

# 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 20, 2025 – Easter Sunday

Worship Leader-Lee-Ann Semsch, Elder-Tom Hawley, Elder-Laraine Walters,  
Music-Regina Kellogg, Minister-Rev. Mark Willis

## Praise and Passion

**Prelude** "Because He Lives" **Jubilation Ringers**

**Invocation** **Lee-Ann Semsch**

**Call to Worship** **Lee-Ann Semsch**

One: The tomb is dark, but empty

**Many: The one you are looking for has overcome the darkness**

One: The stone has been rolled away

**Many: The one you are looking for has overcome death**

One: The burial clothes are put aside

**Many: The one you are looking for is alive!**

One: Christ is Risen!

**Many: Christ is Risen Indeed! Let us worship our Risen Savior!**

**Songs of Praise** **Congregation**

**"Christ the Lord is Risen Today" Chalice Hymnal #216 (All)**

**"Christ Arose!" Chalice Hymnal #224 (All)**

**First Scripture Reading: Psalm 118:17, 21-24** **Lee-Ann Semsch**

I shall not die, but I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Songs of Adoration** **Congregation**

**"I Know That My Redeemer Liveth" Chalice Hymnal #225 (All)**

**"Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!" Chalice Hymnal #222 (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**

(Please make your requests & praises known by sharing aloud or emailing pastor@nocckc.org)

**Rev. Mark Willis****People's Response****"Blessed Assurance (w/Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring)"****Jubilation Ringers****Scripture Reading: Luke 24:1-12****Lee-Ann Semsch**

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

**Message****"The Sun Always Rises"****Rev. Mark Willis****Special Music****"Because He Lives"****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****"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" Chalice Hymnal #233 (All)****Congregation****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**

**Rev. Mark Willis**

*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.*

**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**

**“He Lives” Chalice Hymnal #226 vs 1,3**

**Benediction**

**Rev. Mark Willis**

One: When others dismiss your story as an idle tale, who will you be?

**Many: Resurrection people with Easter in our hearts.**

One: When the world seems to be crumbling around you, remember who you are:

**Many: Resurrection people with Easter in our hearts.**

One: When despair would seem to squelch all hope, believe in who you have become:

**Many: Resurrection people with Easter in our hearts.**

One: When it is hard to persevere against all odds, trust in God who names you:

**Many: Resurrection people with Easter in our hearts.**

One: As we follow Christ into the world, may God help us remember who we are:

**Many: Resurrection people with Easter in our hearts.**

**Postlude**

**Regina Kellogg**

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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**

**EASTER LILIES AVAILABLE!**

If you purchased an Easter Lily for today's service, please feel free to take it home with you after the service ends. If you would like to purchase a lily to take home, the cost is \$13 and checks should be made payable to "NOCC".

### **Lenten Missional Offering**

During the season of Lent, NOCC has been taking a special offering for Cherith Brook, a missional partner and organization that assists the transient and unhoused community in Kansas City. For these six weeks we will be collecting donations of money as well as toilet paper and hand sanitizer. **Donations should be 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](mailto:drherrick03@gmail.com)

### **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 or Dale Herrick with 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](mailto: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 50<sup>th</sup> 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](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 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 Christian Church 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 was \$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](mailto:markswillis@gmail.com) for the link.