



CAROL SING WORSHIP WITH MEDITATIONS

DECEMBER 29, 2024

10:00 A.M.

OAK GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH
7045 LYNDALE AVENUE SOUTH, RICHFIELD, MINNESOTA

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT OAK GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission Statement

*To Put the Love of Jesus Into Action,
As We Welcome, Serve and Love All People.*

PRELUDE

Christmas Duets

Wendy Flinner/Morva Klein

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Shepherd's Song

Joy Bells

+ OPENING RESPONSES

Glory to God in the highest!
And hope to every discouraged heart.

Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to every conflicted soul.

Glory to God in the highest!
And joy to every downcast spirit.

Glory to God in the highest!
And love to everyone.

Let us sing praises to our God.
Let us offer this light against the darkness.

+ GATHERING HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

vss. 1 & 3

1 **Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.**

+ *Please stand as you are able.*

- 3 **And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heav'n above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.**

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895. Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876. Text and music public domain.

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray,

Holy God of love, there is light in our lives because of the abundance of your steadfast love. A love so vast, so deep, so real, that you became one of us. May we live within the power of this love and may we share its light with a world where too many dwell in darkness. Amen.

MEDLEY OF CHRISTMAS HYMNS

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

vss. 1 & 3

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today! | 3 | Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save! |
|---|--|---|--|

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866. Music: German carol, 14th century. Arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795-1856. Text and music public domain.

The First Noel

vss. 1 & 2

**1 The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.**

**2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain***

Text: English traditional. Music: English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901. Text and music public domain.

Angels from the Realms of Glory

vss. 1 & 4

**1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**4 All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4. Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879. Text and music public domain.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

vss. 1 & 2

1 **Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!**

2 **Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!**

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt. Music: Polish carol. Text and tune public domain. Arr. ©1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Arr. used with permission, One License #A-704117.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

vss. 1 & 3

1 **Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.**

3 **This flow'r, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
from sin and death he saves us
and lightens ev'ry load.**

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4. Music: Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621. Text and music public domain.

PSALM 98

Read responsively.

O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy

at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

+ ALLELUIA VERSE

Your Little Ones Dear Lord

vss. 1 & 2

1 **Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,
and come your lowly bed to see;
enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,
that we the way to you may find.**

2 **With songs we hasten you to greet,
and kiss the ground before your feet.
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night
that gave you birth,
our soul's delight.**

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694-1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845-1925, alt. Music: Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747-1800. Text and music public domain.

+ GOSPEL Luke 2:41-52

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MEDITATION AND HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

vss. 1 & 2

1 **Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.**

2 **Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song?**

Refrain

Refrain

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864. Music: French Carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958. Text and music public domain.

MEDITATION AND HYMN*In the Bleak Midwinter*

vss. 1 & 3

1 In the bleak midwinter,
 frosty wind made moan,
 earth stood hard as iron,
 water like a stone;
 snow had fallen, snow on snow,
 snow on snow,
 in the bleak midwinter,
 long ago.

3 What can I give him,
 poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd
 I would bring a lamb;
 if I were a wise man
 I would do my part;
 yet what I can I give him—
 give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894. Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934. Text and music public domain.

MEDITATION AND HYMN*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

vss. 1 & 3

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
 how still we see thee lie!
 Above thy deep and dreamless
 sleep
 the silent stars go by;
 yet in thy dark streets shineth
 the everlasting light.
 The hopes and fears of all the years
 are met in thee tonight.

3 How silently, how silently
 the wondrous gift is giv'n!
 So God imparts to human hearts
 the blessings of his heav'n.
 No ear may hear his coming;
 but, in this world of sin,
 where meek souls will receive him,
 still the dear Christ enters in.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893. Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908. Text and music public domain.

MEDITATION AND HYMN*From Heaven Above*

vss. 1 & 4

1 "From heav'n above to earth I come
 to bear good news to ev'ry home!
 Glad tidings of great joy I bring
 to all the world, and gladly sing:"

4 "The blessing that the Father
 planned
 the Son holds in his infant hand,
 that in his kingdom, bright and fair,
 you may with us his glory share."

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship. Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used with permission. One License A-704117.

Music: attr. Martin Luther; V. Schumann, Geistliche Lieder, 1539. Music public domain.

MEDITATION AND HYMN

Joy to the World

vss. 1 & 2

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748. Music: English Melody, 18th Cent.: arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872. Text and music public domain.

+ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Together, let us confess our faith. Do you believe in God, our creator?

I believe in God, creator of all things, whose heavenly song sent the planets into motion. Even when we go astray, God calls us back, showing us the fullness of life and giving us new songs of praise for each and every day.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ who lived for us and among us, healing the sick, easing the burden of all people, and teaching us the new song of God's kingdom. He showed his love for all God's children in his death and the hope for eternal life in his resurrection.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of life who sings God's grace through all time and space. I listen for the Holy Spirit through the history of songs sung by all the communion of saints and through the unwritten songs of all who are to come in the future. I believe that God has a song for my life as well. Amen.

+ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Dwelling in the presence of God with us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all in any need.

(A brief silence is kept for reflection)

Each petition ends with:

Hear us, O God,
your mercy is great.

(The prayers conclude)

Trusting in the presence of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, we commend all for whom we pray, dwelling in the light and hope of Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

+ SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

+ OFFERING PRAYER

God of heaven and earth,

**from the beginning, you have called forth life,
in which you take delight.**

The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.

**Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,
that we may join the chorus of creation
to tell of your salvation from day to day.**

Amen.

+ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+ LORD'S PRAYER

Sung to the tune of *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

God, our Father, God of fame, Hallowed by your saving name;
Everywhere your kingdom come, far away from here at home;
May we to your will comply as the angels do on high;
Grant that we, our sins forgiv'n, follow in the way of heav'n!
Grant that we, our sins forgiv'n, follow in the way of heav'n!

May we, even at our worst, show forgiveness shown us first,
Guard us from the tempting devil, and deliver us from evil.
Yours the kingdom so sing we, pow'r and glory ever be.
Unto you while ages run. Yea, Amen! So be it done!
Unto you while ages run. Yea, Amen! So be it done!

DISTRIBUTION

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful God,
we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.
Strengthened by this goodness,
send us forth to announce your peace,
comfort the afflicted,
and share the good news of great joy.
Amen.

+ BENEDICTION

The God of love,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace,
illumine your path,
and increase your joy,
today and always.
Amen.

+ SENDING FORTH HYMN

Go Tell it on the Mountain

vss. 1 & 3

Refrain

**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain***

**3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain***

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt. Music: African American spiritual. Text and music public domain.

+ DISMISSAL

**Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.
Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Oak Grove Core Values Statement

Love one another with compassion and care, just as Christ loves us.

Welcome all people into fellowship with hospitality.

Accept others as they are, treating each person with respect and dignity.

Worship God through music and ministry, reflecting our Lutheran heritage while embracing new ways of worship.

Grow in faith rooted in the Gospel, both as individuals and as a faith community.

Serve the Lord by generously sharing our faith, time, talents, and resources with the community and the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2025 are available for pick-up in the narthex. The envelope numbers remain unchanged from last year and the packets are labeled. If you wish to start using envelopes, but have not used them previously, please sign-up on the pad next to the envelopes and a packet will be available for you next week.

Rebirth of the Property Commission

As you know, our beloved engineer Scott is retiring in January. We have been looking at ways to get the things at Oak Grove done that Scott has been doing. We will hire a part-time cleaning service but there are many other things Scott does that we think a Property Commission could help with. Some things would only occasionally need to be done (small paint jobs, change lightbulbs, test AED and replace batteries as needed...). Others would be on a more regular basis (mow the lawn, shovel the sidewalks...). And there would be other things as needed. If you are interested, please contact Julie Tvette (612-750-2589) or at church on Sunday.

We need your help!

We have been thinking of things that need doing after Scott retires in January. Do any of these things sound of interest to you or are there things that need doing that you think you could help with? Here are just a few:

- Change paraments and banners according to the liturgical calendar
- Wash laundry from the kitchen (there is a washer at church)
- Set up seasonal decorations
- Kill weeds on sidewalk and in the parking lots
- Weed flower gardens
- Trim bushes and shrubs
- And many other jobs as well, of course

If any of this sounds of interest or if you need more information, please contact Julie Tvette (612-750-2589) or at church on Sundays. Your help with this will greatly help Oak Grove!

End of Year Contributions

There is still time to give offerings for 2024! You may contribute by dropping it off in the Oak Grove office by 2 pm on December 31, mailing it (with a postmark) by December 31, or by submitting an online payment by December 31. Your contributions are important to the financial stability of Oak Grove.

Congregation Devotion Book for Lent

Wouldn't it be meaningful to have a devotional booklet for the season of Lent that has been written by members of Oak Grove Lutheran Church? Pastor Lee is inviting 40 members to write a devotion that will be placed in a booklet for parishioners to use during the Lenten season.

Your devotion can be about anything related to the faith that is meaningful to you, and you feel will encourage others in their Lenten journey. You can base it on a bible verse, hymn verse, personal story, etc. (If you feel that you would rather not compose something yourself, you can share someone else's thoughts and include why this is meaningful to you!) If you want to include a closing prayer, that would be good but not necessary. Please keep your devotion to about 150-250 words.

If you are willing to share a devotion, please let Pastor Lee know very soon. Then submit your devotion to him by February 23 so he can compile them into a booklet. His church email is: pastorlee@oakgrovelutheran.org. Thanks for serving God in this way and for being a blessing to others at Oak Grove!

Stewardship

There is still time to return your Statement of Intent to Oak Grove Lutheran. Pledge cards may be placed in the offering basket or dropped off in the office. If you're interested in the Vanco Simply Giving program, an automatic electronic way to give, please pick up an enrollment form in the office.

Prayer Shawl Knitters Needed

Are you a knitter or have you always wanted to learn? The Prayer Shawl Ministry is going strong at Oak Grove and we'd love to have more shawls on hand for Pastor Lee to gift to those in need of comfort. We have enough yarn on hand for 4 shawls that may be used. If you are interested in knitting a shawl or donating supplies, please get in touch with Kathie Curry or Amy Hanson in the office.

OAK GROVE EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 29

9:00 am Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

10:00 am Worship Service, Sanctuary

Monday, December 30

Tuesday, December 31

9:30 am Staff Meeting, Library

Wednesday, January 1—New Year's Day

Offices Closed for Holiday

Thursday, January 2

Friday, January 3

Offices Closed

Saturday, January 4

8:00 am Men's Bible Study, Library

9:00 am Joy Bells Practice, Sanctuary

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, January 7 Lydia-Ruth Circle Meeting, 6:30 pm

Tuesday, January 14 Council Meeting, 7 pm

Monday, January 20 MLK Holiday—Offices Closed

Tuesday, January 21 Esther Circle Meeting, 7 pm

Sunday, January 26 Congregational Annual Meeting, 11 am

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Once in Royal David's City Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895. Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876. Text and music public domain.

Good Christian Friends Rejoice Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866. Music: German carol, 14th century. Arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795-1856. Text and music public domain.

The First Noel Text: English traditional. Music: English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901. Text and music public domain.

Angels from the Realms of Glory Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4. Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879. Text and music public domain.

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Worship Leaders for Sunday, December 29

Assisting Minister: –

Scripture Reader: Julie Tvete

Communion Servers: Margaret Olson and Jan Philibert

Worship Leaders for next Sunday, January 5

Assisting Minister: Bonnie Oien

Scripture Reader: Ben Little

Communion Servers: Caren and Phil Olson

Media - Facebook Live: Les & Becky Hanson, Julie, Curt and Elisa Tvete,
Pam Krause, and Kathie Curry

*Oak Grove Lutheran Church sits on traditional lands of the Dakota people.
We acknowledge, with gratitude, the many blessings we receive from this land.*

*Children are always welcome in worship. Activity bags are available
in the library or ask an usher for help in locating them.*

Restrooms: *Located downstairs near the fellowship lounge.*

Hearing devices: *Personal hearing devices are available through the ushers.*



If you're done with this bulletin, please leave it in the pew. It will be recycled.

Oak Grove Lutheran Church

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Erin Draeger, *Day Care Director*

Richard Jefferson, *Librarian*

Music Staff

Morva Klein, *Organist*

Carol Swenson, *Chorale*

