

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLINES 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 29, 2024 – First Sunday After Christmas
Worship Leader Lee-Ann Semsch, Elder-Ellen Lewis, Elder-Mel Adams,
Music-Regina Kellogg, Minister-Rev. Mark Willis

Pajamas and Pastries!

Songs of Praise

Congregation

“Come, O Long Expected Jesus” Chalice Hymnal #125 (All)
“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” Chalice Hymnal #164 (All)
“Joy to the World” Chalice Hymnal #143 (All)

Welcome

Rev. Mark Willis

Invocation

Lee-Ann Semsch

Call to Worship

Lee-Ann Semsch

One: Like eager children waiting for dawn, tearing at the wrapping to get to the gift, waking sleeping parents with shouts of joy:

Many: Let our celebrations begin!

One: May this Christmas season find us able to say “Alleluia” even in the midst of struggle and anxiety,

Many: Because You are our hope.

One: Jesus Christ, come to us, fill our hearts with joy in knowing this deeper truth that life contains:

Many: That because You come, all will be well.

One: Let us witness not to successful lives, not to perfect health, faultless families, highly achieving work, or new possessions,

Many: But to the grace-filled inner joy of knowing of You.

One: As we gather this joyful morning, let our Alleluias rise from willing lips, from lives opened to Your gift,

Many: And from hearts filled with Your love. Alleluia! Alleluia and Amen!

Songs of Christmas

Congregation

“O Come All Ye Faithful” Chalice Hymnal #148 vs 1,2,4
“O Little Town of Bethlehem” Chalice Hymnal #144 vs 1,3,4
“What Child is This” Chalice Hymnal #162

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@nocck.org)

People's Response**Congregation****"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Chalice Hymnal 119 vs 3**

O come Thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
 To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.
 Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Songs of Joy**Congregation****"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" Chalice Hymnal #153 vs 1,4****"Angels, from the Realms of Glory" Chalice Hymnal #149 vs 1,2,4****"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Chalice Hymnal #150 (All)****"Angels We Have Heard on High" Chalice Hymnal #155 (All)****Sermon Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23****Lee-Ann Semsch**

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

Message**"Advent: Escape to Egypt"****Rev. Mark Willis****Special Music****Congregation****"There's a Song in the Air" Chalice Hymnal #159 (All)****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****"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" Chalice Hymnal #163 (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

Elders will pass the offering plates. Place your tithe or offering in the plate, or you can give online through nocckc.org.

Congregation

Offering Prayer

Rev. Mark Willis

Closing Song

“Go Tell It on the Mountain” Chalice Hymnal #167 (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 HUMBLLY, 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

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.

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

During this season of giving, NOCC's generosity abounds!

Thank you to Santa's helpers, Jan Brooks and Marcia Malotte, and to all the many generous elves who brought their 35 wrapped gifts for seven Bell Prairie children. Jan and Marcia loaded their sleigh and delivered gifts on Monday, December 16. Many thanks to Wing Ng and Laraine Walters for donating their time packing the weekly food in December for the nine backpack families and to all who contributed to purchasing Aldi gift cards, thank you on behalf of the Bell Prairie families for making the holidays just a little

brighter. And, once again, Culver's, provided gift cards for 20 adult meals and 35 meals for children over Christmas break! Please thank the manager, Tommy Holliday, when you eat there!

As of December 15, with all bills paid, the balance in the Backpack Ministry account is \$3098.89! Yes, generosity abounds! 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 of the Northland, located at 4406 NE 45th Terrace, Kansas City, MO, 64117. Family Promise 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 for the Zoom link and join in!