Oak Grove Church of the Brethren December 24, 2023 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

Introit	Go to Him in Bethlehem	Pepper Choplin			
Welcome and Announcements					
Prelude	Prelude	Ellison			

Lighting the Christ Candle

The congregation responds in bold.

When the angel Gabriel announced God's plan that Mary would give birth to the Messiah, "Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'" (Luke 1:34). And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth, "My spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed (Luke 1:46-49).

We, like Mary, hear God's call to be part of making God's dream for salvation a reality; yet we question, "How can this be? I am only..." Yet, like Mary, the "onlys" that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God's love transforms us into bearers of good news.

We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.

We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May love transform us into bold witnesses of God's salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.

Prayer of Invocation

God our Savior, with the apostles, prophets, and saints, save us, restore us, and lead us in the way of love that we may bear your promise into the world. Amen.

*Hymn	Advent Carol	17 th c/Tim Harvey
Children's Time		Lynette Harvey
Offering		
Тс	o make an online contribu	tion,

scan the QR code on the back of the bulletin. Offertory Hymn The virgin Mary had a baby boy # 202

Hearing from God's Word

Scripture	Luke 1:46-55 (NT, p. 57)	
	Luke 2:17-19 (NT, p. 58)	

SongGod rest ye merry, GentlemenMessageThe Very Good Gospel: Transforming Love

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer, with the Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Hymn	Good Christian friends, rejoice	# 201
*Benediction	Bring a Torch	Blaha

*Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.

THIS WEEK AT OAK GROVE

Today 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

The church office is Monday, December 25-Tuesday, December 26 for Christmas.

Sunday

9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Harvey Leddy preaching

Pastor Tim is on vacation through December 31st.

PRAYER

Rachel Mabe, battling cancer Ralph Petcher, long term chemo for Leukemia Betty Phillips, rehab at Friendship Manor South Emma Jean Woodard, recovering from surgery Dennis Shearer, prayers for treatment Dennis Ferguson, recovering from surgery

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING (12/17)

Sunday School- 38 Worship- 105 (in person); 19 (online) = 124

Offering- \$ 5,006.00; \$ 671.00 (online) = \$ 5,677.00

CHURCH STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Pastor Tim Harvey pastortim@oakgrovecob.org Minister of Nurture and Music Carol Elmore elmores24153@gmail.com Advent readers Connie Bierly and Betty Wills Nursery workers Ellen & Laura Phillips Nursery workers (12/31) Alli Yingling & Rena' Brown Bill Hall Head Usher Don Pizzullo, Evan Jacobs & Eli Raymond Sound Booth

Instrumentalists

Stephen Wills	
Joe Blaha	

organ piano



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.

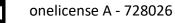


Need a hearing device, wheelchair, cushion, or have a question? Our head usher will be glad to be of assistance.

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.



OAK GROVE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN DECEMBER 24, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



2. Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth deface:^[28]
O tidings ...

