

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

In the grace of God, we embrace unity, we celebrate diversity and demonstrate Christ's love.

December 1, 2024 – First Sunday of Advent

Worship Leader-Seth Bass, Elder-Ellen Lewis, Elder-Mel Adams,

Music-Regina Kellogg, Minister-Rev. Mark Willis

Season of Advent

Prelude

Regina Kellogg

Welcome

Rev. Mark Willis

Advent Candlelight Carol (*Pat-a-pan*)

Congregation

Advent candle burning bright through the night,
Shine your light of hope, telling people everywhere
Soon the Savior comes, soon He will be here!

People gather and prepare in the night with the light of hope.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

**Ramie Beck, Madison and
Waylon O'Rear**

Invocation

Seth Bass

Call to Worship

Seth Bass

One: As farmers wait for rainfall and prisoners wait for freedom,

Many: We wait for the coming of God.

One: As exiles yearn for home and peacemakers yearn for justice,

Many: We long for the coming of God.

One: As travelers search for shelter and disciples look for answers,

Many: We prepare for the coming of God.

Songs of Praise

Congregation

"Come, O' Long-Expected Jesus" Chalice Hymnal #125 (All)

"Comfort, Comfort You My People" Chalice Hymnal #122 (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

Rev. Mark Willis

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

People's Response

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

Congregation

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

Songs of Adoration

Congregation

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Chalice Hymnal #119 (All)

“Sing Hallelujah” Chalice Hymnal #32 (All)

Sermon Scripture Reading: Luke 1:5-25

Seth Bass

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” Zechariah said to the angel, “How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.”

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, “This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.”

Message

“Advent: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent”

Rev. Mark Willis

Special Music

“Comfort My People”

NOCC Choir

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 Song

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

Congregation

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 or offering in the plate, or you can give online through nocckc.org.

Offering Prayer

Rev. Mark Willis

Closing Song

“Lead Me, Guide Me” Chalice Hymnal #583 (All)

Congregation

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

Music used with permission through our CCLI Copyright License Number 21523835 and Streaming License Number 21523842.

Our Life Together

Christmas “Adopt-A-Family”

We have seven Bell Prairie Elementary School children that need presents for Christmas. Pick a “paper Christmas tree” off of the tree in the sanctuary and purchase the gift. Bring it **WRAPPED WITH THE PAPER TREE TAPED TO THE BOTTOM OF THE PACKAGE**. All packages need to be returned to church by Sunday

December 15. Thank you to Santa's helpers, Marcia Malotte and Jan Brooks, for organizing this process and delivering the presents! HO-HO-HO!

POP-UP Choir

Come join in next Sunday, December 8, with the Pop-Up Choir! Show up at 9:00 a.m. to learn a song you are familiar with already and then sing it during worship. This is not a commitment to join the choir every week but simply a chance to join in the fun for one Sunday. Donuts provided! What are you waiting for?

NOCC 50th Anniversary Party Planning

Planning is starting now in anticipation of NOCC's landmark 50th Anniversary on June 8, 2025! If you are interested in participating in the planning and execution of this momentous occasion, please contact Corrie Tice at corriegravestice@gmail.com.

NOCC Choir!

Come make a joyful noise! The choir rehearses on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. If you enjoy good music during worship, if you want to bellow out praise to God, or even if you are just a virtuoso in the shower each morning, there is place in the choir for you. The only requirement for singing in the choir is a desire to praise God and a willingness to make a joyful noise. Questions? Email Regina at reginakaye1971@gmail.com

Prayer Requests

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

Monthly Men's Breakfast at Kate's Kitchen

On the first Saturday of every month, anyone who identifies as male, is invited to a men's breakfast at Kate's Kitchen, 8002 North Oak Trafficway, at 7:45 a.m. This gathering is for fellowship and connection as we begin our Saturday together with some good food and good friends.

Backpack Ministry Updates

Nine Bell Prairie Elementary School families received gift cards and a meal for the Thanksgiving holiday! A big thank you to Ellen and Bob Lewis for packing and delivering food during November. Another note of thanks goes to our community partner, Culver's, who donated gift cards for meals to each family member. We are still needing donations for gift cards for our families at Christmas. If you would like to volunteer for the Backpack Ministry, times are flexible and can meet your schedule. Contact Terry Becker for questions and more information: tennisterry40love@gmail.com

Movie and Munchies in December

Movies and Munchies will be on Thursday, December 5, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Nelsons' home. All are welcome to join in. Watch the movie "August Rush," a 2007 drama about a musically gifted orphan and his search for his real parents, prior to attending. Bring your own drinks of choice, food to share, and wisdom to spread. RSVP if you can come to Ann and David Nelson 816.896.3835 or humanagenda@gmail.com.

Family Promise

Give the gift of time by volunteering to serve at Family Promise. Family Promise of the Northland at 4406 NE 45th Terrace, Kansas City, MO, 64117, provides temporary shelter and services for transient and unhoused people in the Northland and Kansas City area. The ability to provide guests with basic human needs such as food and clothing is vital for their survival. Whether it's kitchen duties, serving meals,

assisting in clothes donations, sorting food, laundry and cleaning, the promise to you is this: your gift of time and loving aid will have a significant impact on the lives of others.

The Center is open on Thursday from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Contact Debbie Herrick (816.510.6859) or email (thompsod5000@att.net) for more information.

Cherith Brook

Cherith Brook provides its 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. NOCC provides donations of clothing and other items, as well as volunteering. Items in need now: sleeping bags, summer sausages, bike locks, nice gloves, hand warmers, winter coats, winter socks, tarps, bike toolkits, and men's pants (especially size 30-34). Items donated before December 10th will be given out as Christmas gifts to Cherith guests. To help, contact Dale Herrick for more information at drherrick03@gmail.com

Sojourners Adult Sunday School Class

To “sojourn” is to stay someplace a short time. We meet every Sunday from 9-10 a.m. to have moral and spiritual discourse. We invite you to bring your favorite cup of tea or coffee and join us for shared ideas and conversation. At North Oak Christian Church we are welcoming to all members of the human family and celebrate the delightful diversity of God’s creation. You are invited to join in and to suggest a current topic or issue for discussion.

Women’s Daytime Bible Study

The Daytime Women’s Bible Study group is on hiatus until April. We will meet from 2:00-3:30 on the first Tuesdays, April-December 2025, at Ann Nelson’s home. If you are interested in joining, please contact Jayne Bruno (jaynesuebruno@gmail.com) now to learn about our study, “Awakened: A 52-Week Progressive Christian Devotional” by Caleb J. Lines (Chalice Press). See you in April!

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 following the Narrative Lectionary which can be found at: <https://www.workingpreacher.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/WP-Narrative-Lectionary-2024-25-Luke.pdf>. All those who identify as male are welcome. Email David Nelson at humanagenda@gmail.com for the Zoom link and join in!