

# 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 22, 2024 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship Leader-Ramie Beck, Elder-Mel Adams, Elder-Ellen Lewis,

Music-Regina Kellogg, Minister-Rev. Mark Willis

## Season of Advent

Prelude “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Jubilation Ringers

Welcome Rev. Mark Willis

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

Advent candle burning bright through the night,  
Shine your light of love, telling people everywhere  
Soon the Savior comes, soon He will be here!  
People gather and prepare in the night with the light of love.

Lighting of the Advent Candles The Larson Family

Call to Worship Ramie Beck

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 Ramie Beck

Songs of Praise Congregation

“Come, O Long Expected Jesus” Chalice Hymnal #125 (All)

“Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates” Chalice Hymnal #129 (All)

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” Chalice Hymnal #119(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](mailto:pastor@nocckc.org))



**CELEBRATION OF THE PEOPLE’S RESPONSE**

<b>Offering</b>	<b>Congregation</b>
Elders will pass the offering plates. Place your tithe or offering in the plate, or you can give online through nocckc.org.	
<b>Offering Prayer</b>	<b>Rev. Mark Willis</b>
<b>Closing Song</b>	<b>Congregation</b>
“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” Chalice Hymnal #138 vs (All)	
<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**

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

We will gather in the sanctuary for a Longest Night (also called a “Blue Christmas”) Worship service tonight, 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**

NOCC’s Christmas Eve service is Tuesday, December 24, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. All are invited to 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**

Sunday, December 29, 2024, at 10:15 a.m. we are having a party for worship! Come to worship 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. Let her know if you can help. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, 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.

### **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).

### **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

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