

Hymn of Response: VT 412 My Soul Cries Out

Benediction

“The good tidings and great joy of the nativity is Emmanuel. It’s easy to overlook the fresh power of this familiar truth. God has come to be with us in the flesh, as a baby. It’s this “with-ness” that is at the heart of Christmas. Scripture reminds us that those who are caught up in the unfolding drama of nativity also have a wide range of experiences; we are welcome regardless of the feeling stirred within us at this time of year. There is space for fear and great joy, for grief and wild hope.”

- Gerber & Lantz, pg. 128

Practice: Find someone you trust and respect. Ask them to tell you their life/faith story. Listen carefully for the intersections of fear and joy, grief and hope - and most of all the ways that God continues to enter our lives in new and unexpected ways.

Postlude

CALENDAR

This Week:

- Today, Worship: *Mary’s Song*: Pastor Seth
- White Envelope Gift Offering
 - Church Board suggested designations:
 - Manna for Many: “An Anabaptist Mission”*
 - MDS - Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton areas*
 - Homeward Bound - Wooster Homeless Shelter*
 - UNDESIGNATED GIFTS will go to the 2024 Oak /Grove Spending Plan*
 - All other designations will be honored*
- Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Service: 6:30pm
- Sunday, December 29: *Growing Up Too Fast*: Pastor Seth

Upcoming Events:

- February 2: Annual Meeting



Sunday, December 22 , 2024

Prelude: *Dora Short*

Welcome: *Sherah-Leigh Gerber*, worship leader

Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord is with us, through the power of the Holy Spirit
Can you conceive it?

Don’t say, “It’s all relative.”

People: It’s real! It’s right now! It’s right here!

Leader: Come young, come old.

Let us worship in the name of Jesus,

All: for nothing will be impossible with God!

Prayer

Hymns: VT 227 Here I am to Worship

VT 267 What Child is This? / VT268 Helpless and Hungry

- *Hannah Steiner*, song leader

Community Life Announcements – Please sign the welcome pads

Choir: See to Us a Child is Born - *Matheny*

Children’s Time: *Krista Mast*

Advent Candle Lighting: *Von Schrock & Seth Steiner*

Congregational Prayer

Offering: *Jason Horst*

Hymn: VT 222 My Soul Proclaims with Wonder

Scripture: Luke 1:39-56

Sermon: *Mary’s Song*

- *Pastor Seth*

Sunday December 15, 2024

Worship: 149

Offering:

\$4,616.79 - Spending Plan

\$100.00 - Mennonite College Assistance

\$.30 - Primary/Jr High SS

THIS SUNDAY, 12.22.24

Greeters: 9AM Rob Stutzman & family: 10AM Matt & Beth Falb & family

Nursery: Elise Bontrager & Gloria Miller

NEXT SUNDAY, 12.29.24

Greeters: 9AM Wanda Beattie & Linda Schrock: 10AM Dennis & Karen Ramseyer

Nursery: Jolene Jaquet & Carrie Skarl

Happy Birthday!

27 Donna Kratzer

Happy Anniversary!

26 Steve & Deb Murray

28 Dennis & Karen Ramseyer

Please Remember in Prayer:

- Steve Gill during physical therapy and continued recovery from surgery.
- Mission Associates supported by Oak Grove
 - Kate Widmer (MMN) - France
 - Matthew and Toni Krabill (MMN) - Ghana, West Africa
 - Austin and Griselda Zuercher (EMM) - Honduras

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holiday hours for the office at Oak Grove: The office will be closed the week of December 22-27 but you can still reach us by email. The bulletin will be printed Thursday afternoon so please email any announcements by Thursday at noon. Thank you!

From the Messiah Committee: Thank you to all those who helped make the 93rd anniversary of the Oak Grove Messiah Performance possible this year, including choir members, conductor, concertmaster, ushers, parking attendants, audio/visual, office staff, stage crew and pastor Seth. We had an appreciative crowd with a standing ovation. The music was beautiful and a very worshipful experience! The Messiah Committee

During the month of January you are invited to join together as a Sunday School class or individually to shower Pastor Seth and his family with appreciation and encouragement. This may be through notes, meals, prayer, offering childcare etc. Please contact Donna Kratzer (Fellowship Chair) with questions.

Green Schools Giving "Tree" In the past, Oak Grove has purchased requested items for specific children through the Green Local Schools around Christmas time. The school has changed their program, and are asking for gift cards instead to be distributed throughout the year. There is a poster hanging on the bulletin board in the lobby with a gift card tree. There are placeholders for different gift cards that are needed - gas, groceries or retail stores. Please take one or more placeholder cards and purchase a corresponding gift card between \$10-\$50. Return the gift cards to the envelope hanging next to the posterboard. We will collect gift cards through the end of December.

The "mitten tree" is in the foyer. We will be collecting gloves, hats, socks, underwear, and any other donations to help keep people warm this winter. All items will be donated to People to People.

We are still looking for volunteers for greeters and the nursery during worship services. If you are interested in helping, please email the church office: office@oakgrovemc.org or leave a note in the letter box on the wall by the office.