

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

March 10, 2024

4th Sunday in Lent

10:30 am



Image by Vaynakh on Freepik.com

A Thought to Ponder

“Just because a man lacks the use of his eyes doesn’t mean he lacks vision.”
– Stevie Wonder, American Musician

We Gather in God's Name

Prelude

"Psalm of Gladness"

Handbells

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

Emily Lassiter

God so loved the world, loved the whole cosmos with steadfast love—every galaxy, star, planet and comet.

We give thanks for God's lovingkindness, for all the wonders given to us.

God so loved the world, loved the whole cosmos—fertile valleys and high deserts, bright yellow daffodils and noble firs, orca whales and monarch butterflies.

We give thanks for God's lovingkindness, for all the wonders given to us.

God so loved the world, loved the whole cosmos—loved even us, with all of our imperfections and our best efforts, our dreams and our fears, our loves and our hesitations.

What wondrous love, what love divine! Joining the music of the stars, we sing praises to God, our Maker, whose steadfast love endures forever. Let us worship God!

*Prayer of Confession (Beth Merrill Neal)

Emily Lassiter

**Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful. We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with condition. We judge and condemn. We cast the first stone and keep the logs in our own eyes. We do not turn to You as the source of our healing. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service...
(*silent prayer*).**

*Assurance of Grace

Emily Lassiter

Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, full of grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

*Passing of the Peace

Emily Lassiter

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

Anthem

Love One Another

by Causey

After the anthem, children 3, 4, & 5 year olds may leave for Children's Church

Prayer of Illumination

O God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, and strength to follow on the path you set before us; through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Scripture John 3:14–21 (NT: p. 94 | LPNT: p. 114)

Message “For God SO Loved...”

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Call to Offering

Anthem/Offertory “I Want to Walk As A Child of the Light” Handbells & Flute

***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**

Thank you, God, for loving us to the very ends of the earth and back. Your willingness to say yes to coming in the flesh to redeem our world through love has led us to give of ourselves generously this day. Take these gifts and multiply them across this world that you love so extravagantly. 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

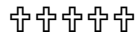
***Closing Hymn** “Lord, the Light of our Love Is Shining”

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***Benediction**

Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*



Participants in worship today include:

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

Liturgist: **Emily Lassiter** | Musicians: **Handbell Choir & Chancel Choir;**

Flute: Tammy Kaplan;

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

Sound, Light, Video: **Chris Diller & Pierce Flanagan**

Chancel flowers are given today by **Nancy Jensen,**
in *memory* of ***Darwin & Dave.***

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

952-888-4621

OAK GROVE & COMMUNITY



HINT #6: Countdown to April 14 Opportunity Fair *(a Mission Committee event)*

Do you know where to go for help when you or a loved one experiences mental illness? If you answered **NAMI, YOU FOUND A PLACE FOR SUPPORT.**

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.

Easter Honorarium/Memorials: On Sunday, 10 and 17, 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, March 31 and the following Sunday, April 7. Your donations (cash or check) will be used to purchase potted flowering plants and any remaining amount will be given to VEAP. Flowers will then be donated to homebound members and/or people on the prayer list. Questions? Contact Sharon Fields (952-831-0504).

Rory Scott Memorial Service: Saturday, March 23 (11:00 am): Join us for a memorial service to celebrate the life of Rory Scott. We will gather together at Oak Grove to remember our wonderful friend who will be greatly missed. Visitation begins at 10 am.

The service will also be livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook for those unable to attend in person. Following the service, you are invited to join the family and friends in Gideon Pond Hall for lunch and continuing conversation around the table.

<https://bit.ly/ogpc-rory-scott>

Oak Rovers: Saturday, March 23 (5:00 pm): Join us at the home of Don Wagner (Applewood Point of Bloomington, 8341 Lyndale Ave, 55420) for pizza and cards. The cost is \$12. Sign up and pay at church on March 10 and 17. Questions? Contact Patsy Fisk (952-977-9900).

OAK GROVE & COMMUNITY



- Mar. 11 | Singles Fellowship (5–6:00 pm)
Contact Jane Jacobson (612-267-9068)
Zeke's (7700 W Old Shakopee Rd)
- Mar. 11 | Soul Sisters (7–8:30 pm)
Contact Pastor Mary
- Mar. 12 | Lunch Bunch (11am–2:00 pm)
Contact Pastor Mary
- Mar. 13 | Goodrich-Nord Circle (9:30–10:30 am)
Pres. Homes (9901 Penn Ave S)
Contact Meg Robles (612-670-1257)
- Mar. 13 | WoW! Dinner & Programs (5:45 pm)
Corned Beef
(\$7 adults, \$4 kids, \$20 family)
- Mar. 14 | Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30 am)
Contact Jack Kley (952-831-4138)
Denny's (4209 American Blvd W)
- Mar. 14 | Building & Operations (6:30–8:00 pm)
Contact Rod Myers (612-670-3886)
- Mar. 15 | Antiracism Advocacy (12–1:30 pm)
Contact Kathy Howell (952-200-5129)
- Mar. 19 | Tea for Caregivers (10:30–11:30 am)
Contact Pastor Mary
- Mar. 19 | Session (6:45–8:15 pm)
Contact Pastor Bart
- Mar. 20 | Ladies Who Lunch (12–2:00 pm)
The Personal Librarian
Location: home of Joyce Reinke
Contact Pastor Mary

All events are at Oak Grove unless otherwise noted.

Save the Dates!

Palm Sunday, March 24:

9:00 am Brunch: Come and enjoy good food and fellowship! A goodwill offering will be received. Hosted by the Deacons.

10:30 am Worship: The choir and an instrumental ensemble will lead worship.

Maundy Thursday, March 28:

7:00 pm Worship: A Tenebrae service of scripture, prayer, and communion.

Good Friday: March 29:

12–3:00 pm: A series of six prayer stations will be set up in the fellowship hall that invite you to walk “the way of sorrows” to the cross, through the eyes and experiences of one of Jesus’ closest disciples.

Saturday: March 30:

Easter Egg Hunt at 3:00 pm outside on church grounds, weather permitting!

Easter Sunday, March 31 Worship:

6:45 am outside at the Columbarium, weather permitting.

8:15 am and 10:30 am in the Sanctuary with choir/orchestra.

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.