



Service for the Lord's Day

1st Sunday after Christmas Day
December 26, 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

Call to Worship [Responsive]

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: We waited.

Many: And imagined a savior.

One: We imagined power.

Many: One like the world but stronger and on our side.

One: We imagined a king on a white horse wielding a sword.

Many: We got a baby born in a stable among the livestock.

One: We imagined the work done for us

Many: through the destruction of our enemies.

One: We receive a baby who will teach us our calling

Many: to seek reconciliation and to love expansively.

One: Praise be to God for the unexpected babe of Bethlehem.

Many: Praise to the wisdom of love. Amen!

The Hymn PH # 41 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come, and behold Him, Born the King of angels!

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning, Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing!**

Refrain

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation! Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!**

Refrain

The Lighting of the Advent Candles and Christ Candle Reflection:

(Advent Wreath Candles are lit.)

The Scripture John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

The Reflection “How the Light Comes” by Jan Richardson

I love how John tells it. His version of the Christmas story is absent of anything we can put into a manger scene—no baby Jesus, no Mary who dared to say yes to an archangel, no Joseph who risked believing in his dreams and allied himself with Mary and her child. No shepherds. No angels. No far-traveling, gift-bearing Magi wafting in on the fragrances of frankincense and myrrh.

John pares away the Christmas story to its essence: The Word. Light. Life. Dwelling among us. In the flesh. Glory and grace and truth.

In his telling, John the Evangelist invokes John the Baptist, Jesus’ way-making cousin who haunts the season of Advent. Himself a pared-down figure—the wilderness having worn away anything that would have hindered him from his call—John the Baptist is utterly at home in John the Evangelist’s telling of the story that enchants with its poetic simplicity and beauty. The Baptist knows about the basics, knows about getting to the heart of things, knows what it means to divest ourselves of anything that hinders us from preparing a way for the Word and proclaiming its presence in our midst.

And so for this day, in the Spirit of John the Evangelist and John the Baptist, a simple blessing and a prayer: that we may tell the story, that we may testify to the light, that the Word may take flesh in us this day and in all the days to come.

Scripture tells us “There is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear.” (1 John 4:18). God created this world in love and this world will end in the love of God. God’s love pervades all aspects of this life. From birth to death, pain to delight, strangers to lovers, God’s love is there.

The Blessing:

How the Light Comes

I cannot tell you
how the light comes.

What I know
is that it is more ancient
than imagining.

That it travels
across an astounding expanse
to reach us.

That it loves
searching out
what is hidden,
what is lost,
what is forgotten
or in peril
or in pain.

That it has a fondness
for the body,
for finding its way
toward flesh,
for tracing the edges
of form,
for shining forth
through the eye,
the hand,
the heart.

I cannot tell you
how the light comes,
but that it does.

That it will.

That it works its way
into the deepest dark
that enfolds you,
though it may seem
long ages in coming
or arrive in a shape
you did not foresee.

And so
may we this day
turn ourselves toward it.

May we lift our faces
to let it find us.

May we bend our bodies
to follow the arc it makes.

May we open
and open more
and open still
to the blessed light
that comes.

The Carol *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 Prayer of the Day [Responsive]

One: Let us pray... We have waited for a long time for your hope, your joy, your love to shine in the darkness of this world, Almighty God.

***Many:* Even now, in our gathering here, we await you.**

One: In our hearts, we still hope that your light will blaze forth, banishing the shadows of this world and guiding all the people back to you. Yet you did not come into this world in a show of power and glory. You did not shine forth for all of creation to behold. A tiny spark – a newborn baby, visible to parents and curious animals. A host of angels – away from the populated areas, singing to migrant workers. A sparkling star – guiding foreigners to see what neighbors could not.

***Many:* Open our hearts, merciful God, to the sparks of your presence still in this world. Open our eyes, that we might behold your presence in the least likely of places, and among the least likely of people.**

One: God with us, kindle your spark within us, that together we may shine forth your light, we might banish the shadows of this world, we might be the continuation of the Christmas miracle:

***Many:* Emmanuel is in this world, God is with us, now and evermore.**

One: Illumine our hearts, gracious God, that we might speak anew the words your Son will teach us...

***Many:* words of love, grace, compassion, mercy, forgiveness and peace. Amen.**

We Listen for God's Word

The Scripture

Matthew 25:31-46

“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.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

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

“Who Started Christmas?”

Tim McNurlen

The Musical Response with Carols Tim McNurlen and Angie Williams

Christmas Carol PH # 25 (verses 1 & 3) “Away in a Manger”
Away in a manger, no crib for His bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

Christmas Carol *PH* # 43 (verses 1 & 4) “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; And gathered all above, While mortals sleep, the angels keep
O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

Christmas Carol *PH* # 29 (verses 1 & 3) “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens There shone a holy light.

Refrain

Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

Christmas Carol *PH* # 60 (verses 1 & 3) “Silent Night”

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright!
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

We Respond to God's Love

The Pastoral Prayer [Responsive]

One: Let us pray... We come to adore you, little one. On bended knee, with hopeful heart,
and eyes stretched wide with wonder and awe. The gentleness of your gaze draws us
into the mystery of all that lies beyond, and in that place of falling into joy we yield all
that we are to you. And we pray.

Many: For those who are broken, Those who seek,

One: The trembling and the rumbling tummies,

Many: The haggard spirits and the ragged lives.

One: For those who cling to the last best thing,

Many: and those whose hearts pine for love.

One: Bless us, O Lord, whom we adore, and turn our faces ever toward you.

Many: For peace, for mercy, for the sake of all that is holy.

One: We come to adore you, O Christ, who taught his disciples and still teaches us today 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* # 40 "Joy to the World!"

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

The Poem and Sending Tim McNurlen

One: The Christmas Spirit Is that hope
Which tenaciously clings
To the hearts of the faithful
And announces
In the face
Of any Herod the world can produce
And all the inn doors slammed in our faces
And all the dark nights of our souls
That with God
All things are possible,
That even now
Unto us
A child is born!

Friends, let us go in the peace of Emmanuel, God-with-us, and bear the light of Christ to all the world!

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

We Carry the Light of Christ Out into the World

Postlude



The liturgy this morning is from: The Call to Worship ~ written by Tim Graves, and posted on his blog LiturgyBits: Little bits for worship; The Blessing ~ by Jan Richardson, 2015 Update: "How the Light Comes" appears in Jan's new book Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons; The Prayer of the Day ~ written by Rev. Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, Pastor at First Church Congregational in Rochester, NH; The Pastoral Prayer ~ written by Anne Fraley, rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in South Windsor, CT. Posted on RevGalBlogPals.

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)

- Today we welcome our Guest Preacher Tim McNurlen. Tim is a Certified Lay Speaker. He has filled pulpits in Methodist and Moravian churches throughout Southern Wisconsin. Tim is also a professional actor who has performed in State Parks in Wisconsin and Schools throughout Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan. For over 33 years Tim has been in the banking industry. A profession that took him from Wisconsin to Iowa, Utah and Boston Massachusetts. Tim is looking forward to retiring in October 2022. And he is pleased to be sharing Worship with the Cambridge Presbyterian community.
- Our musician today is Angie Williams.
- Pastor Scott is on vacation from December 25 – January 2.
- **Please pick up your 2022 Offering Envelopes, now available in Fellowship Hall. If we've missed your name, please notify the office.**

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:

2ND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS, JANUARY 2 WORSHIP AT 10 AM –In-person worship continues this Sunday in the sanctuary. The Dane County Mask Mandate has been extended to Tuesday, February 1. **Until then, masks are required of all people who enter the building**



UPDATE!

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.)

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Visit us on Facebook: Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church

SESSION (Meets the second Sunday of each month.)

Class of 2022: Joe Leto, Mike Stitz

Class of 2023: Randy Johnson

Class of 2024: Mare Stewart, Mark Touhey

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

Follow Rev. Scott on Twitter: @2revsScott

