

"...IN DIVINE AND HUMAN FAVOR."

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLS OF CHRIST

January 3, 2021

In Jesus' Name, Greetings!

Word of Welcome

Worship Leaders---Lori Hall and Reverend Gary Armour

CALL TO WORSHIP

Joy to the world!

THE LORD IS COME! LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING!

Let every heart prepare him room

AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING, AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING!

AND HEAVEN AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING!

Lighting of the Candles

"Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord!" Luke 1

The Morning Prayer ---submitted by Courtney Holt

Opening Hymn—"We Three Kings"

*We three kings of Orient Are, bearing gifts we traverse far,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.*

Refrain: *O, star of wonder, star of night! Star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.*

*Glorious now behold him, arise; Christ and God and sacrifice.
Alleluia, alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.*

Repeat refrain

Prayer for Illumination

Wondrous God, purify the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit
THAT WE MAY PERFECTLY LOVE YOU AND MAGNIFY YOUR HOLY NAME, AMEN

Scripture Lesson—2 Corinthians 4:7-12 (NIV)

⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. ⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰ We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹ For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. ¹² So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

Morning Message—Reverend Gary Armour

"Forged to Follow—From Slimy Clay to Communion Cup"

Prayers of the People---
Silent personal prayers of thanksgiving confession, intercession and can be shared online.

Jeff Nunn—Piano Solo, “One Small Child”

The Offering

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost**

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.
As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

Jesus of Bethlehem, Nazareth, and Calvary, come and be born in us

JESUS OF MARY AND JOSEPH, OF WORKSHOP AND TEMPLE

Come and be born in us

LOOK AND SEE, WE HAVE BROUGHT OUR BREAD AND WINE

WE HAVE BROUGHT OUR FLESH AND BLOOD

Welcome to the Table

The Words of Institution

The Communion Prayer by Charlie Fillingham

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin
against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, amen.**

The Peace of Christ is shared

Closing Hymn---“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me

Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God as Creator, children all are we.

Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.

With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow.

To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Grant us your light O Lord

**THAT THE DARKNESS IN OUR HEARTS, BEING WHOLLY PASSED AWAY,
WE MAY COME AT LAST TO THE LIGHT, WHICH IS CHRIST, AMEN.**

TO OUR GUESTS---WELCOME!

SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD AND GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE

WE WALK HUMBLY, LOVE DEEPLY, LIVE SIMPLY, AND SERVE JOYFULLY

More information about NOCC and the Disciples of Christ is available via Facebook & these websites

www.nocckc.org www.kcdisciples.org www.disciples.org

Welcome Reverend Gary Armour as our Guest Speaker this morning!

Rev. Armour is an ordained Pastor in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and was a full time Pastor for over 38 years in Disciple congregations in Missouri and Kansas. The last congregation he served as Senior Pastor was Countryside Christian Church in Mission, Kansas. He has a BA in Psychology from UMKC and a Master of Divinity from St. Paul School of Theology. After retiring from Ministry, Gary earned his certification as a Clinical Marriage and Family Therapist. He is currently in a full-time counseling practice at Lifeline Counseling Center in Olathe, Kansas. Gary is Married to Sarah and they celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary in August. They have three adult children and two beautiful granddaughters whom they proudly answer to the names "Papa and Grammy."

Today we honor Laraine Walters in her service as past Board Moderator. We are all humbly grateful for her leadership of our church community during this transitional and challenging time. And we also offer our gratitude for Charlie Arnot taking over as Board Moderator this new year!

Next Sunday we welcome Reverend Janet Weiblen who is an ordained minister (M.Div) in the United Church of Christ and has full standing in the Christian Church-Disciples of Christ.

Looking ahead, we anticipate with great joy and give thanks for our new Interim Minister, Rev. Brett Winters on Sunday morning, February 7th, 2021!

Blessings at Year's End---Howard Thurman

I remember with gratitude the fruits of the labors of others, which I have shared as a part of the normal experience of daily living.

I remember the beautiful things that I have seen, heard, and felt – some, as a result of seeking on my part, and many that came unheralded into my path, warming my heart and rejoicing my spirit.

I remember the moments of distress that proved to be groundless and those that taught me profoundly about the evilness of evil and the goodness of good.

I remember the new people I have met, from whom I have caught glimpses of the meaning of my own life and true character of human dignity.

I remember the dreams that haunted me during the year, keeping me mindful of goals and hopes which I did not realize but from which I drew inspiration to sustain my life and keep steady my purposes.

I remember the awareness of the Spirit of God that sought me out in my aloneness and gave to me a sense of assurance that undercut my despair and confirmed my life with new courage and abiding hope.