

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

December 31, 2023 – First Sunday after Christmas Day

Worship Leader- Ramie Beck, Elder- Jayne Bruno, Elder- Tom Hawley,

Music- Nanette Kraus, Minister-Rev. Mark Willis

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

Prelude

Nanette Kraus

Invocation

Ramie Beck

Call to Worship

Ramie Beck

One: The year has thinned; the light seems weaker.

Many: The year is tired and the season running out.

One: Yet here we are in the place of life.

Many: For this place believes in things beyond time and season.

One: We come to this moment in the echo of stables and incarnation, holding onto faith in the year's last days.

Many: And as we do, we perform acts of renewal and rebirth, of baptism and hope, of seeking new life shaped in Jesus Christ.

One: So let us gather in what the world sees as the cusp of the year,

Many: Yet we know as another day in the eternity of love.

One: Let us celebrate who we are and who we are yet to be.

Many: Come let us be together and worship.

Opening Songs

Congregation

“Joy to the World” Chalice Hymnal #143 (All)

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

“Good Christian Friends Rejoice” Chalice Hymnal #164 (All)

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

Jill Rodgers

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

Prayer Response

Congregation

“Away in a Manger” Chalice Hymnal #147 v3

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay

close by me forever, and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,

and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Sermon Scripture Reading: Mark 1:1-20**Ramie Beck**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight” ’,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you fish for people.’ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets.

Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Message**Matt Larson****Special Music****Nanette Kraus****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**Matt Larson****Communion Hymn:****Congregation****“What Child is This” Chalice Hymnal #162 (All)****Communion Prayer****Elder-Jayne Bruno**

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

Nanette Kraus

CELEBRATION OF THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE**Offering****Congregation**

Elders will pass the offering plates. Place your tithe and/or offering in the plate or you can give online through nocckc.org.

Offering Prayer**Elder- Tom Hawley****Closing Hymn****Congregation****"Go Tell It on the Mountain" Chalice Hymnal #167 (All)****Benediction****Elder- Mel Adams****Postlude****Nanette Kraus**

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**

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Our Life Together**Worship Leaders Needed**

Help lead worship by following this link and signing up to be Worship Leader on a Sunday. The Worship Leader welcomes everyone to worship, opens the service with a short prayer and a Call-to-Worship and then reads the scripture for the sermon that day. If you could help with this important role, follow this link and sign up for a spot. We need you! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050444A8A96-46977293-worship/5436143#/>

Preschool Reading Time

Many of you have seen the pictures and stories of Pastor Mark reading to the Preschool children on Wednesdays. It is quite literally the best part of his week. Cindy O'Hara has set up an additional reading time with the Preschool for YOU to come read a book or two on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. The sign-up sheet is on the office window. Sign up for a Monday and come see what the excitement is all about!

Social Justice Seekers

The North Oak Christian Church Social Justice Seekers leadership team is on holiday break with plans to resume our regular schedule in January. Please check the Church bulletin for an announcement concerning the topic of this upcoming meeting. The NOCC Social Justice Seekers are next scheduled to meet on January 25 (the 4th Thursday of the month). Meetings are conducted over Zoom beginning at 6:30pm. Please note that the Zoom link has changed since the October meeting. Meetings are now accessed at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6361322700?pwd=dmZ5ZGRic2dla3VHWXVSOEg2V1NqZz09&omn=87071570030> and all are welcome.

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. 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 (thompso5000@att.net) for info about meal preparation and volunteering on any Thursday!

Cherith Brook

Cherith Brook provides guests' showers, a hot meal, laundry services and replacement clothing to transient, un-housed people in Kansas City. Many unhoused guests find this program a safe harbor to rest and restore their bodies and spirits. NOCC provides donations of clothing and other items, as well as volunteering. To help, 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!