

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

December 4th—The Second Sunday of Advent
Worship Leader-Lee-Ann Semsch, Elder Jill Rodgers, Elder Jayne Bruno,
Music- Regina Kellogg, Minister-Rev. Mark Willis

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CELEBRATION OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude Regina Kellogg

ADVENT CANDLE DEVOTION Holt Family

ADVENT RESPONSE Congregation

“One Candle is Lit” pg128 vs 2
Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare
For a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

Invocation Lee-Ann Semsch

Opening Hymn Congregation

" Comfort, Comfort You My People" pg122
Comfort, comfort you my people,
tell of peace, thus says our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness
bowed beneath oppression's load.
Speak you to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell them that their sins I cover,
and their warfare now is over.

For the herald's voice is calling
in the desert far and near,
bidding us to make repentance
since the reign of God is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
let the Valleys rise in meeting
and the hills bow down in greeting.

Make you straight what long was crooked,
make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits God's holy reign.

**For the glory of our God
now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.**

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:13-16

Lee-Ann Semsch

'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Mark Willis

(Please make your requests & praises known by sharing aloud or emailing pastor@nocckc.org)

Sermon Scripture Reading: Esther 4:5-14

Lee-Ann Semsch

Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what was happening and why. Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate, and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and charge her to go to the king to make supplication to him and entreat him for her people.

Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai, saying, 'All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—all alike are to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden sceptre to someone, may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days.' When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, 'Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.'

**Message
Willis**

"For Just Such A Time As This."

Rev. Mark

Special Music

"Pat-A-Pan"

Strum

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.

Welcome to the Table/The Words of Institution

Rev. Mark Willis

Communion Hymn:

Congregation

“It Is Well” pg561

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.
It is well (It is well) with my soul (with my soul),
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control:
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul.
It is well (It is well) with my soul (with my soul),
it is well, it is well with my soul.

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
my sin, not in part but the whole,
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
It is well (It is well) with my soul (with my soul),
it is well, it is well with my soul.

May God haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
even so, it is well with my soul.
It is well (It is well) with my soul (with my soul),
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Communion Prayer
The Lord's Prayer

Elder Jill Rodgers
Congregation

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.

Partaking of Communion
Music During Communion

Regina Kellogg

CELEBRATION OF THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE

Offering Moment

Rev. Mark Willis

Closing Hymn

Congregation

“We've a Story to Tell to the Nations" pg484 vs1,3,4
We've a story to tell to the nations,
that shall turn their hearts to the right,
a story of truth and mercy,
a story of peace and light,
a story of peace and light.
For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
the kingdom of love and light.

We've a message to give to the nations,
that the Lord who reigneth above
hath sent us His Son to save us,
and show us that God is love,
and show us that God is love.
For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
the kingdom of love and light.

We've a Savior to show to the nations,
who the path of sorrow hath trod,
that all of the world's great peoples
might come to the truth of God,
might come to the truth of God.
For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
the kingdom of love and light.

Benediction

Rev. Mark Willis

Postlude

Regina Kellogg

DATES TO REMEMBER:

December 11th – Christmas Cantata here at 2:00PM

December 14th – Pre-School Christmas Program here at 3:00PM

December 21st – Longest Night Service here at 7:00PM

December 24th – Christmas Eve Service here at 5:00PM

As you depart you may place your tithes and offerings in the plate at the back of the sanctuary.
Thank You helping equip North Oak Christian Church to love others as Christ first loved us.

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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

Contact Pastor Mark Willis at 816-616-9746 pastor@nocckc.org

Our Life Together

Social Justice Seekers

The NOCC Social Justice Seekers will be meeting in the Sanctuary today, December 4, after the 1st Sunday Hospitality Hour. We will be discussing the related concepts of equality and equity, and how they influence our ideas about justice. Our breakout teams will then meet to identify their focus for the next several months as well as determining when and where they will meet, going forward. All are welcome.

Congregational Meeting

All members are asked to stay after worship on Sunday, December 11th for the Annual Congregational Meeting. We will be reviewing and voting on the budget for 2023, as well as new Elders and Board members.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The Christmas Cantata will be Sunday, December 11th at 2:00PM here at NOCC. The North Oak CC Choir will perform with the choir from North Kansas City Christian Church. Make plans to attend and enhance your Advent season with beautiful music, worship, and fellowship. If you have questions, email Regina at reginakaye1971@gmail.com

Longest Night Service

Wednesday, December 21st at 7:00PM NOCC will have a Longest Night Worship Service. This service is designed to recognize some people struggle during the holidays due to grief and loss. This service provides space to be sad, to grieve, and to remember during the Christmas season. If you know someone who might be touched by this service, invite them to come.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Saturday, December 24th at 5:00PM NOCC will celebrate with a candlelight Christmas Eve service. All are invited and encouraged to make this service a part of your Christmas celebrations. We will have musical selections by the NOCC Choir and the Jubilation Bell Choir in a service full of Word and song. Invite family and friends and come worship as we celebrate the coming of the Christ-child.

Backpack Ministry Updates

Thank you to the November Backpack Ministry team of Tom Hawley and Bob Lewis, the grocery delivery people; to Linda Daniels and Babs Krueger for packing food for Bell Prairie families, and to Linda for delivering the food to Bell Prairie each week. And gratitude to all who made contributions to purchase Sun Fresh gift cards for those same 10 families for their Thanksgiving break.

If you would like to learn more about the Backpack Ministry, please contact Terry Becker, tennisterry40love@gmail.com or 816-516-5085.

Christmas adoptions information:

For Christmas, NOCC will once again “adopt” 10 Bell Prairie children by providing wrapped gifts, items that children will have requested. GIFTS ARE DUE HERE, WRAPPED, BY DECEMBER ELEVENTH. Questions? Contact Terry Becker: 816-516-5085 or tennisterry40love@gmail.com

Family Promise

NOCC, along with other churches, provides food, clothing and assistance every month for the folks who come to Family Promise. Family Promise's core program is to provide dignity to unhoused and housing insecure individuals. Family Promise in the Northland serves 20-25 individuals weekly. North Oak Christian Church volunteers assist with meal preparation, clothing donations, laundry assistance, cleaning showers, and meal service. If you want to volunteer or donate, contact Debbie at thomsod5000@att.net

Cherith Brook

CHERITH BROOK honeybees are busy all summer supporting the work of this special organization by providing wonderful honey. Using volunteers Rev. Eric Garbison directs the harvest and asks supporters and friends to donate \$10 for one or more jars to help CB. They are available for the next few Sundays from Dale Herrick. Check or cash and for special orders see Dale. Thanks from CB and their Bees.

Jubilation Bell Choir

The Jubilation Ringers meet to practice on Sundays after church for an hour. Come learn how to ring! If you can count to 4, hold two bells, and find your notes on the music, then you are a good candidate for our musical team! For questions, please feel free to reach out to the current ringers or email or call Stacey at: 816-519-5132 or confetti817@gmail.com

Sojourners Adult Sunday School Class

Sojourners class is meeting at 9:00am on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship room. All are welcome. The class is reading and discussing "Do I Stay Christian?" by Brian McClaren.

Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study meets on Tuesday mornings at 9:45. We discuss scripture and relevant topics together via Zoom. We are currently reading and discussing the Narrative Lectionary ([narrative_lectionary_matthew_2022-23.pdf \(workingpreacher.org\)](https://www.workingpreacher.org/narrative-lectionary-matthew-2022-23.pdf)) which Pastor Mark will be using to shape worship each week. All men are welcome. Email David Nelson at humanagenda@gmail.com for the Zoom link and join in!

Daytime Women's Bible Study

The women's daytime Bible study group is studying the book "Forgiving What You Can't Forget" by Lysa Terkeurst. The study meets at the Fillingham's home on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 12:30. Everyone is invited! If you are interested in joining this caring group, you can contact Carolyn Fillingham at ccfillingham@gmail.com or 816-289-7858.

Evening Women's Bible Study

The Evening Women's Bible Study meets at Babs Krueger's home, 10117 N Park Ave in Staley Farms at 6:45-8:00 the first & third Tuesday evenings of each month. The group is studying "Following The Call, Living the Sermon on the Mount". All are welcome. For more info, contact Jayne Bruno at jaynesuebruno@gmail.com