

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.*

May 4, 2025 – Third Sunday **OF** Easter

Worship Leader-Jayne Bruno, Elder-Linda Daniels, Elder-Debbie Herrick,

Music-Regina Kellogg, Minister-Rev. Mark Willis

Come to Worship

Prelude

Regina Kellogg

Invocation

Jayne Bruno

Call to Worship

Jayne Bruno

One: We gather in the name of the risen Lord.

Many: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

One: We gather as sisters and brothers of the resurrected one.

Many: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

One: We gather to share our faith and to worship God.

Many: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

One: We gather to proclaim the good news of Easter!

Many: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Songs of Praise

Congregation

“How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely” Chalice Hymnal #285 (All)

“This is the Day” Chalice Hymnal #286 (All)

First Scripture Reading: Acts 6:8-15

Jayne Bruno

Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated some men to say, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.” They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. They set up false witnesses who said, “This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law, for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us.” And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Songs of Adoration

Congregation

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” Chalice Hymnal #585 (All)

“Near to the Heart of God” Chalice Hymnal #581 (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

“Jesus, Remember Me” Chalice Hymnal #569

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Scripture Reading: Acts 7:1-2a, 44-60

Jayne Bruno

Then the high priest asked him, “Are these things so?” And Stephen replied:

“Brothers and fathers, listen to me.”

“Our ancestors had the tent of testimony in the wilderness, as God directed when he spoke to Moses, ordering him to make it according to the pattern he had seen. Our ancestors in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the peoples whom God drove out before our ancestors. And it was there until the time of David, who found favor with God and asked that he might find a dwelling place for the house of Jacob. But it was Solomon who built a house for him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with human hands; as the prophet says, ‘Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?’

“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones who received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.”

Message

“I Don’t Know”

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

“In Remembrance of Me” Chalice Hymnal #403 (All)

Communion Prayer

Elder- Laraine Walters

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

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

"God Be with You Till We Meet Again" Chalice Hymnal #434

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 continues 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.

Graduation Sunday

NOCC will recognize and celebrate graduates on Sunday, May 25, 2025, in the worship service. If you have a loved one who is graduating, please email pastor@nocckc.org with their name, what level they are

graduating and if they are earning a degree. We will list all graduates on this Sunday and offer a blessing on them.

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#/>

Beyond the Bridge Event

Cherith Brook and our Regional Becoming Beloved Community team are sponsoring a special film on **Wednesday, May 7th** at 6:00 p.m. at Intersect KC, 606 Gladstone Ave., KC, MO 64124. The event is FREE but you do need to register by going to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/film-screening-and-panel-discussion-of-beyond-the-bridge-tickets-1236338946069?aff=oddtcreator>

The event will feature a documentary about two communities that came together for realistic solutions to homelessness. After the film, a panel will discuss the issue and homelessness here in KC and ways this community could work together for solutions.

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

On behalf of the families at Bell Prairie Elementary School, thank you to the April Backpack Ministry team! Thanks go to Laraine Walters and Marcia Malotte for packing food for the eight families we are currently serving and to Bob Bruno for delivering the packed bags to Bell Prairie each week. A special thank you to Lee-Ann and Jerry Semsch for stepping in to substitute when needed at the beginning of April. Our blessed NOCC village continues to serve our community in so many generous ways.

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) for more information.

Cherith Brook

Cherith Brook is humbled and appreciative by the wonderful support given by NOCC during the Lenten season. NOCC has provided donations of 405 rolls of toilet paper, 4 quarts of hand sanitizer and a dozen disposable razors. In addition, over 40 bags of clothing have been provided by our ministry partner, The Resale Shop. The Lenten offering taken up for Cherith was \$1645 which will be donated to expenses in Cherith's program. Seven members of Cherith Brook's Elders and their Adviser Kate Schulte joined us during Lent to provide witness and testimony to the impact of his ministry. Thank You Church for the gifts of support to our community. 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. 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.