



Service for the Lord's Day

4th Sunday of Advent

December 20, 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

*For those following on the digital bulletin, I would invite you to click on the YouTube links for Christmas Carols or play your own Christmas music at home as a part of the service this morning.

Prelude "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Washington National Cathedral
<https://youtu.be/lzVDPdcprAk>

Call to Worship [Responsive]

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: On this fourth Sunday of Advent we focus on joy. God is soaked in our world. God's Spirit lives and breathes in and through all that is. We are lost only when we do not understand that God is already with and in each one of us. Our task is recognition of God's initiative to be at home in us— acceptance of Emmanuel, God-With-Us. Then we cannot but be joyful!

The Advent Reflection on Joy

When her cousin, Elizabeth, pregnant herself with a child, greets Mary, who likewise is expecting, she says: "For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy." —Luke 1.44

Jan Richardson writes: Advent is a season for remembering that the joy that makes its way toward us does not depend on mere happiness. Joy is made of stronger stuff than this. Joy is what comes when, in days that tempt us toward despair, we choose to celebrate—not in denial of the causes of despair, but in defiance. In hope. In delight. In gladness for the One who comes to sing for us and with us, ever renewing us in his love.

With joy in our hearts, we light the fourth candle of Advent this morning, reminding ourselves through Luke's words, the music we hear and the reflections we listen to about some of our favorite Christmas Carols of that even in the midst of this global pandemic that has upended our lives, routines and holiday traditions, Joy still comes to our world!

The Advent Poem“For Joy” by Jan Richardson (The Advent Door)

For Joy
You can prepare
 but still
 it will come to you
 by surprise
crossing through your doorway
 calling your name in greeting
 turning like a child
 who quickens suddenly
 within you
it will astonish you
 how wide your heart
 will open
 in welcome
for the joy
 that finds you
 so ready
 and still so
 unprepared.

The Prayer

Too often, we think joy is something big, O God. A brass band or a parade can certainly bring us joy. Just as easily and far more often, we can feel joy in a hug or the squeeze of hand, we can see joy in a smile or hear it in laughter. Help us to not overlook the simple joys that peak into our lives daily. This week in our Advent journey, open our eyes to the joy that surrounds us. Amen.

The Hymn“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” Carrie Underwood (Official Video)

https://youtu.be/_yaYH5ablhA

We Listen for God’s Word

The Scripture

Luke 1:26-45

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the

Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born* will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be* a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’

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!

A Christmas Festival of Carols and Reflections Marian Korth (Piano) and Mim Jacobson (Narrator)

Narrator: The very first Christmas songs are the GLORIAS the angels sang in the sky, announcing the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. Tradition tells us that hundreds of years later, on Christmas Eve, shepherds on the hillsides of France repeated the angels’ song to other shepherds, the song traveling from hillside to hillside. That’s where we think the song Angels We have Heard on High originated. A similar French carol is The First Noel.

The Carols: “Angels We Have Heard on High”
“The First Noel”

Narrator: Another, more recent French Carol is O Holy Night. The words for this carol were written by an atheist, who was commissioned to write a new carol for the dedication of the renovated pipe organ in a Catholic Church. He wrote the words, and then asked a Jewish friend of his, a well-known French composer of classical music, to compose the music. The resulting carol, written by an atheist and a Jew, was well-received by the people of the parish. However, when the religious leaders of the church realized that the words of the carol had been written by an atheist, they said the song couldn’t be sung in church any more. The people still sang the song outside of church, and it found its way to America. There a staunch Abolitionist added a third stanza, which includes the words, “... for the slave is our brother...”

The Carol: “O Holy Night”

Narrator: Speaking of the abolition of slavery, African Americans have contributed richly to our Christmas music. Mary Had a Baby, Sweet Little Jesus Boy, and Go Tell It on the Mountain are three spirituals in three very different styles.

The Carols:
“Mary Had a Baby”
“Sweet Little Jesus Boy”
“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Narrator: Many Christmas Carols have been written that are like a lullaby to sing to the Baby Jesus. Each nationality has its own lullaby that reflects the musical style of the people in that part of the world. Here are a few of them.

The Carols:
“Away in a Manger”
“Still, Still, Still”
“O Come, Little Children”
“Thy Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We”
“I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”
“Polish Lullaby”
“Sleep, O Sleep, My Lovely Child”
“The Holy Child”

Narrator: During the 1930s, John Jacob Niles traveled throughout the eastern half of the United States to collect folk songs. He came across a poor family living out of their car in a small town. Their little girl stood in the park and sang fragments of a beautiful, haunting song to collect coins to help support her family. Niles gave her quarter after quarter, a total of eight, to coax her to repeat the song over and over again, hoping to get more fragments. He wrote down what she sang, organized it a bit, and what we have is the song I Wonder as I Wander.

The Carols:
“I Wonder as I Wander”
“O Come, All Ye Faithful”
“We Three Kings”
“A Christmas Medley”
“What Child Is This?”
“Silent Night”

The Pastoral Prayer

Lord our God, you have revealed yourself as One who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; In a world that looks away from injustice, You cast your eyes on the destitute, the poor, and the wronged; You have called us to follow you, to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release for the captives and recovery of sight for the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed and to proclaim the time of your blessing.

Be present with your church, Lord, as we respond to your call. Open our eyes to the downtrodden. Fill us with compassion for the plight of the alien, the refugee, and the immigrant. Lead us into ministries that help orphans and widows. Give us courage to block the paths of the ungodly who exploit the poor.

Set us free from pious exercises that prevent us from the true worship you choose: Sharing bread with the hungry, Sharing homes with the homeless, Sharing clothes with the naked, Sharing hearts with our own kin.

So may your justice roll down like waters, your righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Lead our footsteps to stand with the poor, that we might stand with you.

Have mercy, O God: Scatter the proud, Put down the mighty, Lift up the lowly, Fill up the hungry, Send the rich away empty-handed, we pray and continue to pray as Jesus taught us, praying: Our Father, who is 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

The Closing Carol “Joy to the World” Pentatonix <https://youtu.be/-Xo64Q2ucQ8>

The Sending Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

One: I bless you with joy May you find moments of laughter and bliss In the midst of suffering and distress May you cherish those times, and may they give you joy that will help sustain you. I bless you with the fruits of humility. May your humble and sacrificial actions Be instrumental in bringing hope to your community and love your neighbors. I bless you with peace, God’s Shalom,. In the face of financial hardship and uncertainty, may you know the faithful, hope-filled, joyful and loving presence of Emmanuel, God-with-us, with us now and always. And all God’s people said: Amen!

Postlude “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” (Instrumental) Amy Grant “Home for Christmas” album <https://youtu.be/LpkC4Bkm3CE>



The liturgy this morning is from: Call to Worship ~ written by Edwina Gately in There Was No Path So I Trod One; The Pastoral Prayer ~ Paul G. Janssen, and printed in Prayerful Preparation: Living God, Renew Us; The Sending ~ written by Emily Swan and Ken Wilson of Solus Jesus: A Theology of Resistance, co-pastors of Blue Ocean Faith Ann Arbor (adapted).

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.

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 27 WORSHIP AT 10 AM – Joint service with FPC Oregon.

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 Strohmusch)

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

