



# Service for the Lord's Day

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 11, 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.

**The Gathering Music** ..... "My Soul in Stillness Waits" arr. Floeter  
"Of the Father's Love Begotten" arr. Carter

## **The Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude** ..... "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" arr. Rouse

## **Call to Worship** [Responsive]

*One:* The Peace of Christ be with you.

***Many:* And also with you.**

*One:* On this third Sunday of Advent we focus on joy. God is soaked in our world.

***Many:* God's Spirit lives and breathes in and through all that is.**

*One:* 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.

***Many:* Then we cannot but be joyful!**

## **The Lighting of the Third Candle of Advent – Joy**

On this third Sunday of Advent we focus 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 third candle of Advent this morning, reminding ourselves that in the midst of all that in the midst of all the chaos, violence, and political turmoil, Joy still comes to our world!

**The Advent Poem – For Joy** .....by Jan Richardson (The Advent Door)

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 Advent Prayer**

*One:* Let us pray... 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.

**Many:** 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** PH # 9..... “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!

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death’s dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind All people in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy strife, and discord cease; Fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

**The Liturgy of Installation of Elders Joe Leto and Melanie Rumpf**

**The Litany of Services**

*One:* There are different gifts,

**Many:** And it is the same Spirit who gives them.

*One:* There are different ways of serving God,

**Many:** And it is the same Lord who is served.

*One:* God works through different people in different ways,

**Many:** And it is the same God who purpose is achieved.

*One:* Each one is given a gift by the Spirit,

**Many:** To use it for the common good.

*One:* Together we are the body of Christ,

**Many:** And individually members of him.

**The Introduction of Those to be Installed:**

*One:* On behalf of the Congregation, we invite Joe Leto and Melanie Rumpf to come forward to be installed as Ruling Elders.

**The Question for Installation:**

*One:* Will you be a faithful Elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship,

nurture, and service? Will you share in the government and discipline, serving in governing bodies of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? If so, **I will.**

### **The Questions to the Congregation:**

*One:* Do we, the members of Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church accept Joe and Melanie as Ruling Elders called by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? If so, **We Do.**

*One:* Do we encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? If so, **We Do.**

### **The Prayer of Installation:**

Almighty God, in every age you have chosen servants to speak your word and lead your loyal people. We thank you for these women and men whom you have called to serve you. Give them the gifts they need to do their work, and fill them with the Holy Spirit, so they may have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, and be faithful disciples always. God of grace, who called us to a common ministry as ambassadors of Jesus Christ, trusting us with the message of reconciliation; give us courage and discipline to follow where your servants rightly lead us; that together we may declare your wonderful deeds and show your love to the world; through Jesus the Lord of all. Amen.

### **The Welcome**

**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 is your favorite Christmas cookie?”

## **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 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, ‘Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**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

**The Musical Response** WR # 199 ..... "Carol at the Manger"

**Holy Child within the manger, long ago yet ever near;  
come as friend to every stranger, come as hope for every fear.  
As you lived to heal the broken, greet the outcast, free the bound,  
as you taught us love unspoken, teach us now where you are found.**

**Once again we tell the story—how your love for us was shown,  
When the image of your glory wore an image like our own.  
Come, enlighten with your wisdom, come and fill us with your grace.  
May the fire of your compassion kindle every land and race.**

**Holy Child within the manger, lead us ever in your way,  
so we see in every stranger how you come to us today.  
In our lives and in our living give us strength to live as you,  
that our hearts might be forgiving and our spirits strong and true.**

## **We Respond to God's Love**

### **A Liturgy of Darkness and Light, Healing and Hope** [Responsive]

*One:* This time of year, in the midst of the seasonal darkness and the holiday each of us comes bearing our own hurts, our sorrows, those broken places in our lives. I would invite each of you to offer your personal wounds to the God who loves each of us deeply and wants to carry our pain. God waits patiently, gently calling out: "Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden, who grieve for a loved one, a loss of relationship, the death of a dream, a broken family relationship or the uncertainty of the future..

**Many: Lord, come to us through Your Light and Love.**

*One:* While around us are bright lights and merry messages not all in our heart is joyful. There is grief with the loss of relationships. Those we love are no longer with us

because of death. Those we have loved are estranged from us. Grief is the bittersweet consequence of the presence of love. It is one of the many feelings this season brings forth.

**Many: We find comfort in naming these feelings; we find some peace in being together.**

*One:* While around us are bright lights and merry messages not all in our heart is joyful. There may be pain in our bodies. Physical pain as a natural outcome of aging. Physical pain that presents itself in illness. Pain in the body that forces us to change and imposes limitations. Pain in its many forms is one of many feelings we experience during this season.

**Many: We find comfort in naming these feelings; we find some peace in being together.**

*One:* While all around us are bright lights and merry messages not all in our hearts is joyful. There may be anger and regret with the memories we hold. Anger with past experiences of hurt or abuse. Regret of our own actions that may have cause hurt to others. Anger that life has not turned out as we imagined. Regret for what we might have said or done. Anger and regret accompany us, and we feel their presence with us in this holiday season.

**Many: We find comfort in naming these feelings; we find some peace in being together.**

*One:* While all around us are bright lights and merry messages not all in our hearts is joyful. There is loneliness, Loneliness when we find ourselves alone after being long-partnered. Loneliness when we are separated from loved ones. Loneliness that never seems filled even with good company. Loneliness that is an ever-present aching in the heart we feel amidst the many feelings this season brings.

**Many: We find comfort in naming these feelings; we find some peace in being together.**

*One:* While all around us are bright lights and merry messages, yet in our hearts not all is joyful. We know grief and pain. We know anger and regret. We know hopelessness and loneliness. We know all these feeling, we name them, we live them for such is the human experience. That love presents us with the possibility of being hurt, with the grief of loss. That connection holds the potential of loneliness and uncertainty. That forgiveness can begin to heal anger and regret. That being alive is a courageous act in which we engage all of our emotions and ... this season brings forth many feelings.

**Many: We find comfort in naming these feelings; we find some peace in being together.**

*One:* In the midst of the seasonal, emotional, and spiritual darkness that can overwhelm us this time of year, we light these candles and remember. We light them 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. Lord, may Your Light shine bright, comforting all who grieve.

**Many: So come now, Light of the world, shine anew in and through us, to strength us in these dark days and times.**

*One:* Eternal Light, Comforting One, you promised to go before us; into our brokenness, into our hospital and hospice rooms, into our empty houses, into our graveyards, into our future held by God, and you are here, even now; waiting for each of us:

**Many: to hold us, to comfort us, to heal us, to help us find our way back to life. Amen.**

*One:* You are invited to come forward to receive a special prayer blessing and anointing. And then, if you wish, to light a candle in memory of a loved one or for another sense of loss.

## Music for Reflection

*One:* Let us pray.. Holy One, we give thanks to you for your loving presence that lights our paths even in the darkest, loneliest and difficult times. May we learn to comfort one another, helping to light their paths as we all make our way through life together,

*Many:* 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,. A link to our donor page is also on our website [www.ocpchurch.com](http://www.ocpchurch.com). (Click on the button with the green heart.) Thank you!

## We Depart to Do God's Will

**Closing Hymn** *PH* # 411 ..... "Arise, Your Light Is Come!"

Arise, your light is come! The Spirits call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;  
proclaim the captives' liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,  
bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

**The Sending** ..... Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

*One:* Friends, "Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break. And all things can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention. So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you."

*Many:* We go in peace to love and serve all in Christ's name.

*One:* Amen.

*Many:* Amen.

**The Sung Response** *PH* # 432 ..... "Song of Hope"

May the God of hope go with us everyday, Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way, Bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace, Singing, share our joy with all,  
Working for a world that's new, Faithful when we hear Christ's call.

**Postlude** .....“Savior of the Nations, Come” arr. Moeller

The liturgy this morning is from: The Sending ~ L.R. Knost.

*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.**

- Our musician today is Karen Brunk.

### **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 18.**

## **WORSHIP SERVICES UPDATE:**

### **4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 18 WORSHIP AT 10 AM – A SERVICE OF SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC:**

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.

### **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](mailto: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

Mardy Schilleman

Marilyn Schuster

Jenine Spack

The people impacted by Hurricanes Fiona, Ian and Nicole

The families of Evelyn Reiner, 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

**Telephone/Fax:** 608-423-3001

**Email:** [Office@OCPChurch.com](mailto:Office@OCPChurch.com) or [Pastor@OCPChurch.com](mailto:Pastor@OCPChurch.com)

**Web:** [www.OCPChurch.com](http://www.OCPChurch.com)

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

**Visit us on Facebook:** Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church

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

[Pastor@OCPChurch.com](mailto:Pastor@OCPChurch.com) Facebook: Scott Marrese-Wheeler

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