

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.*

November 30, 2025 – First Sunday of Advent
Worship Leader-Ramie Beck, Elder-Linda Daniels, Elder-Laraine Walters,
Music-Regina Kellogg, Minister-Rev. Mark Willis

O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

Prelude

Regina Kellogg

Call to Worship

Ramie Beck

One: May the joy of the advent season
with its message of mighty hope be with you all!

Many: And also with you!

One: We call out to you, "Be the God we dream!"

Many: You respond by being the God you are.

One: We discuss you and define you and expect of you.

Many: But you unravel our expectations and definitions.

One: We seek to limit and control, putting you in a box of our making.

Many: You turn our boxes upside down.

One: We seek now.

Many: You bid us wait.

One: We seek obvious salvation.

Many: You send a child.

One: We seek clear-cut and easy answers.

Many: You give us hope.

All: Upside down divinity, give us the strength to resist a culture of greed, of haves, and have-nots. Turn our eyes away from the gold statues, our idols of selfishness and fear. Help us to let go of our expectations of you so that we might be ready to welcome the child who is on the way. Amen.

(written by Tim Graves - <https://liturgybits.wordpress.com/>)

Invocation

Ramie Beck

Songs of Praise

Congregation

"All Creatures of Our God and King" Chalice Hymnal #22 (All)

"Now Thank We All Our God" Chalice Hymnal #715 (All)

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Arnot Family

Song of the Advent Candle

Congregation

“One Candle Is Lit” Chalice Hymnal #128 (Vs. 1)

Scripture Reading: Daniel 3:1, 13-18

Ramie Beck

King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in, so they brought those men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? Now if you are ready, when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you should fall down and worship the statue that I have made. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?”

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up.”

Prayers of the People

Rev. Mark Willis

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

People's Response

Congregation

*His name shall be, Wonderful, Counselor,
His name shall be, Everlasting Father,
His name shall be, Prince of Peace, Mighty God,
His name shall be Emmanuel.*

Scripture Reading: Daniel 3:22-30

Ramie Beck

Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, “Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?” They answered the king, “True, O king.” He replied, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt, and the fourth has the appearance of a god.” Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!” So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not scorched, and not even the smell of fire came from them.

Nebuchadnezzar said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb and their houses laid in ruins, for

there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way.” Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Message **“Out of the Frying Pan, Into God’s Grace”** **Rev. Mark Willis**

Special Music **“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”** **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**
“Emmanuel, Emmanuel” Chalice Hymnal #134 (2x)

Communion Prayer **Elder-Linda Daniels**
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.*

Offering Prayer **Rev. Mark Willis**

Closing Song **Congregation**

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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The Journey Together

Movie and Munchies

Movie and Munchies will be from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 4, 2025, at the home of David and Ann Nelson. The movie for discussion is the original (1947) "Miracle on 34th Street." Please watch the film PRIOR to attending and RSVP to humanagenda@gmail.com to participate.

All are welcome! Bring an appetizer/snack food to share and whatever you wish to drink.

REZOUND! Handbell Concert

The REZOUND! Handbell Choir will be in concert on December 12, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at St. James Lutheran Church, 1104 NE Vivion Rd., Kansas City, MO, 64118. There will be a love offering. We would love to get a group from NOCC to go, as REZOUND will be doing a concert HERE in December 2026! If interested, let Pastor Mark know at pastor@nocckc.org.

Backpack Ministry Christmas Gifts

NOCC can help make Christmas so very special for 10 children at Bell Prairie Elementary School. Each child will receive 5 gifts provided by NOCC participants. If you would like to purchase and wrap a gift for one or more of the children:

1. On Sunday, November 23, sign up with our Elf Marcia Malotte, and take a cutout paper Christmas tree(s) with a child's Christmas gift wish from the Christmas tree in the sanctuary.
2. **SAVE THE PAPER TREE** because you will tape it to the bottom of the wrapped gift you provide.
3. **DUE DATE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14** Bring wrapped gifts with the paper tree taped to the bottoms of the gifts to church.
4. Gifts will be delivered to Bell Prairie on Monday, December 15.

Your kindness in providing gifts for these children is one of the greatest gifts of all. On behalf of the families, thank you!

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Board of NOCC is calling a congregational meeting for Sunday, December 14, 2025, immediately following worship. This annual business meeting is open to all who participate in the ministry and mission of NOCC. We will be discussing nominations for Elders and Board members

and our 2026 projected budget. If you participate in the worship, service, or fellowship of NOCC, please bring your voice to the discussion. Yes, we know there is a Chiefs' game at 12:30 p.m. on this day, and we will work diligently to get you home in time for it!

Cherith Brook

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.

MICAH Ministry

The MICAH Ministry at Independence Boulevard CC is in dire need of children's shoes and children's clothing, new or gently used, all ages and sizes. If you have kid's shoes, clothing, and especially boy's coats(!) you can donate, bring them to Marcia Malotte on Sunday.

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

If you would like to join in the daytime women's Bible study next year starting in April, there is room for you here! The group meets on the first Tuesday of each month, April-December, from 2:00-3:30 p.m. at the home of Ann Nelson. The book chosen for next year's study is "12 Daring Women of the Bible." If you would like to explore the book, go to this Amazon link to see and read samples from the book:

<https://www.amazon.com/Daring-Women-Bible-Study-Streaming/dp/0310170699>

To join in next April, let Terry know NOW that you want to order a book. She will order all the books together by December 2025 and then be reimbursed by each person. For more information or to join, please contact tennisterry40love@gmail.com.

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/2025/02/WP-Narrative-Lectionary-2025-26-John.pdf. All those who identify as male are welcome. Email Pastor Mark at markswillis@gmail.com for the link.