

Oak Grove Church of the Brethren
December 24, 2023 • Christmas Eve

Prelude	Music begins at 6:40 p.m.	
Welcome		
Scripture	Hebrews 1:1-3	
*Hymn	Hark! the herald angels sing	# 201

Remember the story

Lighting the Christ Candle
The congregation responds in bold.

To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

We live as people in the in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God’s kingdom.

We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, the love that transforms us, and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and night, in the light and in the darkness, God has spoken! Our salvation has come! Amen.

*Hymn Advent Carol 17th c./Tim Harvey

Retell the story: Jesus has come!

Scripture Luke 2:8-20
Anthem Do You Hear What I Hear? Arr. Simeone

Scripture Matthew 1:18-24
Hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 1,3) # 191

Scripture Luke 1:26-38
Song Mary, Did You Know Mark Lowry
(Amanda Marcum, solo; Todd Marcum, guitar)

Message

Scripture Isaiah 52:7-10
How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion,
“your God reigns.”
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed us.

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Confession of Faith

We live in the “already and not yet” time between Jesus’ coming and Jesus’ return. On this Christmas Eve we confess our faith:
Jesus was born. Jesus was crucified. Jesus was raised.
Jesus will come again.

Communion

Live the Story: the light of Christ into the world!

Scripture John 1:1-5
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Candlelighting Silent Night words on screen

Benediction
*Please stand as you are able.

CHURCH STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Pastor Tim Harvey
pastortim@oakgrovecob.org

Minister of Nurture and Music Carol Elmore
elmores24153@gmail.com

Head Usher Bill Hall

Sound Booth Don Pizzullo, Evan Jacobs & Eli Raymond

Instrumentalists

Stephen Wills	organ
Joe Blaha	piano
Kathie Robinson	flute
Gerald Gregory	piano
Millard Flora	guitar
Robert Smith	mandolin
Tim Harvey	guitar



Join us in the fellowship hall after the service for refreshments.

CONNECTING WITH OAK GROVE



Find us on Facebook:
Oak Grove Church of the Brethren



Interested in supporting our mission and ministry financially? Scan this QR code to contribute to via Tithely.



We have a limited number of spaces reserved for those with mobility challenges. If you are able, please park in the spaces farther away from the church.



Pews and chairs marked with this logo are reserved for persons with mobility challenges and their companions.



Our Meditation Garden is available for prayer in the side yard of our church property.



Need a hearing device, wheelchair, cushion, or have a question? Our head usher will be glad to be of assistance.



Childcare is available during the worship service for children birth to 2nd grade.



Hospitality is an important part of our life together—we want to know your name! If you're new here, we'd be glad to make a nametag for you. If you've been here a while, we'd love to provide a permanent nametag.



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OAK GROVE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

DECEMBER 24, 2023

CHRISTMAS EVE

Advent Carol

Capo 2

17th Century Carol
Tun Harvey

D (C) Bm (Am) Em (Dm) A7 (G7)

1. Come, now Chris - tians and re - tell the sto - ry
2. In - to mad - ness, di - vi - sion, and ha - tred,
3. Hold - ing frag - ments of dreams, plans, and wish - es,
4. In - age of God made new with - in each one,
5. Come, now Chris - tians, let's all live the sto - ry

5 D (C) Bm (Am) A7 (G7) D (C)

of the time that our God came near
Christ has come to make the two one
pulled a part by things out of con - trol
earth and hea - ven's re - new - al comes soon!
God's King - dom on earth as in heav'n

9 D (C) Bm (Am) G (F) A (G)

Christ is born Cre - a - tor is com - ing
Swords in - to plow - shares, seed - ing new see - ing
Yet, look up! for God's ho - ly rose blos - soms,
Christ, the on - ly Be - got - ten Son of - fers
Beth - le - hem's pro - nuse bec - koms we come to

13 G (F) D (C) Em (Dm) A7 (G7)

in - to our dark - ness light for all
heal - ing the breach, his gift to all
Je - sus ar - riven, mends pre - ces whole with
lives re - made new, hearts made to sing with
Cal - var - ry's cross new life for all

17 Bm (Am) A (G) D (C) A (G) D (C)

Hope! Hope! Liv - ing a - mong us, bring - ing
Peace! Peace! An - gels pro - claim on earth is
Joy! Joy! Hopes are re - sown, life clothed with
Love! Love! Share the good news for we know
King of Kings! Ev - ry knee bow be - fore the

22 Bm (Am) A (G) D (C) A7 (G7) D (C)

Hope! Hope!
Peace! Peace!
Joy! Joy! Born in a man - ger stall
Love! Love!
Lord of Lords!