

# NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

December 24<sup>th</sup> 2022 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Worship Leader- Lee-Ann Semsch, Elder Mel Adams, Elder Jill Rodgers,

Music- Regina Kellogg, Minister-Rev. Mark Willis

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For Unto Us a Child is Born...

**Prelude**

**“Christmas Reverence”**

**Jubilation Ringers**

**Invocation**

**Lee-Ann Semsch**

**Call to Worship**

**Lee-Ann Semsch**

*One: We join in this most holy night of the year proclaiming:*

**Many: Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace.**

*One: Our hearts are filled with joy as we celebrate the birth of our Savior in Bethlehem’s manger. We sing praises to God and glorify God’s name as the angels did on the night of God’s birth. We rejoice in the fact that the promise of long ago has now been fulfilled.*

**Many: Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace.**

*One: Tonight, we light candles reminding us of the hope, peace, love, and joy of Christ. O God, we celebrate your goodness to us as we join in the triumph and joy of Christmas. As your love has been revealed in all of its fullness, we pray that love may abound in our hearts today and always. Grant that the spirit of the Christ-child may dominate our lives in every way.*

**Many: Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace.**

**Songs of Praise**

**Congregation**

**“O Come All Ye Faithful” p148 vs1,4**

O come, all ye faithful,

joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold him,

born the King of angels.

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,

born for our salvation;

Jesus, to thee be all glory given!

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

**“Good Christian Friends Rejoice!” p164 vs1,2**

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
Listen now to what we say:  
News! News! Jesus Christ is born today.  
Ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now you hear of endless bliss:  
Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

**“Joy to the World” p143 VS1,3**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

**Prayers of the People**

**Rev. Mark Willis**

**Lighting the Candle of Hope: Luke 2:1-5**

**Lee-Ann Semsch**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the

city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

**Song of Hope**

**“O Little Town of Bethlehem” p144 vs1,4**

**Congregation**

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray,  
cast out our sin and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our God, Emmanuel!

**Lighting the Candle of Joy: Luke 2:8-14**

**Rev. Mark Willis**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,  
‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!’

**Song of Joy**

**“Angels from the Realm of Glory” p149 VS1,2**

**Congregation**

Angels from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
you who sang creation's story  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;

yonder shines the infant light:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.

**Lighting the Candle of Peace: Luke 2:15-20**

**Lee-Ann Semsch**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Song of Peace**

**“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” p150 VS1,3**

**Congregation**

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King:  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"

**Lighting the Candle of Love: Luke 2:6-7**

**Rev. Mark Willis**

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Song of Love**

**“Angels We Have Heard on High” p155 VS1,4**

**Congregation**

Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,

and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

See within a manger laid,  
Christ, whom choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
While our hearts in love we raise.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Rodgers Family**

**ADVENT RESPONSE**

**Congregation**

**“One Candle is Lit” pg128 vs 5**  
**Come, listen, the sounds of God-with-us ring clear**  
**And signs of a cross in the distance appear**  
**The Word once made flesh, yet the Word ever near**  
**One candle is lit for the Christ-birthday here.**

**Message**

**“You Can’t Stop Christmas”**

**Rev. Mark Willis**

**Special Music**

**"O Holy Night"**

**Ramie Beck**

**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 Prayer**  
**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Elder Mel Adams**  
**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**

***As you come forward to take communion, take a piece of bread and dip it in the cup and partake. Then please, take your candle and form a circle around the worship space.***

**Music During Communion**

**“Christmas Night”**

**NOCC Choir**

**Passing the Light of Christ**

“Silent Night” p145 VS1,2,3

**Congregation**

Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright,  
round yon virgin mother and child,  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night.  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior is born,  
Christ, the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night.  
Son of God, love's pure light,  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace:  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

**Benediction**

**Rev. Mark Willis**

**Postlude**

**Regina**

**Kellogg**

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**December 25<sup>th</sup> – Worship here at 10:15 AM – Come celebrate Christmas morning with joyous song and word!**

*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](http://www.nocckc.org) [www.kcdisciples.org](http://www.kcdisciples.org) [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org)

Contact Pastor Mark Willis at 816-616-9746 [pastor@nocckc.org](mailto:pastor@nocckc.org)

## **Our Life Together**

### **Movies and Munchies**

Ann and David Nelson will again host this event the first Thursday—January 5th @ 6 p.m. at their home. Please view the movie, THE CIDER HOUSE RULES (a novel by John Irving) (Netflix) before coming. Bring your own drink and a snack to share. Limited seating. Vaccinated guests can RSVP at 816.896.3835 or [humanagenda@gmail.com](mailto:humanagenda@gmail.com).

### **Backpack Ministry Updates**

On behalf of Bell Prairie families we serve, thank you to the December backpacking team. Jill and Larry Rodgers picked up and stored the month's groceries from Sun Fresh then packed the food for December deliveries. Bob Bruno fetched the donated loaves of bread from Sun Fresh then delivered those and the food to Bell Prairie each Wednesday. Because of the generosity of NOCC's friends and members, Sun Fresh gift cards will be provided for the holiday break for 12 families. And thank you to Santa's elves Laraine Walters, Alma Irwin, and Cindy Rose for organizing the Christmas adoptions of 9 Bell Prairie children. The 45 gifts donated and wrapped by friends and members of NOCC were delivered Thursday, December 15. The true Christmas spirit lies in our hearts; indeed, NOCC's hearts are huge.

If you would like to learn more about the Backpack Ministry, please contact Terry Becker, [tennisterry4olove@gmail.com](mailto:tennisterry4olove@gmail.com) or 816-516-5085.

### **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](mailto:thomsod5000@att.net)

### **Cherith Brook**

NOCC for the past few years has been a major source of support for clothing and funds to help cover the costs of operations. The Tuesday Women's Bible Group are providing 20 new sleeping bags to be a major part of the CB season's gift giving to guests.

If you want to learn more about Cherith Brook and how you can be involved, please talk with Dale Herrick at [drherricko3@gmail.com](mailto:drherricko3@gmail.com)

### **Jubilation Ringers**

The Jubilation Ringers handbell choir 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](mailto:confetti817@gmail.com)

### **Sojourners Adult Sunday School Class**

Sojourners class will NOT be meeting the next two Sundays, December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>. They will reconvene on January 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM.

### **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](#))) which Pastor Mark will be using to shape worship each week. All men are welcome. Email David Nelson at [humanagenda@gmail.com](mailto: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 [cfillingham@gmail.com](mailto:cfillingham@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](mailto:jaynesuebruno@gmail.com)