

# 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.*

September 7, 2025 – Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Worship Leader-Lee-Ann Semsch, Elder-Debbie Herrick, Elder-Marcia Malotte,

Music-Regina Kellogg, Minister-Rev. Mark Willis

## Gather to Worship

**Prelude**

**Regina Kellogg**

**Invocation**

**Lee-Ann Semsch**

**Call to Worship**

**Lee-Ann Semsch**

One: Come with your questions, come with your awe!

**Many: For the God who broods over the chaos meets us in this place.**

One: Come with your energy, come with your weariness!

**Many: For the God who breathes new life into the dust meets us in this place.**

One: Come with your sadness, come with your joy!

**Many: For the God who dared to become human meets us in this place.**

([www.re-worship.com/Genesis 1](http://www.re-worship.com/Genesis1))

**Songs of Praise**

**Congregation**

**“Gather Us In” TFWS # 2236 vs 1,2,4**

**“Honor and Praise” TFWS # 2018 (All)**

**Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:1-13**

**Lee-Ann Semsch**

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

**Songs of Adoration**

**Congregation**

**“Lord, God, Almighty” TFWS # 2006 (All)**

**Prayers of the People**

**Rev. Mark Willis**

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

**People’s Response**

**Congregation**

**“Taste and See” TFWS #2267**

*Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

*O’ taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.*

**Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:14-25**

**Lee-Ann Semsch**

And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

**Message**

**“It is Supposed to Be Good”**

**Rev. Mark Willis**

**Special Music**

**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**

**“Gather Us In” TFWS # 2236 vs 3**

**Communion Prayer**

**Elder-Debbie Herrick**

**The Lord's Prayer****Congregation**

*Our Creator, 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](http://nocckc.org).*

**Offering Prayer****Rev. Mark Willis****Closing Song****Congregation****"As a Fire is Meant for Burning" TFWS #2237 (All)****Benediction****Rev. Mark Willis****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**

**Book Discussion with Pastor Mark**

Pastor Mark is offering a "Zoom" Book Discussion this fall on Richard Rohr's "The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage." The discussions will be on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom from September 8-November 10. If you would like to participate, acquire the book and read the Introduction and first chapter prior to the first discussion. Email [pastor@nocckc.org](mailto:pastor@nocckc.org) for the Zoom link.

### **NOCC Choir and Jubilation Ringers**

At North Oak, we love making a joyful noise unto God. Both the choir and bell choir provide beautiful, uplifting music for worship throughout the year and you can join in! NOCC Choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. The Jubilation Ringers rehearse on Sundays after the worship service. All are welcome to come make that joyful noise!

### **Backpack Ministry Updates**

The Backpack Ministry is gearing up for the new school year providing meals to families in need from Bell Prairie Elementary School. We provide a full meal each week to each family. If you would like to help serve by packing and delivering the meals, please contact Terry Becker at [tennisterry40love@gmail.com](mailto:tennisterry40love@gmail.com)

### **Cherith Brook**

This cool weather is such a relief, but it brings on early concerns at Cherith as they look at their Fall and Winter clothing supplies. Cherith is asking for donations of clothing. Most of the clients (95%) who come to Cherith are outside 24/7 and they seek food, a shower and fresh clothing that help them with outside temperatures.

As you go through your fall and winter clothing, please consider sharing items that you no longer need. Warm jeans, pants, sweaters, sweatshirts, and jackets/coats are always appreciated. Long underwear is a luxury. Stocking caps, warm gloves, heavy socks and boots are needed. Ground tarps/tarpettes, sleeping bags and backpacks are always important.

Thanks to all for your consideration. Place your donations in the donation containers at NOCC.

### **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.

### **Women’s Bible Study**

The Women’s Bible Study meets monthly at Ann Nelson’s home on the first Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. All those who identify as female are welcome to participate. Email Ann at [anncnelsonkc@gmail.com](mailto:anncnelsonkc@gmail.com) for the address.

### **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. All those who identify as male are welcome to participate. 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/2025/01/narrative\\_lectionary\\_summer\\_2025.pdf](https://www.workingpreacher.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/narrative_lectionary_summer_2025.pdf). All those who identify as male are welcome. Email Pastor Mark at [markswillis@gmail.com](mailto:markswillis@gmail.com) for the link.