

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

April 7, 2024 – Easter Sunday

Worship Leader- Lee-Ann Semsch, Elder- Ellen Lewis, Elder- Susan Arnot,

Music- Regina Kellogg, Minister-Rev. Mark Willis

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GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Regina Kellogg

Invocation

Lee-Ann Semsch

Call to Worship

Lee-Ann Semsch

One: Easter has come, Jesus is risen!

Many: We saw the empty tomb; we worship the risen Lord!

One: There is Good News for the world, whom shall God send to proclaim it?

Many: Here I am, send me!

One: Take off your shoes!

Many: We are standing on holy ground.

One: Shake off the dust!

Many: We are ready to start afresh.

One: Let us worship God and receive Christ's teachings,

Many: That we may be renewed and strengthened to share God's love with the world.

Opening Songs

Congregation

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" Chalice Hymnal #16 (All)

**Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of thy redeeming love.**

**Here I raise to thee an altar;
hither by thy help I've come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.**

O to grace how great a debtor

daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, how I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.

“My Hope is Built” Chalice Hymnal #537 vs 1,3,4

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ the solid Rock I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant, his blood
support me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way
he then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ the solid Rock I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found!
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne.
On Christ the solid Rock I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

“I Know That My Redeemer Liveth” Chalice Hymnal #225 (All)

I know that my Redeemer liveth,
and on the earth again shall stand;
I know eternal life he giveth,
that grace and pow'r are in His hand.
I know, I know that Jesus liveth,
and on the earth again shall stand.
I know, I know that life he giveth,
that grace and pow'r are in his hand.

I know his promise never faileth,
the word he speaks, it cannot die;

tho' cruel death my flesh assaileth,
yet I shall see Him by and by.
I know, I know that Jesus liveth,
and on the earth again shall stand.
I know, I know that life he giveth,
that grace and pow'r are in his hand.

I know my mansion he prepareth,
that where he is there I may be;
O wondrous thought, for me he careth,
and he at last will come for me.
I know, I know that Jesus liveth,
and on the earth again shall stand.
I know, I know that life he giveth,
that grace and pow'r are in his hand.

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

**“Jesus Remember Me” Chalice Hymnal #569
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

Sermon Scripture Reading: Acts 1:1-14

Lee-Ann Semsch

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This”, he said, “is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven?

This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Message

“Now What?”

Rev. Mark Willis

Special Music

Regina Kellogg

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

“Take Our Bread” Chalice Hymnal #413 (All)

**Take our bread,
We ask You, take our hearts,
We love You, take our lives,
Oh Father, we are Yours, we are Yours.**

**Yours as we stand at the table you set,
Yours as we eat the bread our hearts can't forget.
We are the sign of Your life with us yet,
We are Yours, we are Yours.**

**Take our bread,
We ask You, take our hearts,
We love You, take our lives,
Oh Father, we are Yours, we are Yours.**

**Your holy people standing washed in Your blood,
Spirit filled, yet hungry, we await Your food.
We are poor, but we've brought ourselves the best that we could,
We are Yours, we are Yours.**

**Take our bread,
We ask You, take our hearts,
We love You, take our lives,
Oh Father, we are Yours, we are Yours.**

Communion Prayer

Elder-Ellen Lewis

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

Regina Kellogg

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

Rev. Mark Willis

Closing Song

Congregation

“Take My Life” Chalice Hymnal #609 vs 1,3,5,6

**Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.**

**Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my voice, and let me sing;
unto God my praise I bring.**

**Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.**

**Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.**

**Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.**

**Take my love, my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store.**

**Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.**

Benediction

Rev. Mark Willis

Postlude

Regina Kellogg

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

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 and it will then go out to the congregation (unless privacy is requested).

Social Justice Seekers

The next NOCC Social Justice Seekers "4th Thursday" meeting will be held on April 25. In this session, we will be sharing an overview and discussing the recently announced "Building an Inclusive Church" initiative, our new quarterly meeting schedule, and a newly created process for identifying and nominating topics for future Seekers sessions. Meetings begin at 6:30 and can be accessed at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6361322700?pwd=dmZ5ZGRic2dla3VHWXVSOEg2V1NqZz09&omn=87071570030>.

All are welcome.

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!

Tall Oaks Capital Campaign

Tall Oaks is conducting a capital campaign to raise \$1,000,000 to revive, operate, and improve the Tall Oaks camp site. Many of our children have gone to and been impacted by the ministry of Tall Oaks. Prayerfully consider contributing to this worthwhile endeavor. More information can be found at <https://www.talloaks.org/capital-campaign>

Backpack Ministry Updates

Appreciation for February goes to the Backpack Ministry team of Corky Sandusky and Linda Daniels, who packed and 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 write "Backpack Ministry, Gift Cards" in the memo line.

Family Promise

The upcoming spring/summer months can make unhoused individuals increasingly vulnerable to health risks like severe sunburn, dehydration, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. Think about saving and donating summer wear and smaller items for hygiene, sunburn, lip balm, band-aids, non-perishable snacks, water, tissue, foot care, etc. A "BIG" thanks to the donations received in February to support this ministry! 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 the Northland and KC. Contact Debbie Herrick (816.510.6859) or email (thompsod5000@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

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; a time for moral and spiritual discourse. At North Oak Christian Church we are welcoming to all members of the human family and celebrate the delightful diversity of God's creation. For the next few weeks, we will be discussing Broken We Kneel: Reflections on Faith and Citizenship by Diana Butler Bass.

Women's Daytime Bible Study

The original Women's Bible study group is moving to daytime! The group will start Tuesday, April 2 and then meet the first Tuesday of each month, from 2:00-3:30 at Terry Becker's home, 9430 N Bradford Ave. All are welcome. Please let Jayne Bruno (jaynesuebruno@gmail.com) or Terry Becker (tennisterry40love@gmail.com) know if you would like to join the group as they begin a new study from "Just Women", a Disciples' publication. This year's study is "Through the Looking Glass: Seeing the World Through the Eyes of Faith".

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!