

# NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

*In the grace of God, we embrace unity, we celebrate diversity  
and demonstrate Christ's love as an open and affirming faith community.*

December 15, 2024 – Third Sunday of Advent

Worship Leader Tom Hawley, 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 joy, telling people everywhere  
Soon the Savior comes, soon He will be here!  
People gather and prepare in the night with the light of joy.

**Lighting of the Advent Candles**

**Jane Sander with Abby Willis,  
William and Avery Sander**

**Call to Worship**

**Tom Hawley**

One: God comes! So don't let go of all the reasons to rejoice.

**Many: We will sing a song of Advent to the One who fills our lives with joy.**

One: God comes! So don't stop lifting your prayers with thanksgiving.

**Many: We will sing a song of Advent to the One who hears our words and silence.**

One: God comes! So don't stop giving your hearts to God.

**Many: We will sing a song of Advent to the One who graces us with a peace we cannot begin to understand.**

**Invocation**

**Tom Hawley**

**Songs of Praise**

**Congregation**

**"Come, Thou Almighty King" Chalice Hymnal #27 (All)**

**"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" Chalice Hymnal #5 (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).***

**First Scripture Reading: Nehemiah 7:73b-8:3, 8:9-12**

**Tom Hawley**

When the seventh month came—the people of Israel being settled in their towns—all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest

Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, "Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved." And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

**Songs of Adoration**

**Congregation**

**"Christians, All, Your Lord is Coming" Chalice Hymnal #136 (All)**

**"When God is a Child" Chalice Hymnal #132 (All)**

**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.

**Sermon Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25**

**Tom Hawley**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel", which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

**Message**

**"Advent: FEAR AND LOVE"**

**Rev. Mark Willis**

**Special Music  
Lewis**

**Bob and Nicole**

**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**

**Congregation**

**"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly" Chalice Hymnal #419 (All)**

**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**

**Congregation**

**"Precious Name" Chalice Hymnal #625 vs 1,3,4**

**Benediction**

**Rev. Mark Willis**

**Postlude**

**Regina Kellogg**

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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**

**Christmas "Adopt-A-Family"**

All of the gifts for our Bell Prairie Elementary students and families are **DUE TODAY(!!) WRAPPED WITH THE PAPER TREE TAPED TO THE BOTTOM OF THE PACKAGE.** Thank you to Santa's helpers, Marcia Malotte and Jan Brooks, for organizing this process and delivering the presents! HO-HO-HO!

### **Preschool Christmas Program and Party**

NOCC Preschool Xmas Program and Party with SANTA is Friday, December 20, 2024, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.! Come enjoy a wonderful program with our preschool families AND get your picture taken with St. Nick! Feel free to bring family, grandchildren, or even pets to get a pic with jolly ol' Santa Claus!

### **Longest Night/Blue Christmas Worship Service**

We will gather in the sanctuary for a Longest Night (also called a "Blue Christmas) Worship service on Sunday, December 22, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. This quiet, contemplative service recognizes the grief and pain many carry into the holiday season and gives them space to acknowledge that sadness in a month of mirth. If you or someone you love walks through the holidays with this burden, come this evening to sit and be for a moment together.

### **Christmas Eve Service**

Tuesday, December 24, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. we will gather in the sanctuary to celebrate the coming of the Christ-child and the joy of Christmas. This service of Word and song ushers in the glad tidings of this wonderful season. Start your Christmas celebrations with a time of worship together. Bring family and friends with you!

### **Pajamas and Pastries**

NOCC's Christmas Eve service is Sunday, December 29, 2024, at 10:15 a.m. we are having a party for worship! Come on this fun day in your favorite or newest Christmas PJ's. Ellen Lewis is looking for people to bring delicious pastries, donuts, and other fun breakfast fare. Come grab some yummy food and warm tasty beverages in your pajamas as we sing the songs of this Christmas season at the top of our lungs!

### **NOCC 50<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:corriegravestice@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](mailto:prayers@nocckc.org), and it will then go out to the congregation (unless privacy is requested).

### **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](mailto:tennisterry40love@gmail.com)

### **Family Promise**

Give the gift of time by volunteering to serve at Family Promise. Family Promise of the Northland, located 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 (thomsod5000@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 10<sup>th</sup> 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!

### **Monthly Men's Breakfast at Kate's Kitchen**

On the first Saturday of every month, all those who identify as male, are 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.

### **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!