



# Service for the Lord's Day

Christ the King Sunday

November 26, 2023

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**

### **The Welcome and Announcements**

### **The Prelude**

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

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

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

*One:* Friends, Jesus became human like us, though not to reign as a king over us,

*Many:* **but to serve us, and to show us the way of God is the way of love.**

*One:* Jesus said the first would be last

*Many:* **and the last would be first.**

*One:* Jesus called us to become humble and serve one another,

*Many:* **and that the most important commandment was to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

*One:* This is the way of our Sovereign One who we alone worship and worship through our service even to the most vulnerable and "least of these."

### **The Opening Hymn** PH # 466 ..... "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

O for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of his grace!

Jesus, the name that charms our fears, That bids our sorrows cease;  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'Tis life, and health, and peace.

Christ breaks the power of reigning sin, And sets the prisoner free;  
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean, Christ's blood availed for me.

**My Gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad The honors of Thy name.**

## **The Call to Reconciliation**

*One:* We know that we have not lived as God hopes. But however fragmented we become, God longs to hold us together in grace and peace. Let us come with our prayers of confession and need to the One who prepares the way for our words. Let us pray...

## **The Prayer of Confession** [Responsive]

*One:* In these moments, Remembering God, we bring to you all the ways we have not lived as your people;

*Many:* **we stand by watching while those in need struggle to survive;**

*One:* we cast our lots with those who worship power and success;

*Many:* **we offer insults rather than words of grace to those who care for us;**

*One:* we scoff at your words which call us to a different lifestyle.

*Many:* **Forgive us, God of Mercy, for not knowing what we do to you, to others, to ourselves. Speak to us through Jesus Christ, our King and our Savior, who bears words filled with your tender mercy and gracious hope. Amen.**

## **The Assurance of Pardon**

*One:* Friends, This is the good news: God remembers! Not our sins, not our foolish lives, not our rebellion. God remembers us - and redeems us! God prepares the way for us – the way to grace, to hope, to new life.

*Many:* **Thanks be to God for this Good News! Amen.**

**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:* “Where did you eat your Thanksgiving meal?”

## **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**

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on

rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Matthew 25:31-36

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’

**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

*... musical interlude for quiet personal reflection...*

## **We Respond to God’s Love**

### **The Affirmation of Faith** [Responsive]

*One:* We trust in Jesus Christ,

**Many:** Fully human, fully God.

*One:* Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

**Many:** preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

*One:* Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified,

**Many:** suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.

*One:* God raised this Jesus from the dead,

**Many:** vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

*One:* With believers in every time and place,

*Many:* **we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

## **Special Prayer Music**

### **The Pastoral Prayer** [Responsive]

*One:* Let us pray... Confident in the gracious and ever-widening mercy of God, let us pray for the world, the body of Christ, and all who yearn for wholeness of life. Liberate us from our bondage to sin, God of freedom, that your church would continually be reshaped and reformed by the fire of the Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

*Many:* **hear our prayer.**

*One:* Show your righteousness, God of justice, that all who are oppressed and marginalized, forgotten, and cast aside would be given voice by elected leaders and compassionate citizens. Lord, in your mercy,

*Many:* **hear our prayer.**

*One:* Make wars to cease in all the world, God of peace, that all strife, violence, and bloodshed give way to reconciliation, compassion, and new life. Lord, in your mercy,

*Many:* **hear our prayer.**

*One:* Take us by our hand, God of companionship, when we are paralyzed by our fears and unable to step out in boldness. Give us courage to walk confidently with you. Lord, in your mercy,

*Many:* **hear our prayer.**

*One:* Give your stillness, God of calm, to all who are facing illness, surgery, or any uncertainty of health. May they know that their times are in your ever-healing hands. Lord, in your mercy,

*Many:* **hear our prayer.**

*One:* Write your law of love on our hearts, God of all, that we, like our forebears in faith, would be unswerving in our witness to your grace that is ours through the gift of faith. Lord, in your mercy,

*Many:* **hear our prayer.**

*One:* Listen to us when we call upon you, most merciful God, and grant us grace to entrust our lives and our world to your unfailing love, through Christ our Lord.

*Many:* **Amen.**

*One:* We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught the disciples to pray, saying...

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

**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**

# We Depart to Do God's Will

**Closing Music** *PH* # 339 ..... “Be Thou My Vision”

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise, Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word; I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

**The Sending** [Responsive] ..... Rev. Hugh Drennan

*One:* Let us go as inheritors of God's promises,

*Many:* **carrying the gifts of joy and hope to the world.**

*One:* Let us go as inheritors of Jesus' grace,

*Many:* **to bring justice to all, to share mercy with the forgotten.**

*One:* Let us go as inheritors of the Spirit's peace,

*Many:* **to work for reconciliation in the brokenness of our places.**

*One:* Let us go in peace to love and serve Christ by our service to others. Amen.

*Many:* **Amen.**

**\*Song of Dismissal** *PH* # 432 ..... “Canto de Esperanza”

May the God of hope go with us every day, 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**



Our liturgy this morning is from: The Assurance of Pardon ~ Thom Shuman –  
Lectionary Liturgies; The Sending ~ (c) Thom M. Shuman.

*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 —**

- 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 17.**

## **WORSHIP SERVICES UPDATE:**

### **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 3 WORSHIP AT ROCKDALE LUTHRAN CHURCH AT 9 AM; ADVENT WORKSHOP**

**AT 10 AM** – The Session has accepted the invitation of Rockdale Lutheran to join them at their church for worship on Sunday, December 3. They have extended the invitation to London Moravian Church as well. Rockdale and London are joining us here at OCPC on Sunday, December 17 for a festive worship filled with music and carols. Please plan to join us at Rockdale Lutheran for worship as together we kick-off the Advent season with the lighting of the first candle of Advent and celebrate communion together.

## **PLEASE HOLD THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN PRAYER THIS WEEK —**

Dale Febock  
Jan & Nancy Kristiansen  
Marilyn Schuster  
Dick Trailer

Victims of the growing number of Mass Shootings and gun violence in our nation.

Those recovering from fire and storm damage across the United States.

The families of: Sylvia Jensen; Fred Trailer (Dick’s brother); Stub Lund; Barbara Baker (Judy Pearson’s sister); Betty Mennenga (mother of Angie Williams), 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.

# DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR ADVENT AND

**CHRISTMAS** – Anyone who would like to help is invited to join us at the church on Saturday, December 2 at 9 a.m. Thank you to Mare Stewart for coordinating with the other volunteers to decorate the sanctuary.

**POINSETTIAS:** This year, we are inviting people to donate a poinsettia. We will not be ordering them through a particular place or organization. If you would like to purchase one, we invite you to do so, bringing them to the church on Sunday, December 10.

## Cambridge Food Pantry WISH LIST

Cereal

Hearty Soups

Canned Meals (Ravioli, etc.)

Instant Potatoes

Corned Beef Hash

Hamburger Helper

Salad Dressing

Ketchup

Cake Mix and Frosting

Sugar

Shampoo and Conditioner



A drop box is located outside the food pantry doors for your donations.



Thank  
YOU!

## 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](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

### **SESSION** (Meets the second Sunday of each month.)

Class of 2023: Randy Johnson.

Class of 2024: Mare Stewart, Mark Touhey

Class of 2025: Joe Leto, Melanie Rumpf

### **CHURCH STAFF**

#### **Music—**

**Accompanists:** Karen Brunk, Marian Korth, Angie Williams

**Business Manager:** Ruth Poole

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

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Facebook: Scott Marrese-Wheeler

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