

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

March 19th, 2023 - The Third Sunday of Lent
Worship Leader-Courtney Holt, Elder Mel Adams, Elder Tom Hawley
Music- Regina Kellogg, Minister-Rev. Mark Willis

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THE LENTEN JOURNEY

Prelude

Spencer Fleury

Invocation

Courtney Holt

Call to Worship

Courtney Holt

Leader: Return to the Lord your God,

People: for God is gracious.

L: Confess to the Lord your God,

P: for God is merciful.

L: Repent to the Lord your God,

P: for God is slow to anger.

L: Praise the Lord your God,

P: for God abounds in steadfast love.

L: Worship the Lord your God.

P: Together, let us worship God!

(Rev. Daniel Commerford, Bethany Presbyterian Church, Covington, GA)

Opening Hymn

Congregation

"Blessed Assurance" pg 543

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

O what a foretaste of glory divine!

**Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

**This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;**

**This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.**

**Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.**

**This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;**

**This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.**

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Mark Willis

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

Sermon Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:1-13

Courtney Holt

(Please stand, in body or spirit as able, for the reading of the Gospel)

‘Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, “Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.” Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, “Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.” But the wise replied, “No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.” And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, “Lord, lord, open to us.” But he replied, “Truly I tell you, I do not know you.” Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Message

“Hurry Up and Wait and What?”

Rev. Mark Willis

Special Music

Spencer Fleury

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

**“His Eye is On the Sparrow” pg82
Why should I feel discouraged,
Why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely,
And long for heaven and home,
When Jesus is my portion?**

My constant Friend is he:
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know he watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know he watches me.
I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
For his eye is on the sparrow,
And I know he watches me.

“Let not your heart be troubled,”
His tender word I hear,
And resting on his goodness,
I lose my doubts and fears;
Though by the path he leadeth,
But one step I may see;
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know he watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know he watches me.
I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
For his eye is on the sparrow,
And I know he watches me.

Whenever I am tempted,
Whenever clouds arise,
When songs give place to sighing,
When hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to him,
From care he sets me free;
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know he watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know he watches me.
I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
For his eye is on the sparrow,
And I know he watches me.

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

Music During Communion

Regina Kellogg

CELEBRATION OF THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE

Offering Moment

Rev. Mark Willis

Closing Hymn

Congregation

**“They'll Know We Are Christians” pg494
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We Will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

Benediction

Rev. Mark Willis

Postlude

Regina Kellogg

As you depart, you may place your tithes and offerings in the plate at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for 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 meet in the Sanctuary today, March 19, immediately after worship. Our topic will be “The Symbolology of Christian Nationalism and White Supremacy.” We will be acquainting ourselves with some of the symbols and images used by proponents of these ideologies as well as the values and policies which they espouse.

The meeting should last about one hour, and all are welcome.

Lenten Soup Suppers

We are excited to bring back an NOCC staple – Lenten Soup Suppers! These suppers will be on **THURSDAYS AT 6:00 pm**. All are invited to come sup, and join in a short devotion from the book, “The Women of Easter.” Talk to Cindy O’Hara if you have questions.

NOCC Choir

SEEKING SINGERS FOR HOLY WEEK!! NOCC Choir is taking a hiatus from regular Wednesday night rehearsals until March 29. We will sing during Holy Week on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday and we would love for you to join us! See Regina for details or send an email to reginakaye1971@gmail.com

Tall Oaks Summer Church Camps

Summer Camp is right around the corner! Get your Tall Oaks campers ready for another season of summer fun! Registrations are officially open with a full schedule of offerings for youth from kindergarten to 12th grade. Early-bird registrations end May 1st! Register today and get more information at <https://www.kcdisciplescamps.org/registration>

Backpack Ministry Updates

THANK YOU NOCC! Because of your generosity, we have raised \$1500 to help us reach the end of the school year with the families we feed.

On behalf of the Bell Prairie families, a sincere thank you goes to the February Backpack Ministry team—to Courtney Holt for fetching and storing groceries, to Laraine Walters and Norma Sollman for packing, and to Jami Larson for delivering the food to Bell Prairie—even on an icy day! To all who contributed to the 13 Sun Fresh gift cards for families, another

sincere thanks. The \$365 goal was reached! For more information or to volunteer—even on a one-time basis—please contact Terry Becker. Tennisterry40love@gmail.com

Family Promise

We need two volunteers to serve on Thursday March 30th with food deliveries to homeless encampments. This will be during the day, please contact Amy (below) to sign up. Thanks!

Other ways we can help include: 1) clothing donations (Men and Women) for warm winter seasonal wear, 2) donations of pantry items - "easy-to-eat-on-the-run", and/or 3) a financial donation to NOCC in support of the ministry (designate in the check memo line: Family Promise.)

Contact Amy Hearst (773-882-2094) or email (amyhearst@yahoo.com) for more information and to confirm your availability. The center location is: 4406 NE 45 Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64117.

Cherith Brook

NOCC's partnership is a wonderful blessing to the dozens of people in need of personal hygiene supplies, new or gently used clothing, tennis shoes and boots. Volunteers can call CB to schedule a time to volunteer at 816-241-8047. Information also available from Bob Lewis or Dale Herrick- drherrick03@gmail.com or 816-215-4369.

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 four, 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

During the Sundays of Lent, from 9-10 a.m., we will use the Lenten Devotions "Redeemed" for our conversations about connecting faith and life. Members will take turns facilitating the conversations. The booklets are available on line or can be picked up at church. All are welcome.

Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study meets on Tuesdays at 9:45 AM. 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 "Gospel Parallels: A Synopsis of The First Three Gospels" by Burton H. Throckmorton and it meets at the Fillinghams' home on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 12:30 PM. 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 women's evening Bible study group **will resume** twice-monthly meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of the month **beginning April 4.**