

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

December 24, 2023 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship Leader- Jayne Bruno, Elder- Susan Arnot, Elder- Jayne Bruno,

Music-Regina Kellogg, Minister-Rev. Mark Willis

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THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Prelude

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Jubilation Ringers

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Larson Family

Opening Songs

Congregation

“Angels We Have Heard on High” Chalice Hymnal #155 v 1,3,4

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!

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ, who comes in lowly birth.**

Come, adore on bended knee

Jesus, joy of heav'n and earth.

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!

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” Chalice Hymnal #150 (All)

Hark! the herald-angels sing,

"Glory to the new-born King;

peace on earth, and mercy mild,

God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,

join the triumph of the skies;

with the angelic host proclaim,

"Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Hark, the herald-angels sing,

"Glory to the new-born King!"

**Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord!**

Late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark, the herald-angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born 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 new-born King!"

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" Chalice Hymnal #144 v 1,3,4

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.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the joys of highest heaven.
No ear may hear Christ coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still,
the dear Christ enters in.

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.

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" Chalice Hymnal #163 (All)

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle-stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all,
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new;
saw the glory, heard the story--
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you,
Christ the babe was born for you.

“Away in a Manger” Chalice Hymnal #147 (All)
Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Children’s Church is provided for all children. Children may leave worship now and go to Early Childhood Education (first door on left down hall)

Prayers of the People

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

Rev. Mark Willis

Prayer Response

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

Jubilation Ringers

Sermon Scripture Reading: John 1:1-18

Jayne Bruno

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,

how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ordinary people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

Communion Prayer

Elder-Susan Arnot

The Lord's Prayer

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

“Ave Maria”

Regina Kellogg

Come forward to take communion. Take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and eat. Then proceed to encircle the worship space. Take your unlit candle with you. Once everyone has had communion, the pastor will light a candle from the Christ candle, and we will pass the light to one another.

CELEBRATION OF THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE

Closing Hymn

Congregation

“Silent Night” Chalice Hymnal #145 (All)

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.

Silent night, holy night,
wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
alleluia to our King;
Christ, the Savior, is born,
Christ, the Savior, is born.

Benediction

Rev. Mark Willis

Postlude

Regina Kellogg

TO OUR GUESTS---WELCOME!

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

WE WALK HUMBLLY, 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

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Our Life Together

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

NOCC is invited to Fairview CC on Christmas Eve for an organ concert by Rex Ryan at 5:00 p.m. and a Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 5:30 p.m. The Christmas Eve service is open to all and will feature standard carols, scriptures and communion as well as candle lighting and singing of Silent Night. All are invited to join in and celebrate the birth of Christ together! Fairview is located at 1800 NE 65th St, Gladstone, MO, 64119.

Movies and Munchies

The movie this month is the 1973 classic, "Paper Moon" starring Ryan O'Neal and his daughter Tatum, who won the Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her performance. We will gather at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 4, for munchies, and then sit down to discuss the movie at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome, please bring a munchie to share and watch the movie prior to coming. Please RSVP if you can come, humanagenda@gmail.com

Social Justice Seekers

SJS will meet next on the regular 4th Thursday Zoom meeting on Thursday, January 25. All are invited to join us via Zoom using the link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6361322700pwd=dmZ5ZGRic2dla3VHWXVS0Eg2V1NqZz09>.

Backpack Ministry Updates

A special thank you goes out to one of our favorite elves, Marcia Mallotte, who coordinated the Christmas adoption ministry after her fellow elf, Jeannie Hawley, took on Covid. Warm appreciation to both-- and WELL wishes to Jeannie--for having volunteered for this Christmas ministry.

And thank you to all the Santas who provided gifts for 10 Bell Prairie children and Aldi gift cards for those families. Packages were delivered Monday to the school for parents to fetch. Such generosity of NOCC glows in our world.

Family Promise

Homelessness though becomes more difficult with colder weather and rainy days. Donations of winter coats, warm hats and gloves, socks, and blankets are vital for enduring the frigid temperatures. Family Promise (located at 4406 NE 45 Terrace, Kansas City, MO, 64117), provides temporary shelter, a hot meal, a hot shower, clothing, hygiene supplies and laundry services for transient and unhoused people in KC. Contact Debbie Herrick (816.510.6859) or email (thompsod5000@att.net) for info about meal preparation and volunteering on any Thursday! Check out the NOCC website for more information about this ministry: <https://nocckc.org/community-outreach-ministries/>

Cherith Brook

Cherith Brook provides guests with showers, a hot meal, laundry services and replacement clothing. Many unhoused guests find this program a safe harbor to rest and restore their bodies and spirits. To volunteer, contact Dale Herrick for more information at drherrick03@gmail.com

Sojourners Adult Sunday School Class

To “sojourn” is to “stay someplace for a short time.” We invite you to bring your favorite cup of tea or coffee and join us for shared ideas and conversation. Bring an article, poem or other interesting writing to share and discuss. This class meets from 9:00-10:00 a.m. every Sunday and is open to all.

Men’s Bible Study

The Men’s Bible Study meets on Tuesdays at 9:45 a.m. We discuss scripture and relevant topics together via Zoom. We are currently reading and discussing the Narrative Lectionary’s 2023-24 Readings for Year 2 (https://www.workingpreacher.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/WP-Narrative-Lectionary-2023-24-Mark_rev.pdf) that Pastor Mark will be using to shape worship each week. All those who identify as male are welcome. Email David Nelson at humanagenda@gmail.com for the Zoom link and join in!

Evening Women’s Bible Study

The women’s evening Bible study group meets on the first and third Tuesdays at 6:45-8 p.m. The group meets at the home of Terry Becker, 9430 N Bradford Ave, Kansas City, MO 64154