

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.*

January 12, 2025 – First Sunday After the Epiphany
Worship Leader-Jayne Bruno, Elder-Susan Arnot, Elder-Tim Brooks,
Music-Regina Kellogg, Minister-Rev. Mark Willis

The Baptism of the Lord

Prelude

Regina Kellogg

Invocation

Jayne Bruno

Call to Worship

Jayne Bruno

One: Holy Triune God, author of community, come baptize us.

Many: Remind us what it means to belong to one another.

One: God who tears the heavens, come baptize us.

Many: Reveal to us your power that ushers in new realms.

One: God who calls us beloved, come baptize us.

Many: Declare to us your great delight and hold us in your pleasure.

One: God of vulnerability, come baptize us.

Many: Welcome us into the paradox of strength that comes from weakness.

One: In the Creator's love we are held, into Christ's body we are baptized,

Many: And by the Spirit's power, we are claimed. All glory to God! Amen.

Songs of Praise

Congregation

"How Great Our Joy" Chalice Hymnal #170 (All)

"O Thou Joyful" Chalice Hymnal #169 (All)

Scripture Reading: Luke 3:2b-14

Jayne Bruno

...the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

Songs of Adoration

Congregation

“Brightest and Best” Chalice Hymnal #174 (All)

“We Three Kings” Chalice Hymnal #172 (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.

Scripture Reading: Luke 3:15-22

Jayne Bruno

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother’s wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison. Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Message

“The Crooked Shall Be Made Straight”

Rev. Mark Willis

Special Music

“Long Time Ago”

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 Congregation
"As With Gladness" Chalice Hymnal #173 (All)

Communion Prayer Elder-Tim Brooks
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 Regina Kellogg
Music During Communion

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
"Go Tell It On the Mountain" Chalice Hymnal #167 vs (All)

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

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.

Movies and Munchies

"Movies and Munchies" will be on Thursday, February 6, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at David and Ann Nelson's home. They provide the space, you provide your own drinks and munchies to share. Munchies are from 6-7 and then there is a conversation about the movie from 7-8. The movie for discussion in February is "Six Triple Eight", a story based on a true event. (The movie can be found on Netflix). Please watch the movie prior to attending, and please RSVP to David Nelson at humanagenda@gmail.com if you are planning to attend.

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!