

# NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

March 10, 2024 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

Worship Leader- Ramie Beck, Elder- Susan Arnot, Elder- Mel Adams,

Music- Dee Dee Brewer, Minister-Rev. Steve Roberts

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## GATHER IN WORSHIP

Prelude

Dee Dee Brewer

Lenten Candle Liturgy

Ramie Beck

Call to Worship

Ramie Beck

One: We've come to worship God,

**Many: Who makes streams flow from rock,**

One: Who turns the parched earth into springs of water,

**Many: Who sends the rain from heaven and makes the wilderness blossom and flourish.**

One: As the deer thirsts for flowing streams,

**Many: So we thirst for You, O God.**

One: Come, let's worship our life-giving God,

**Many: Who pours out living water on all who thirst.**

Opening Songs

Congregation

**"Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah" Chalice Hymnal #622 (All)**

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,**

**pilgrim through this barren land;**

**I am weak, but thou art mighty;**

**hold me with thy powerful hand.**

**bread of heaven, bread of heaven,**

**feed me till I want no more;**

**feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing stream doth flow;**

**let the fire and cloudy pillar**

**lead me all my journey through.**

**strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,**

**be thou still my strength and shield;**

**be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,**

**bid my anxious fears subside;**

**bear me through the swelling current;**

**land me safe on Canaan's side.**

**songs of praises, songs of praises,**

I will ever give to thee;  
I will ever give to thee.

**“My Faith Looks Up to Thee” Chalice Hymnal #576 (All)**

My faith looks up to thee,  
thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine!

Now hear me while I pray;  
take all my guilt away;  
oh, let me from this day  
be wholly thine.

May thy rich grace impart  
strength to my fainting heart,  
my zeal inspire;  
as thou hast died for me,  
oh, may my love to thee  
pure, warm, and changeless be,  
a living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread,  
and griefs around me spread,  
be thou my guide;  
bid darkness turn to day,  
wipe sorrow's tears away,  
nor let me ever stray  
from thee aside.

**“Softly and Tenderly” Chalice Hymnal #340 vs1,2**

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
calling for you and for me;

patient and loving, he's waiting and watching,  
watching for you and for me.

Come home, (Come home,) come home, (come home,)

ye who are weary, come home;

earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

Why should we linger when Jesus is pleading,  
pleading for you and for me?

Why should we wait, then, and heed not his mercies,  
mercies for you and for me?

Come home, (Come home,) come home, (come home,)

ye who are weary, come home;

earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,

calling, "O sinner, come home!"

*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. Steve Roberts**

*(Please make your requests & praises known by sharing aloud or emailing [pastor@nocckc.org](mailto:pastor@nocckc.org))*

**Prayer Response**

**Congregation**

**"Sing Hallelujah" Chalice Hymnal #32**

**Sermon Scripture Reading: John 3:14-21**

**Ramie Beck**

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

**Message**

**"Lifting Up"**

**Rev. Steve Roberts**

**Special Music**

**"The Gift of Love"**

**NOCC Ladies Ensemble**

### **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. Steve Roberts**

**Communion Hymn:**

**Congregation**

**"Break Thou the Bread of Life" Chalice Hymnal #321 (All)**

**Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,  
as thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;  
beyond the sacred page, I seek thee, Lord,  
my spirit pants for thee, O living Word.**

**Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me,  
as thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;  
then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;  
and I shall find my peace, my all in all.**

**O send thy Spirit, Lord, now unto me,**

touch thou my longing eyes that I may see;  
give me to eat and live with thee above;  
teach me to love thy truth, for thou art love.

**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

Dee Dee Brewer

**CELEBRATION OF THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE**

**Offering Moment**

**Spotlight on Cherith Brook**

**Ramie Beck**

**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](http://nocckc.org).

**Offering Prayer**

**Rev. Steve Roberts**

**Announcements**

**Ramie Beck**

**Closing Song**

**Congregation**

**“Trust and Obey” Chalice Hymnal #556 vs 1,3**  
When we walk with the Lord  
in the light of his word,  
what a glory he sheds on our way!  
While we do his good will,  
he abides with us still,  
and with all who will trust and obey.  
Trust and obey, for there's no other way  
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

But we never can prove  
the delights of his love  
until all on the altar we lay;  
for the favor he shows  
for the joy he bestows  
are for them who will trust and obey.  
Trust and obey, for there's no other way  
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

**Benediction**

**Rev. Steve Roberts**

**Postlude**

**Dee Dee Brewer**

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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**

### **Lenten Soup Suppers**

**Thursday Soup Suppers - 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays during Lent, February 15 through March 21** - Thursday night soup suppers are back! Bring a soup to share and join in this time of devotion, fellowship, and warm eats. We will gather in the fellowship room each Thursday, take a moment for devotion and prayer, and then sit together and sup. All are invited.

### **Easter Egg Hunts**

We need Easter Eggs! Bring plastic eggs with candy inside Sunday, March 10 and Sunday, March 18 OR take some of our eggs and fill them and bring them back. We will have an Easter Egg Hunt for our preschool on Friday, March 22. We will also have eggs hidden on Easter, March 31 for any children in worship that day to hunt when worship is over. We estimate we need 300 candy-filled eggs. Talk to Mark if you have questions.

### **Easter Lilies**

You can order an Easter Lily for Easter morning. The cost is \$13 per lily. Make your donation to NOCC and put "Easter Lily" on the memo line or envelope. Please let Pastor Mark know if it is in honor of or in memory of a loved one(s). **ALL ORDERS NEED TO BE IN BY SUNDAY. MARCH 10.**

### **Easter Week**

Thursday, March 28, 7:00 p.m. - Maundy-Thursday Communion Service

Friday, March 29, 7:00 p.m. - Good Friday Service at First Christian Church North Kansas City

### **Easter Sunday March 31**

8:00 a.m. - Prayer Service in Labyrinth

9:00-9:45 a.m. - Brunch in Fellowship room (Bring a breakfast item to share and join in)

10:15 a.m. - Easter Celebration Service!

### **Prayer Requests**

Jayne Bruno is coordinating and disseminating prayer requests via email. If you would like to make a prayer request, send it to her at [prayers@nocckc.org](mailto:prayers@nocckc.org) and it will then go out to the congregation (unless you ask for privacy).

### **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. The church 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!

### **Backpack Ministry Updates**

Appreciation for February goes to the Backpack Ministry team of Corky Sandusky and Linda Daniels, packers, and Linda Daniels, who also delivered the food to Bell Prairie!

For Spring Break, as is the custom at NOCC, we will purchase Aldi gift cards totaling \$255.00 for the Bell Prairie families. If you would like to donate money toward the gift cards, please write checks to NOCC and in the memo, write "Backpack Ministry, Gift Cards".

### **Family Promise**

Homelessness 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](mailto:thompso5000@att.net)) for info about meal preparation, collecting and delivering clothing/food donations and volunteering on any Thursday! Choose a day in the center or take a van ride to multiple locations to serve meals! Pick which Thursday to help!

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:humanagenda@gmail.com) for the Zoom link and join in!