

# NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

January 14, 2024 – Second Sunday After the Epiphany  
Worship Leader- David Nelson, Elder- Jayne Bruno, Elder- Tom Hawley,  
Music- Regina Kellogg, Minister-Rev. Mark Willis

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## GATHER IN WORSHIP

**Prelude** Regina Kellogg

**Invocation** David Nelson

**Call to Worship** David Nelson

One: Called to be branches in Christ's body,

**Many: We yearn to be connected to the vine.**

One: Called to be mustard bushes offering shade to God's creatures,

**Many: We search for places to plant the seeds of faith.**

One: Called to be growing with God in the midst of this world's painful questions,

**Many: We seek God's nurturing presence.**

**Opening Songs** Congregation

**"He Has Made Me Glad" TFWS #2270**

**"What a Mighty God We Serve" TFWS #2021**

**"Honor and Praise" TFWS #2018**

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

**Prayer Response** Congregation

**"Come and Fill Our Hearts" TFWS #2157**

**Sermon Scripture Reading: Mark 4:1-20**

David Nelson

Again he began to teach beside the lake. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the lake and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the lake on the land. He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain.

Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.’ And he said, ‘Let anyone with ears to hear listen!’ When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. And he said to them, ‘To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; in order that “they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.” ’ And he said to them, ‘Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.’

<b>Message</b>	<b>“Fertile Ground”</b>	<b>Rev. Mark Willis</b>
<b>Special Music</b>	<b>“Chain Breaker”</b>	<b>Regina Kellogg and Mark Willis</b>

**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.

<b>Welcome to the Table/The Words of Institution</b>	<b>Rev. Mark Willis</b>
<b>Communion Hymn:</b>	<b>Congregation</b>
	<b>“Let Us Be Bread” TFWS #2260</b>
<b>Communion Prayer</b>	<b>Elder-Jayne Bruno</b>

<b>The Lord’s Prayer</b>	<b>Congregation</b>
<i>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.</i>	

<b>Partaking of Communion</b>	
Music During Communion	Regina Kellogg

**CELEBRATION OF THE PEOPLE’S RESPONSE**

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

<b>Offering Prayer</b>	<b>Rev. Mark Willis</b>
<b>Closing Hymn</b>	<b>Congregation</b>
<b>“The Family Prayer Song” TFWS #2188</b>	
<b>Benediction</b>	<b>Rev. Mark Willis</b>
<b>Postlude</b>	<b>Regina Kellogg</b>

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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)

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## **Our Life Together**

### **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 SJS will not meet for the monthly Zoom meeting in January. SJS leadership will be using this time for planning and preparation. Watch for more information about when the next meeting will occur. In case you missed it, here is the new link to the Zoom meeting room for Social Justice Seekers: Meetings are now accessed at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6361322700?pwd=dmZ5ZGRic2dla3VHWXVSOEg2V1NqZz09&omn=87071570030> and all are welcome.

### **Backpack Ministry Updates**

A big thank you to the Lewis team of Ellen and Bob for packing and delivering food to Bell Prairie for the month of December! All gifts for 10 Bell Prairie children were delivered, along with Aldi gift cards for 12 families. Again, thank you to Marcia Malotte for her leadership and organization for the 10 adoptions, and to Jeannie Hawley for helping. As of December 28, the balance in the Backpack Ministry account is \$2977.21.

### **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 (thomsod5000@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](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!