

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 17, 2024

5th Sunday in Lent

10:30 am



MATTHEW 25

A Thought to Ponder

“Someone needs to explain to me why wanting clean drinking water makes you an activist, and why proposing to destroy water with chemical warfare doesn’t make a corporation a terrorist.” – Winona LaDuke, American economist, environmentalist, writer

We Gather in God's Name

Prelude

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 (*based on Matthew 5:3–12*)

Mary Koon

Jesus says: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

And blessed is the church that serves with the love of God to eradicate systemic poverty.

Jesus says: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

And blessed is the church that trusts in the grace of Christ to build congregational vitality.

Jesus says: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

And blessed is the church that seeks by the power of the Spirit to dismantle structural racism.

Blessed are you, O holy, triune God,

and blessed is your holy realm forever. Let us worship God!

***Prayer of Confession** *(based on Matthew 3)*

Mary Koon

A voice is crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord. Trusting in God’s grace, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God, we confess that we have wandered from your way of truth and life. You call us to share all that we have and work together for the common good, but we hoard up treasures for ourselves and deny others their daily bread. You call us to set the captives free and seek justice for the oppressed, but we live in fear of our neighbors and hide ourselves from our own kin. You call us to walk in newness of life and to be witnesses to the resurrection, but we dwell in the valley of dry bones and keep silent about your saving love. Forgive us, God of grace. Set us free from sin, death and fear so that we may serve you with gladness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***Assurance of Grace**

Mary Koon

Hear the good news: God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

***Passing of the Peace**

Mary Koon

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

Children’s Choir

“I’ve got the Joy, Joy, Joy”

After the choir sings, children 3, 4, & 5 year olds may leave for Children’s Church

Scripture Matthew 25:31–46 (NT: p. 29 | LPNT: p. 35)

Meditation Pastor Bart

Song of Response “Jesus, Be with Us” Chancel Choir

Meditation Bev Bliss/Milissa Carter

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Meditation Pastor Bart

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Call to Offering

Anthem/Offertory “O Love” *by Elaine Hagenberg*

***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 you thanks and praise, O Lord: You have created us in your own image. You have claimed us as your beloved people. You have called us to be a blessing for others. Use the gifts of your good creation and the works of our hands to lift up the oppressed, break down dividing walls, and build up your church; all in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. 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

"For Everyone Born" (on screens)

original lyrics by Shirley Erena Murray, and adapted by Avery Arden

*Benediction

You cannot be a mini-Christ to everyone who is in trouble, but you can be Christ's agent for some. Therefore, I charge you in the name of Christ to keep your eyes and hearts open, and you will recognize those in whom Christ comes to you for mercy and justice.

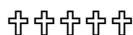
Let it be so, dear Lord, let it be.

The love of Christ Jesus ever enfolds you, the love of God ever encircle you, the fellowship of the Spirit ever enrich you, now and evermore!

Amen!

Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*



Participants in worship today include:

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

Matthew 25 Meditations: **Bev Bliss & Milissa Carter;**

Musicians: **Chancel Choir;**

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

Sound, Light, Video: **Bob Gerdes, Greg Johnson & Ruth Dukelow**

Chancel flowers are given today by **Jeanne & Rick Wahtera**, in *honor* of **Mary Sullivan** & in *memory* of **John Sullivan, Jeanne's parents**, and by **Meg Robles**, in *honor* of **grandson James' birthday**.

Greeters: **Barb Johnson & Jack Huie**

OAK GROVE & COMMUNITY



HINT #7: Countdown to April 14 Opportunity Fair (a Mission Committee event)

Life can be challenging for young people. Is there someplace to help kids through these times? If you answered, **ONE HEARTLAND CAMP, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND BEING A KID!**

Easter Honorarium/Memorials:

Today, Sunday, March 17, is the final opportunity 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).

Upcoming Memorial Services at Oak Grove

Rory Scott: Saturday, March 23 (11:00 am) *in-person and via livestream*

Visitation begins at 10:00 am. Following the service, you are invited to join the family and friends in the social hall for lunch and continuing conversation around the table.

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

Roger Ebeling: Tuesday, March 26 (11:00 am) *in-person only*

Visitation begins at 10:00 am. Following the service, you are invited to join the family and friends in the social hall for lunch and continuing conversation around the table.

<https://bit.ly/ogpc-roger-ebeling>

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. 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
- Mar. 20 | WoW! Dinner & Programs (5:45 pm)
Lasagna
(\$7 adults, \$4 kids, \$20 family)
- Mar. 21 | Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30 am)
Contact Jack Kley (952-831-4138)
Denny's (4209 American Blvd W)
- Mar. 21 | Green (6–7:30 pm)
Contact John Crampton (612-396-6010)
- Mar. 26 | Prayer Shawl Ministry (10a–noon)
Contact Nancy Kachel (952-884-1895)

All events are at Oak Grove unless otherwise noted.



Office Hours

Monday through Friday (9:00 am –3:00 pm)

Friday, March 29: **Closes at noon**

Monday, April 1: **Closed**



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.