



Service for the Lord's Day

1st Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

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 questions, and your story wherever you are on your journey in life. Our prayer is that together we will experience God's presence.

Prelude "Greensleeves"

The Call to Worship [Responsive]

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: As November ends and December begins.

Many: **We find our beginning and our ending in God.**

One: Month after month, our God attends us and supports us.

Many: **For God's company, we offer thanks and praise.**

One: Let us worship the God who gives us Jesus Christ: God who is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end,

Many: **the Living One and our Redeemer, now and forever.**

The Advent Hymn PH # 2 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;

From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;

Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,

Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;

By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

“But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God’s mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in the Lord.”

The Lighting of the First Candle of Advent – Hope

One: In this season of Advent, we are called to watch, wait and prepare our hearts and lives once again for the in-breaking of God’s Love Incarnate - Emmanuel. This morning our Advent theme is Hope. (*The Advent Candle is lit.*)

The Advent Reflection on “The Blessing of Hope”by Jan Richardson

“On this strange path of grief, I have found hope to be a curiously stubborn creature. It is persistent. It visits when I least expect it. It shows up when I haven’t been looking for it. Even when it seems like hope should be a stranger, there is something deeply familiar about it. If I open my eyes to it, I know its face, even when I do not know where it is leading me.

Though hope may sometimes seem like a luxury—frivolous, groundless, insubstantial—it is precisely the opposite. Hope is elemental. It is made of some of the strongest stuff in the universe. It endures.

Hope does not depend on our mood, our disposition, our desire. Hope does not wait until we are ready for it, until we have prepared ourselves for its arrival. It doesn’t hold itself apart from us until we have worked through the worst of our sorrow, our anger, our fear. This is precisely where hope seeks us out, standing with us in the midst of what most weighs us down.

Hope has work for us to do. It asks us to resist going numb when the world within us or beyond us is falling apart. In the height of despair, in the deepest darkness, hope calls us to open our hearts, our eyes, our hands, that we might engage the world when it breaks our hearts. Hope goes with us, step by step, providing the sustenance we most need.

“Hope,” writes W. Paul Jones in *Trumpet at Full Moon*, “is the simple trust that God has not forgotten the recipe for manna.”

In these Advent days, what are you hoping for?”

Blessing of Hope

So may we know
the hope
that is not just
for someday
but for this day—
here, now,
in this moment
that opens to us:
hope not made
of wishes
but of substance,
hope made of sinew

and muscle
and bone,
hope that has breath
and a beating heart,
hope that will not
keep quiet
and be polite,
hope that knows
how to holler
when it is called for,
hope that knows
how to sing
when there seems
little cause,
hope that raises us
from the dead—
not someday
but this day,
every day,
again and
again and
again.

The Prayer

Gracious God, As the Advent season begins, we cry out to you. We come to you looking for hope. When everything else we rely on fails us, our only hope is in you. When we do not understand what has happened, we hope in you. We can hope for better days because we trust you. We know you and we know you are here with us no matter what we are facing. Some of us see only darkness this time of year. Some of us find life overwhelming. Some of us are filled with Advent joy. Wherever we find ourselves today, Loving God, remind us that our hope is in you. Be with us on this journey. Amen.

The Response *PH* #9 (verse 1)O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
**O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

We Listen for God’s Word

The Scripture

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

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 Reflection

Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

We Respond to God’s Love

Affirmation of Faith [In Unison].....*Darkness and Light: An Advent Creed*

We believe in God, robed in splendor, veiled in mystery, ruler alike of darkness and light. We encounter God in Jesus Christ, who was tortured and put to death, but whose radiance could not be quenched; whose touch brings a blaze of color to a dull, drab world: reviving the weary, healing the wounded, dazzling the satisfied. We walk with God, guided by the light of God’s loving spirit, who enters the shadowed places of our hearts and world, leading us into truth and life. We wait for God, and for the fulfillment of God’s promises, for the time when darkness will hold no fear and the light will not blind, but creation will be made whole once more and God’s peace will reign for ever. Amen.

The Musical Reflection“Behold, a Branch is Growing”

The Prayers of the People

One: Advent God, who comes to us in love, peace and joy, we thank you for love that nourishes and sustains our hearts, for peace that enables us to live in friendship with others for joy that illumines and inspires our lives. Yet to be loved and not care for the unloved, to live in peace and ignore the shattered lives of others to celebrate our own enjoyment selfishly, are sins against you, O Advent God, which deny the very message we preach.

We pray for those for whom joy seems far away and for others to enjoy.
...for all whose loneliness is made worse by parties, laughter and other people’s joy,
Lord in your mercy,

Many: Hear our prayers.

One: for bereaved people still hurting from the death of someone they have loved, Lord in your mercy,

Many: Hear our prayers.

One: for wives, husbands and children, whose lives have been broken by family break-up, divorce and the dismantling of their hopes. Lord, in your mercy,

Many: Hear our prayers.

One: for older people now living on their own, some of whom will see nobody over the holidays, Lord, in your mercy,

Many: Hear our prayers.

One: for the people of Waukesha as they grieve in the midst of this tragedy. Lord, in your mercy,

Many: Hear our prayers.

One: for the victims of violence in our communities, state and nation. Lord, in your mercy,

Many: Hear our prayers.

One: for our family, friends, neighbors and church members who are struggling, exhausted, weary, and grieving. Lord, in your mercy,

Many: Hear our prayers.

One: Lord in their loneliness, may these your children know the presence of the Wonderful Counsellor, and comfort them through us. And as we pray for one another, we continue to pray the prayer Jesus taught disciples to pray, saying...

The Lord's Prayer (*using 'debts' and 'debtors'...*)

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 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, forever. Amen.

Offering of Our Tithes and Our Gifts to God

In response to God's generosity, and in support of the ongoing ministry and mission at Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church, we invite you to share your financial support in several ways.

1. For those worshipping in-person, a basket is placed at the entrance to the sanctuary for you to leave your offering.
2. You may also mail in or drop-off your offering at Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church, 313 E. Main Street, Cambridge, WI 53523.
3. You may also donate online, using these directions: Use the app, **Vanco Mobile**. Search for "Vanco Mobile" in your app store (Vanco Payment Solutions). Once it's installed, find us (Presbyterian Church of Oakland-Cambridge) 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!



We Depart to Do God's Will

Closing Hymn *PH* # 12..... "People, Look East!"

People, look east. The time is near Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love the guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build, Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

The Sending Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

One: A new day is dawning! Despite what we see and hear in the world around us, the sunrise is coming. When it comes, it will break through the darkness of our world—darkness caused by violence and death and hunger and despair. And all those who now sit huddled in the shadows will be able to rise and walk with confidence in the light.

Many: **So go from here with courage and hope, to love and serve the Lord.**

One: Go in peace. And all God's people said:

Many: Amen.

Postlude "Kling, Glöckchen Kling"



The liturgy this morning is from: Blessing of Hope ~ Jan Richardson from The Cure for Sorrow; The Prayer ~ by Susannah DeBenedetto.

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)

- Our musician today is Karen Tordera.

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 19.**

WORSHIP SERVICES UPDATE:

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 5 WORSHIP AT 10 AM – In-person worship continues this Sunday in the sanctuary. The Dane County Mask Mandate has been extended to Monday, January 3. **Until then, masks are required of all people who enter the building**



NEW UPDATE!

The Cambridge Food Pantry will be distributing holiday meal baskets on Monday, December 13 from 5:30-6:30. Please visit the food pantry website or the Cambridge Food Pantry Facebook page if you would like to sign up for a free holiday basket. You can also contact the food pantry directly to sign up.

The food pantry is currently seeking donations of: Coffee, Oatmeal/Cream of Wheat, Laundry detergent, Toothpaste, Body wash, Dog and cat food

Monetary donations are always greatly appreciated!

For more information on how you can make a difference this holiday season, or to volunteer at the food pantry, please email: foodpantry@cambridge.k12.wi.us or call Kerry at (608)423-8142.

The Cambridge Food Pantry website can be found at <https://cambridgecap.net/programs/nutrition/food-pantry/>

Thank you for your continued support of your Cambridge neighbors!

PLEASE HOLD THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN PRAYER THIS WEEK —

Jan & Nancy Kristiansen
Jack & Jenine Spack

The families of Ken Bilstad, Doreen Drennan, 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

Pastoral Office Hours: Generally 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Wednesday or by appointment
Business Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday
(Church hours are approved by Session and posted on church entry doors.)

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 2021: Ann Febock, Melanie Rumpf

Class of 2022: Joe Leto, Mike Stitz

Class of 2023: Randy Johnson

CHURCH STAFF

Music—

Accompanists: Karen Brunk, Marian Korth, Angie Williams

Business Manager: Ruth Poole

Pastor: Pastor Scott Marrese-Wheeler: (608) 417-0231 cell;
Pastor@OCPChurch.com Facebook: Scott Marrese-Wheeler
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