



Service for the Lord's Day

1st Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022

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

The Call to Worship [Responsive]

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

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

Many: And also with you!

One: Listen to the Spirit urging us to get ready—

Many: Listen to the Spirit calling us to wait—

One: Listen to the Spirit inviting us to walk in the way of the Lord—

Many: This is good news!

One: The way of the Lord is the path of peace.

Many: We are glad to be in the house of the Lord!

One: May the Advent blessing of peace be with you.

Many: We rejoice, for we are blessed to walk in the light of God!

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.

Advent Scripture Lamentations 3:21-24

“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* #9O 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!**

Two+ (*A new way to share the peace of Christ and greet one another.*)

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Matthew 18:20

Question: “What gives you hope?”

We Listen for God’s Word

The Prayer for Illumination [Responsive]

One: Let us pray... God, you reach into our lives not through instruction, but story.

Many: **Open our hearts to be attentive: that seeing, we may perceive, and hearing, we may understand, and understanding, may act upon your word, that still lives and speaks to us. Amen.**

The Scripture

Isaiah 2:2-5

But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Matthew 24:36-44

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awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

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. Hugh Drennan

We Respond to God's Love

The Musical Reflection

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 SendingRev. Hugh Drennan

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



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)

Everyone is invited to stay for fellowship and refreshment following worship today.

- Today we welcome our Guest Preacher Rev. Hugh Drennan. Hugh, a previous pastor here, is now retired and lives in Lake Mills, Wisconsin. On his retirement business card the heading reads, "At play in the fields of the Lord." That means he plays a lot of golf among other things.
- Our musician today is Angie Williams.

ANNOUNCEMENTS —

- **Meeting of the Congregation – On Sunday, December 4 following worship,** there will be a meeting to hear the report of the Nomination Committee and elect the two new church Elders for the Class of 2025, Joe Leto and Melanie Rumpf.
- 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 18.

WORSHIP SERVICES UPDATE:

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 4 WORSHIP AT 10 AM – In-person worship continues this Sunday in the sanctuary. We still recommend using masks but it will be optional for those vaccinated and boosted, If someone is not vaccinated, we request that you still wear a mask. Everyone must still be mindful of their own health and the health of others.

POINSETTIAS: This year, we are again inviting people to donate a poinsettia. If you would like to purchase one, we invite you to do so, **bringing them to the church on Sunday, December 11.**

DO YOU NEED A HANDYMAN? – OCPC friend David Ludington is interested in doing some handyman work. If you have some little projects around your house, please talk to David at church, call 608-480-9448, or email him at numberonedad1989@gmail.com.

CAMBRIDGE FOOD PANTRY & RESOURCE CENTER – WISH LIST!

The Cambridge Food Pantry has been seeing a sharp increase in food insecurity among our neighbors, and like everywhere in America, the high cost of food and other household items is having an impact on our inventory.

With the growing number of neighbors in need and the low supply of food on our shelves, I am reaching out to ask for your help.

With the winter months ahead of us, the need will only increase, please consider helping your neighbors by donating to the food pantry.

The food pantry is currently seeking donations of: Soup (variety of canned soup), Corned Beef Hash, SpaghettiOs, Ravioli, other canned meals and pastas, Crackers (Saltines, Ritz, etc.), Baked Beans, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Pancake Syrup, Shampoo and Conditioner, Men's and Women's Deodorant, Razors, Bath Soap, Laundry Soap, Toothpaste.

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 generous support!

Kerry Marren, Community Activities Program, Cambridge Food Pantry Coordinator

PLEASE HOLD THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN PRAYER THIS WEEK —

Lorin Fulton
Margaret Hawkins
Linda Johnson
Jan & Nancy Kristiansen
Evelyn Reiner
Mardy Schilleman
Marilyn Schuster
Jenine Spack
The people impacted by Hurricanes Fiona, Ian and Nicole

The families of Caleb Wipperfurth, (CHS graduate who has died of cancer), Jim Schilleman, Donald Hawkins and 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 2022: Joe Leto, Mike Stitz. Clerk of Session: Judy Pearson

Class of 2023: Randy Johnson; Class of 2024: Mare Stewart, Mark Touhey

CHURCH STAFF

Music—

Accompanists: Karen Brunk, Marian Korth, Karen Tordera,
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

