

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.*

April 6, 2025 – Fifth Sunday of Lent

Worship Leader-Ramie Beck, Elder-Tom Hawley, Elder-Laraine Walters,

Music-Regina Kellogg, Minister-Rev. Mark Willis

The Journey of Lent

Prelude

Regina Kellogg

Invocation

Ramie Beck

Call to Worship

Ramie Beck

One: Our souls long for your courts, O Lord of hosts;

Many: Happy are we who dwell in your house and are ever praising you!

One: Our hearts and our flesh rejoice in the living God;

Many: Happy are we who dwell in your house and are ever praising you!

One: We have found a home in your presence, Our King and Our God;

Many: Happy are we who dwell in your house and are ever praising you!

One: Who is like our God, the One who strengthens his people, the One who reveals God's self to all who seek after him?

Many: This is our God, the Holy One. Come before the Lord with thanksgiving and offer God the sacrifice of praise.

(Based on Psalm 84)

Songs of Praise

Congregation

“Great is the Lord” TFWS #2022 (All)

“Blessed Be the Name of the Lord” TFWS #2034 (All)

First Scripture Reading: Luke 18:31-34

Ramie Beck

Then he took the twelve aside and said to them, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be handed over to the Gentiles; and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon. After they have flogged him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again.” But they understood nothing about all these things; in fact, what he said was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.

Songs of Adoration

Congregation

“All I Need is You” TFWS #2080 (All)

“You Are My Hiding Place” TFWS #2055 (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

Congregation

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" TFWS #2193

Scripture Reading: Luke 18:35-19:10

Ramie Beck

As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." Then he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has saved you." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

Message

"Nearsighted Spirituality"

Rev. Mark Willis

Special Music

Regina Kellogg

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" TFWS #2126 (All)

Communion Prayer

Elder- Tom Hawley

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

Mission Moment

Cherith Brook

Friends from Cherith

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

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" TFWS #2129 (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 HUMBL Y, 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

Lenten Soup Dinners

Join in during Lent for a Soup-Supper-and-Devotion every Wednesday night at 5:30 p.m.. All are welcome. Please bring a soup or a soup side (bread, crackers, veggies or fruit) to share. Additionally, we will have a sign-up for the devotion each week. Consider signing up to bring a good word on our journey of Lent.

Lenten Missional Offering

During the season of Lent, NOCC will be taking a special offering for Cherith Brook, a missional partner and organization that assists the transient and unhoused community in Kansas City. For the next six weeks we

will be collecting donations of money as well as toilet paper and hand sanitizer. **Donations are made out to NOCC, but please indicate on your donation "Cherith."** You can bring toilet paper and hand sanitizer to worship, and we will collect on a back table.

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

Labyrinth Spring Clean-Up

On Saturday, April 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon, we will gather in the Labyrinth to clean up the space and plan new plantings and improvements. If you love the Labyrinth, if you are gifted in the art of "green-thumbery", if you like working outside on a beautiful spring day, or if you just need something to do, make plans to join us in fixing up and sprucing up this beautiful ministry resource. Bring gloves and gardening tools if you have them. I have enlisted some of our resident gardeners to join us that day to offer suggestions and guidance on preparing this space for ministry this year.

Mowers Needed

We need your help! To help keep costs down, we need volunteers to sign up to mow the church lawn this summer. We have the equipment and will teach you how to use it. Sign up today to spend some beautiful summer days keeping the grass shorn. See Bob Lewis for questions.

MOWING MAY BE DONE ANY DAY OF THE WEEK, WHATEVER WORKS BEST FOR YOUR SCHEDULE.

Go here to pick a week: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050444A8A96-55138393-2025/69580391#/>

Movie and Munchies

Movies and Munchies will meet on **Thursday, MAY 1**, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Email David Nelson at humanagenda@gmail.com to RSVP. The group gathers at 6:00 p.m. for good food; bring a dish to share and a favorite drink of your choice! Then at 7:00 p.m. we engage in a directed discussion about a movie. This month we are discussing the 1992 Steve Martin movie, "Leap of Faith." Please watch the movie prior to attending.

NOCC 50th Anniversary Party Planning

Planning has begun for NOCC's landmark 50th Anniversary on June 8, 2025! If you are interested in helping with 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

Thank you to Lee-Ann and Jerry Semsch for packing and delivering food during the month of March! Neither snow nor heat nor gloomy days kept these couriers from transporting food to the Bell Prairie Elementary School families! North Oak provided nine Aldi gift cards for the families for Spring Break, and again, Culver's provided meal coupons for every adult and child. Generosity of the heart abounds at North Oak and in our neighborhood for people in our community!

As of March 15, the balance in the Backpack Ministry account is \$2,858.02.

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 (thomsod5000@att.net) for more information.

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. The first Sunday each month is led by Pastor Linda Miller and the last Sunday each month is led by Pastor Mark Willis. 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 Pastor Mark at markswillis@gmail.com for the link.

EASTER WEEK SCHEDULE

Easter Egg Hunt - Wednesday, April 16th - 3:00 p.m. - NOCC will put on an Easter Egg Hunt for our preschool kids. We need your help gathering candy-filled-eggs! Pick up eggs in the sanctuary or on your own, fill them with candy, drop them off BY SUNDAY APRIL 13.

Maundy-Thursday Drive-Thru - April 17, 2025 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. - Come-and-Go-Communion in the Labyrinth - Stop by anytime on Maundy-Thursday in the labyrinth to receive communion and spend a few moments in prayer in the garden. There is no specific service during this time. It is simply a quiet time to commune with God as the Holy Week festivities kick into high gear. You can spend as short and as long as you would like in prayer.

Good Friday Service - Friday, April 18, 2025 - 6:00 PM in sanctuary. Come join in a Good Friday service of Word and song and we enter the Easter weekend together.

Easter Morning - Sunday, April 20, 2025

- 8:30 a.m. - Early Morning Prayers in the Labyrinth - Join in early morning prayers in the labyrinth. We will gather at 8:30 a.m., and spend 30-minutes in prayer. All are welcome to begin their Easter Sunday with this time of prayerful connection with God.

- **9:15 a.m. - Easter Breakfast** - Come in for a donut and coffee as we prepare to gather for Easter Worship. Spend some time before worship in Easter fellowship. Sign up with Ellen Lewis to bring a delicious morning delicacy.

- **10:15 a.m. - Easter Morning Worship** - Come celebrate Easter together in joyful praise. Bring someone with you to Easter as we remember and rejoice in the grace of God given to us.