | French Horn: **Linda Johnson;**

Violin: **Emily Lassiter** | Cello: **Rebecca Parker Downs;**

Bass: **Andy Nail** | Percussion/Marimba: **Caitlin Lucic;**

Piano/Organ: **Nancy Jensen** | Director of Music: **Judy Cooper;**

Sound, Light, Video: **Pierce Flanagan, Randy Dop & Ruth Dukelow**

Chancel flowers are given today by

Jim McCarl & family, in *loving memory* of *Jean McCarl, who would have been 91 years old on Jan. 3, 2024.*

OAK GROVE & COMMUNITY

Edna Lorsbach Memorial Service: Saturday, Jan. 13 (11:00 am)

Please join us to celebrate the life of Edna. We will gather at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church to remember our wonderful friend. Visitation will begin at 10:00 am. Following the service, you are invited to join the family and friends in the church social hall for lunch and continuing conversation around the table. The service will also be livestreamed for those unable to attend in person. <https://bit.ly/ogpc-edna-lorsbach>.

Adult Faith Formation: Sunday, Jan. 14 (9–10:00 am)

A representative from Presbyterian Homes will talk about the best time to move to a retirement community.

Ladies Who Lunch: Wednesday, Jan. 17 (noon)

All women are invited to participate in friendship and great book conversation over lunch. Please join us at the home of Joyce Reinke to discuss the book, “Anxious People,” by Fredrik Backman. Please bring your own bag lunch, beverages will be provided. Questions? Contact Pastor Mary.

Oak Grove Town Hall Meetings

Let’s talk about our beloved church and its future. Pastor Bart will share information about discoveries from our recent Discernment Process and how they will guide us forward, committee restructuring designed to better align our actions with our values, an update on our financial health and insights and trends affecting the wider church, including patterns of engagement, volunteerism, staffing, and youth ministry.

There are two opportunities with the same information. This is your chance to ask questions, share your input, and help chart the course of Oak Grove’s future. We can’t wait to see you there!

Wednesday, Jan. 24: Enjoy a delicious dinner at 5:45 pm, followed by the Town Hall meeting at 6:15 pm as part of WoW.

Sunday, Jan. 28: Join us after worship for the Town Hall meeting and lunch.

Bible Study on Thursdays (12–1:00 pm): Please note, Bible study has EXTENDED its hiatus. We will restart on Jan. 25, 2024.

OAK GROVE & COMMUNITY



Jan. 8 | Singles Fellowship (5–6:00 pm)
Contact Jane Jacobson (612-267-9068)
Zeke's (7700 W Old Shakopee Rd)

Jan. 8 | Soul Sisters (7–8:30 pm)
Contact Pastor Mary

Jan. 9 | Lunch Bunch (11am–2:00 pm)
Contact Pastor Mary

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

Jan. 11 | Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30 am)
Contact Jack Kley (952-831-4138)
Denny's (4209 American Blvd W)

Jan. 11 | Grief Support Coalition (4:30–6:00 pm)
Topic: Taking Control of Your Finances
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
(1701 W Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington)

Jan. 13 | Creative Hands Across the River (9a–Noon)
Contact Ruth Dukelow (952-923-0799)

Jan. 15 | *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*
Church Office Closed

All events are at Oak Grove unless otherwise noted.

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.

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.



The white rose on the baptismal font commemorates the completion of Baptism for **Edna Lorsbach** who joined the church triumphant on Dec. 30, 2023. "In Life and Death we belong to God."

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.