

# 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.*

February 16, 2025 – Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany  
Worship Leader-Linda Tyree, Elder-Linda Daniels, Elder-Marcia Malotte,  
Music-Regina Kellogg, Minister-Rev. Mark Willis

## Gather to Worship

**Prelude**

**Regina Kellogg**

**Invocation**

**Linda Tyree**

**Call to Worship**

**Linda Tyree**

One: Happy are those who have the God of Israel as their helper, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

**Many: God is the one who made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them.**

One: God is the one who keeps every promise forever, who gives justice to the oppressed

**Many: And food to the hungry.**

One: The Lord frees the prisoners.

**Many: The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.**

One: The Lord lifts the burdens of those bent beneath their loads.

**Many: The Lord loves the righteous.**

One: The Lord protects the foreigners among us.

**Many: The Lord cares for the orphans and widows,**

One: But he frustrates the plans of the wicked.

**Many: Happy are those who have the God of Israel as their helper, whose hope is in the Lord their God.**

*(Based on Psalm 146:5-9)*

**Songs of Praise**

**Congregation**

**“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” Chalice Hymnal #16 (All)**

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise to thee an altar;  
hither by thy help I've come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,

safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, how I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
seal it for thy courts above.

**“God of Grace and God of Glory” Chalice Hymnal #464 (All)**

God of grace and God of glory,  
on thy people pour thy power;  
crown thine ancient church's story;  
bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us  
scorn thy Christ, assail thy ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us  
free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness,  
bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
lest we miss thy righteous goal,  
lest we miss thy righteous goal.

Set our feet on lofty places;  
fill our lives that we may be  
strengthened with all Christ-like graces  
pledges to set all captives free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,

lest we fail our call from thee,  
lest we fail our call from thee.

Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the search for thy salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving thee whom we adore,  
serving thee whom we adore.

**First Scripture Reading: Luke 7:18-23**

**Linda Tyree**

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. So John summoned two of his disciples and sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" When the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus had just then cured many people of diseases, plagues, and evil spirits, and had given sight to many who were blind. And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me."

**Songs of Adoration**

**Congregation**

**"There is a Balm in Gilead" Chalice Hymnal #501 (All)**

There is a balm in Gilead  
to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead  
to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged,  
and think my work's in vain,  
but then the Holy Spirit  
revives my soul again.  
There is a balm in Gilead  
to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead  
to heal the sin-sick soul.

If you cannot preach like Peter,  
if you cannot pray like Paul,  
you can tell the love of Jesus,  
and say "He died for all!"  
There is a balm in Gilead  
to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead  
to heal the sin-sick soul.

Don't ever feel discouraged,  
for Jesus is your friend;  
and if you lack for knowledge  
he'll ne'er refuse to lend.  
There is a balm in Gilead  
to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead  
to heal the sin-sick soul.

**“I Need Thee Every Hour” Chalice Hymnal #578 vs 1,3,4**

I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord;  
no tender voice like thine can peace afford.

I need thee, oh, I need thee;  
every hour I need thee;  
O bless me now, my Savior,  
I come to thee.

I need thee every hour in joy or pain;  
come quickly, and abide or life is vain.

I need thee, oh, I need thee;  
every hour I need thee;  
O bless me now, my Savior,  
I come to thee.

I need thee every hour, teach me thy will,  
and thy rich promises in me fulfill.

I need thee, oh, I need thee;  
every hour I need thee;  
O bless me now, my Savior,  
I come to thee.

***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**

*(Please make your requests & praises known by sharing aloud or emailing [pastor@nocckc.org](mailto:pastor@nocckc.org))*

**Rev. Mark Willis**

**People’s Response**

**Congregation**

**“Nearer My God to Thee” Chalice Hymnal #577**  
Still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to thee;  
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

**Scripture Reading: Luke 7:24-35**

**Linda Tyree**

When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who put on fine clothing and live in luxury are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' I tell you, among those born of women no one is greater than John; yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." (And all the people who heard this, including the tax-collectors, acknowledged the justice of God, because they had been baptized with John's baptism. But by refusing to be baptized by him, the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose for themselves.)

"To what then will I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the market-place and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not weep.' For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!' Nevertheless, wisdom is vindicated by all her children."

**Message**

**"How Will We Know"**

**Rev. Mark Willis**

**Special Music**

**"Inscription of Hope"**

**NOCC Choir**

*"I believe in the sun, even when it is not shining, and I believe in love, even when there's no one there. And I believe in God, even when he is silent, I believe through any trials, there is always away.*

*But sometimes in this suffering and hopeless despair, my heart cries for shelter, to know someone's there.*

*But a voice rises within me, saying hold on my child. I'll give you strength, I'll give you hope, just stay a little while.*

*I believe in the sun, even when it is not shining, and I believe in love, even when there's no one there.*

*But I believe in God, even when he is silent, I believe through any trial there is always a way.*

*May there someday be sunshine, May there someday be happiness, May there someday be love, may there someday be peace."*

### **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**

**"Let Us Break Bread Together" Chalice Hymnal #425 (All)**

Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)

Let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees)

When I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)

Let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees)

When I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees)

Let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees)

When I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

**Communion Prayer**

**Elder-Linda Daniels**

**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](http://nocckc.org).

**Offering Prayer**

**Rev. Mark Willis**

**Closing Song**

**Congregation**

**"He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought" Chalice Hymnal #545 vs 1,3**

He leadeth me: O blessed thought!  
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!  
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,  
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.  
He leadeth me, he leadeth me,  
by his own hand he leadeth me;  
his faithful follower I would be,  
for by his hand he leadeth me.

And when my task on earth is done,  
when by thy grace the victory's won,  
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee,  
since God thro' Jordan leadeth me.

He leadeth me, he leadeth me,  
by his own hand he leadeth me;  
his faithful follower I would be,  
for by his hand he leadeth me.

**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](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)**

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

## **Our Life Together**

### **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**

Thank you to Jill and Larry Rodgers for packing food during January and to Bob Bruno for delivering it to Bell Prairie each week – except for one icy Wednesday. 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 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. Whether it's kitchen duties, serving meals, assisting in clothes donations, sorting food, laundry and cleaning, 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](mailto: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). To help, contact Dale Herrick for more information at [drherrick03@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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

All those who identify as male are invited to a men’s breakfast at Kate’s Kitchen, 8002 North Oak Trafficway on the first Saturday of every month at 7:45 a.m. This gathering is for fellowship and connection as we begin our Saturday together with 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!