

Oak Grove Church of the Brethren

March 22, 2020

* **Calling in Hymn** *The sacrifice you accept* (learning) # 141
Come, thou fount # 521

Welcome and Announcements

*Please sign the guest book at the end of the pew,
then pass it on to the person next to you.*

Prelude

*Lighting the peace candle symbolizes our hopes and our prayers
for peace in our lives, our community, and the world.*

Anthem *Fairest Lord Jesus* Derek Hakes

* Call to Worship

Do you feel it? God's kingdom is beneath our feet.

**We live in the new creation shaped by God out of our
brokenness.**

Do you know it? God's reconciling love in Christ has
shattered our ways of viewing people.

**No longer do we label people based on their past,
but we welcome those who turn back to God with
open arms, calling them "Sister" and "Brother."**

Do you believe it? God has made everything, including
us, new,

**and sends us forth to share this good news with
everyone!**

* **Hymn** *You are salt for the earth* # 226

Children's time

*Children, kindergarten through 4th grade, may go to the nursery,
participate in Children's Church, or stay with their caregiver.*

Sharing our offerings and our lives

Our Lenten discipline

Offertory *The sacrifice you accept, O God* (# 141)
Response *Jesus, remember me* (2x) # 247

Hearing from God's Word

Scripture Luke 15:1-2, 25-32 (NT p. 78)

* **Hymn** *As the hart with eager yearning* # 500

Message **The stubborn older brother**

* **Hymn** *The sacrifice you accept, O God* # 141
(Sara Blaha, verses)

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** *Just as I am, without one plea* (vs. 1, 3-6) # 516

* Benediction

* **Sending Blessing** *God be with you* (vs. 2) Rankin
God be with you till we meet again;
'Neath His wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again.

* Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.

THIS WEEK AT OAK GROVE

Today Online Worship Service

PRAYER

Melissa Tyree, daughter of Sharon Wertz
Elsie Wertz, South Roanoke Nursing Home
Ted Purcell, Parkinson's disease, father of Drew Purcell
Jim and Marge Montgomery, health issues
Vivian Prillaman, in rehab at Friendship South
Bunah Boothe, now in hospice care at The Harmony
Jonna Detweiler, recovering from surgery for breast cancer
Roscoe Wilson, deployed to Saudi Arabia, Judy Saunders'
grandson
Carol Winners, recovering from a fall
Hannah Tyler, working through Lyme symptoms
Doris Light, surgery for bleeding in brain

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING (3/8)

Sunday School – 67 Worship – 117
Received on 3/8 – \$4,026 Backpack – \$85
Received through 3/8 – \$57,152 One Great Hour – \$20
Budget through 3/8 – \$59,850

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Tim Harvey
 pastortim@oakgrovecob.org
Minister of Nurture and Music Carol Elmore
 carol@oakgrovecob.org
Organist Stephen Wills
Pianist Joe Blaha

The picture on the bulletin cover is from the website pexels.com, a site that provides free photos and clip art. The photographer is Vera Arsic.

CONNECTING WITH OAK GROVE



Learn more about us, listen to recent sermons, keep up with current happenings: www.oakgrovecob.org and on Facebook



Find us on Facebook:
Oak Grove Church of the Brethren



Interested in supporting our mission and ministry financially? You may contribute via the Tithely app on your smartphone.



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.



Parents are welcome to keep children with them in worship. A nursery is provided for children ages five and under.



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.



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March 22, 2020
Third Sunday of Lent

Lenten Discipline

During Lent, we consider the cost of following Jesus. Jesus came into the world to bring hope and light. Angels pronounced “peace on earth” when he was born. Magi came and brought gifts when Jesus “moved into the neighborhood” (John 1:14, *The Message*). The Apostle John says that “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

But the darkness surely tried. Grace and truth are appreciated until they cost us something.

Take a look at the picture on the bulletin cover. It’s not the type of picture we normally place there. I wonder how the argument this couple was having got to the point of utter frustration. I wonder if they will reconcile and return to happier times.

As we continue thinking about the Parable of the Prodigal Son, consider these words, told from the perspective of the older brother:

Why do I feel so bad, heavy hearted, sad inside?

Why at a time of celebration am I bitter—unable to join in?

Why do I feel neglected, unwanted, unloved, uncelebrated?

I’m supposed to open my arms too, without judging.

I’m supposed to forgive, without entertaining thoughts of punishment or justice.

I’m not sure I’m ready for this—it will take time.

I’m not sure I’m big enough for this—it will take more love than I feel.

“He was lost and has been found,” I’m told.

“Come celebrate and rejoice,” I’m invited.

“All that I have is yours,” I’m promised.

“He’s your brother,” I’m reminded.

Who do you have trouble forgiving?

There is a cost to following Jesus, a cost that led Jesus to the cross. This costliness is represented in our extinguishing one candle each Sunday of Lent, until the last candle is extinguished on Good Friday, the day of darkness on which Jesus died.