



Service for the Lord's Day

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Please SILENCE ALL Personal Electronic Devices Before Worship.

We Gather as God's People

Welcome to our worship service. Take a moment to quiet yourself as we prepare ourselves for worship.

Welcome and Preparation for Worship

Welcome to Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church! In this space, we invite you to bring all of who you are - your identity, your beliefs, your doubts, your story. Our prayer is that together we will experience God's presence

Prelude“Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord” Godspell – Hallelujah Broadway
<https://youtu.be/qzLrs3eKbXk>

Call to Worship [Responsive]

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: In this season of Advent, as we continue to actively prepare for the in-breaking of God's Incarnate Love - Emmanuel, we take time to acknowledge that in what is supposed to be the “most wonderful time of the year” that this year it feels like it is anything but that for many of us. Our hearts are filled with anxiety, despair, worries, and fears around the virus and the impact it has had on our lives. We come seeking relief from our heartache and pain. We come seeking comfort in the midst of our grief over the death of a loved one and the loss of so much including even how we normally have grieved together in community or celebrated beloved holiday traditions in church and in our homes. Virtually, with the psalmist of old we say, “O Lord, you are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living. Give heed to my cry, for I am brought very low.” Let us join our hearts and lives in worship of Emmanuel: God-with-us.

The Music “O Come O Come Emmanuel” (feat. Naomi Raine & Nate Moore) – Maverick City | TRIBL <https://youtu.be/MtOi0IP0DCo>

The Lighting of the Third Candle of Advent – Love

One: On this third Sunday of Advent we focus on love. When asked what was the greatest of all the commandments, Jesus said: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

The Advent Reflection on Love – From the Advent Doorby Jan Richardson

Loving is always risky, because we cannot enter into it without being changed. Altered. Transformed. In the face of this, we might well ask, Do I really want this? Do we really desire to be so undone? Loving is never just about opening our heart. It is about being willing to have our heart become larger as we make room for people and stories and experiences we never imagined holding. It is about being willing to have our heart become deeper as we move beyond the surface layers of our assumptions, prejudices, and habits in order to truly see and receive what—and who—is before us. It is about being willing to have our heart continually shattered and remade as we take in not only the brokenness of the world but also the beauty of it, the astounding wonder that will not allow us to remain the same.

Love Is the Most Ancient Law: A Blessing

Open to it and you will know
how love is its own blessing
and most ancient of laws.

Pursue it entirely
with everything in you—
your heart
(all)
your soul
(all)
your mind
(all).

Spend it all—
this love so generous
this love that goes out to each
it finds this love
that gives itself
in lavish and
unimagined measure
everywhere and to all—
yourself not least.

The Prayer

One: Let us pray... God, we have learned to love from being loved by you. And so today, let us enact that love. Let us live that love. We know that what the world needs now is more love. We need to remember how much you love each one of us and we must share that love with others. Amen.

The Advent Hymn “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” St. Olaf Massed Choir and Orchestra <https://youtu.be/01nXQmrYPWQ>

We Listen for God’s Word

The Scripture

Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to

proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory... I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

One: For the Word of God in Scripture, For the Word of God among us, For the Word of God within us,

Many: We give thanks to God!

The Meditation "Grief and Love: A Blue Christmas Reflection"
<http://ocpchurch.com/files/135371367.pdf>

The Advent Music "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" by Claude Goudimel (c. 1505-1572) <https://youtu.be/mqRrwcYFhG8>

Liturgy of Remembrance

There are many moments in our lives when we need comfort. There are tough times when we yearn for consolation. That is especially true this year. Perhaps you are grieving over the death of a loved one, struggling with illness, or have experienced the loss of a job. We wonder how we will get through the holidays?

Lighting of the Four Candles of Remembrance

The First Candle:

One: The first candle we light to remember those persons whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember their name, their voice, their face, the memory that binds them to us in this season. We hold them before God, giving thanks for their lives in ours.

Please take a moment to remember those who have died. I invite you to name them, sharing them in our comments section, or say them aloud or in the silence of your hearts....

ALL: Lord, each of us takes our loved one by the hand and leads them to you, the God of love, Here we present them to you. Accept our love and thanksgiving as we entrust them to your loving care. We want our loved ones to be free at home with you. We ask that you save a place for us beside them. We ask that you fill us with motivation and energy in the days ahead when we feel like giving up; remind us often of our true homeland when we are caught up in the desolation of the journey. Help us to find joy in the people, events and the beauty of nature which surrounds us. Thank you for the gift each of these people has been in our lives. We want to believe that we will celebrate the treasure of love with them again, when we are all in your

presence forever. May this truth sustain us in the days to come. Take our sad and aching hearts and comfort us. Comfort us, for we only feel hollowness and emptiness. God of sorrowing, draw near! Amen.

The Second Candle:

One: The second candle we light is to redeem the pain of loss; the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs with the security they bring, the loss of health in ourselves or in family members, the loss of joy and peace in our lives from the stresses which surround us, the loss and loneliness we experience when our loved ones do not share our faith. As we gather up the pain of the past we offer it to you, O God, asking that into our open hands you will place the gift of peace.

Please take a moment to remember the losses. I invite you to name them in our comments section, say them aloud in your own home or in the silence of your hearts....

***ALL:* God of mystery, we turn our hearts to you. We come before you in need of peace, grateful for the mystery of life and ever keenly aware of your promises of guidance and protection. We want to place our trust in you, but our hearts grow fearful and anxious. We forget so easily that you will be with us in all that we experience. Teach us to be patient with the transformation of our lives and to be open to the changes which we are now going through. Amen.**

The Third Candle:

One: The third candle we light for those who experience a loss of direction in their lives. God of the Exodus, you led Moses and your people through the wilderness to a new land. Hear our prayer. We want so much to have a sense of direction, to know where we are and where we ought to be headed. But the darkness and the questions stay. You ask us to be full of faith, to believe deep within that you are our signpost, that you are our wisdom and our guide, and to trust in your presence. Your words to us are clear: "Do not fear, I go before you."

***ALL:* God of our depths, we cry out to you to be our guide. Help us to have a strong sense of inner direction and grant that we may have the reassurance of knowing that we are on the right path. Take our lives and use them according to your will. Take all that is lost in us and bring it home with you. Amen.**

The Fourth Candle:

One: The fourth candle we light as a sign of hope, the hope that the Christmas story offers to us. We remember that God, who shares our life, promises us a place and time of no more pain and suffering.

***ALL:* O God whose spirit is known by those whose hearts are thankful, and who makes cheerfulness a companion of strength, lift up our hearts, we pray, to a joyous confidence in your care. Guide us when we cannot see the way. Teach us to know that a shadow is only a shadow, because the light of eternal goodness shines behind the object of our fears. Where there is love in life, teach us to find it; help us to trust it and enable us to grow in the power of love. So may our lives bring comfort and encouragement to others. We ask it, in the name of Jesus Christ whose life is our light. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

One: In the spirit of this season let us now confidently ask our God for all the good things we need: For ourselves as we participate in this Christmas as people coping with our many different losses. God, hear our prayer.

Many: And in your mercy, answer.

One: For our families and friends, that they may continue to help and support us. God, hear our prayer.

Many: And in your mercy, answer.

One: For any person we have loved who has died, for all the losses we know in our lives, that all may be redeemed by your Easter promise. God, hear our prayer.

Many: And in your mercy, answer.

One: For our family and friends, that you may bless them with love, peace, and joy. God, hear our prayer.

Many: And in your mercy, answer.

One: For peace throughout the world as proclaimed by the Christmas Angels on that faraway hillside. God, hear our prayer.

Many: And in your mercy, answer.

One: For greater understanding of the lessons of love and acceptance as taught by Jesus your Christ. God, hear our prayer.

Many: And in your mercy, answer.

One: God of great compassion and love, listen to the prayers of these your people. Grant to all, especially the bereaved and troubled ones this Christmas, the blessing we ask in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray

Many: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lighting of Individual Candles:

One: Each of us comes bearing our own hurts, sorrows, broken places. I want to invite each of you to offer your personal wound to the God who loves each of us deeply and wants to carry our pain. God waits patiently, gently calling out: "Give me your pain, come to me... all who labor and are heavy laden, I will refresh you!"

I invite each of you wherever you are reading this liturgy or watching with us virtually to light a candle. As you light the candle, remember that it is God who lights a candle in our darkness and holds us close until we are able to shine.

One: These lights in their brightness are only symbols, but as they burn and finally go out, we remember that suffering passes, though memory remains forever.

Closing Hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Sung by the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church (Michigan) Virtual Choir with James Biery, organist. Words by Charles Wesley; music HYFRYDOL by Rowland Prichard. <https://youtu.be/dAolkjPVh64>

The Sending Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

One: While we have gathered virtually, we still acknowledge, embrace and claim the darkness that is present both in the world and in our own lives. As people who are familiar with the darkness, we also know that we hold one another as the beloved community in our hearts to be illumined by the light of the Christ Child this Christmas season. May the Christ Child, born in a lowly stable, himself an outcast and marginal, bring light, comfort, peace, and joy this holiday season. May the hope of the Christ Child sustain us through this darkness.

Many: **That together we may shine again. Amen.**

Postlude “Still, Still, Still” <https://youtu.be/bpRq4i-XMmk>



The liturgy this morning is from: This special “Blue Christmas” liturgy is adapted from The Young Clergy Women International “Blue Christmas Service: When Christmas Hurts.”

Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church is committed to using language in such a way that all members of the community of faith may recognize themselves to be included, addressed, and equally cherished before God. Seeking to bear witness to the whole world, the church struggles to use language which is faithful to the biblical truth and which neither purposefully nor inadvertently excludes people because of gender, color, or other circumstance in life. (Book of Order, W-1.2006)

ANNOUNCEMENTS —

- If you would like to be added to the mailing list for our newsletter, *The Good News*, please send either your email (preferred) or snail mail address to the church office. (Our addresses are listed on the last page of the bulletin.)

- Help us save “pig points.” For us to receive a rebate, please turn in your receipts from the Cambridge Piggly Wiggly in one of three ways: **1.** Place them in the brown bag in the narthex. **2.** Cheryl Stitz will do a porch pickup of any receipts that you may have. Call her at 608-695-1838 to make arrangements. **3.** Receipts can also be mailed to the church office. All funds received are used for mission projects. **Deadline to turn in receipts for this year is December 13.**

WORSHIP SERVICES UPDATE:

Due to the uncertainty of the winter weather, the Session voted to move worship to all-virtual through the end of February 2021. Pastor Scott, with the assistance of Sam Marrese-Wheeler, will be filming from the sanctuary for these worship services. As we are able, we are hoping to add some music. **Communion will be served on Christmas Eve - December 24; Sunday, January 3; Sunday, February 7.** As we have been doing, on Communion Sundays and Christmas Eve, we invite you to have some form of bread and beverage with you.

CHRISTMAS EVE UPDATE – 5 PM – PARKING LOT The Session voted, weather permitting, to hold a parking lot Christmas Eve worship service. We will be worshipping in our vehicles, tuned into 104.3. We do have battery operated candles to share for our traditional candlelight portion of the service. If the weather permits and it is not too cold or snowy, we hope to invite people to step out of their vehicles, masked up, to turn on their candles, and join in the song “Silent Night”. More details will be shared in the coming weeks.

DECEMBER 20 WORSHIP AT 10 AM – Pastor Scott will be live-streaming worship on December 20 from the sanctuary via the OCPC Facebook page and over our YouTube channel.

NEW! Donate to our church, Presbyterian Church of Oakland-Cambridge, using the app, **Give+**. Search for “GivePlus Church” in your app store (Vanco Payment Solutions). Once it’s installed, find us using our zip code (53523), and set up one-time or recurring payments, OR use the QR Code below to access our donor page. A link to our donor page is also on our website www.ocpchurch.com. (Click on the button with the green heart) Thank you!



CAMBRIDGE FOOD PANTRY & RESOURCE CENTER – SEPTEMBER 2020 Update

Hello to all,

Hard to believe September is coming to a close. The month has gone by quickly.

We have settled into the new space in the lower level of the Nikolay Middle School. Even though the new space is ready to receive guests, we are still under a no-contact advisory from The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). This means that the Cambridge Food Pantry will continue to offer drive up grocery pickups on Monday evenings from 5:30-6:30 until further notice.

We continue to receive tremendous support from both the Community Action Coalition of Wisconsin and Second Harvest. The community also continues to give generously to the program. However, with Winter approaching and the cold and flu season that comes along with it, we anticipate an increase in need for food and personal items in our community.

Below is a "wish list" for the food pantry. We would be grateful if you could continue to encourage your congregations, neighbors and friends to give what they can. There is a

donation bin outside of the lower level doors of the middle school/food pantry entrance for non-perishable food items. Anyone wishing to donate perishable foods can contact me directly either by phone or email and I will make arrangements to accept those donations. Monetary donations continue to be the most needed and most efficient way to support the food pantry at this time.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Cambridge Food Pantry.

I hope you all remain healthy and safe.

Kindest regards,

Kerry Marren 608-423-8142 foodpantry@cambridge.k12.wi.us www.cambridgecap.net

CAMBRIDGE FOOD PANTRY WISH LIST: Hearty Soups, Canned pasta (SpaghettiOs, Ravioli, Beefaroni), Canned or packet tuna, Heat and serve complete meals (non-refrigerated/shelf stable), Individual cereal boxes/bowls, Individual oatmeal packets, Saltines, Ramen, Shampoo and conditioner, Laundry soap, Dish soap.

PLEASE HOLD THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN PRAYER THIS WEEK —

Betsy (friend and caretaker of Ken Bilstad) Cards can be sent c/o Ken at 230 Bilstad Rd.
Griffin Clark (grandson of Bill & Patty Strobusch)
Ron Guthery (father of Michelle Wagner)
Don Hawkins (husband of Margaret Hawkins)
Sylvia Jensen
Linda Johnson (mother of Randy Johnson)
Jayne Kilian (daughter of Judy Pearson)
Nancy Kristiansen
Wade Kubina (son of Jo Kubina)
Stan Lund
Renee Roland Johnson
Marilyn Schuster (Oakwood Village East, 5565 Tanco Dr., Madison, WI 53718-1901)
Shawn Spack (son of Jenine & Jack Spack)
John "Jack" Swank and his family (birth father of Renee Roland Johnson)

Our children and unchurched children and families, our military around the world, our enemies, our church leaders, families and individuals experiencing financial, job-hunting, health, or relationship problems.

The families of Mark Olson on the death of his wife, Mary; Judy Brandt and other families who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

If you would like to be added to our weekly prayer list, please leave word in the church office or contact the pastor. Permission to be included in this publicly posted list has been obtained from those listed or their families.

Church Schedule

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. Sunday
Communion: First Sunday of each month

Telephone/Fax: 608-423-3001

Email: Office@OCPChurch.com or Pastor@OCPChurch.com

Web: www.OCPChurch.com

Mailing Address: 313 E. Main St., Cambridge, WI 53523-9629



Visit us on Facebook: Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church

SESSION (Meets the second Sunday of each month.)

Class of 2020: Ann Febock, Renée Roland Johnson,

Class of 2021: Melanie Rumpf

Class of 2022: Joe Leto, Mike Stitz

BOARD OF DEACONS (Meets the third Sunday of each month.)

Class of 2020: Randy Johnson, Judy Pearson

Class of 2021: Judy Schroeder, Cheryl Stitz

Class of 2022: Cheryl Bettenhausen

CHURCH STAFF

Music—

Accompanists: Karen Brunk, Marian Korth, Emily Rausch,
Angie Williams

Business Manager: Ruth Poole

Pastor: Pastor Scott Marrese-Wheeler: (608) 417-0231 cell;

Pastor@OCPChurch.com

Facebook: Scott Marrese-Wheeler

Follow Rev. Scott on Twitter: @2revsScott

