

December 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Bringing Forth the Light

Prelude Jen Moser, Organist

Welcome and Announcements Pastor John Finn

*Responsive Reading April Aten, Liturgist

One: The darkness will soon give way to the light!

All: **The birth of our Savior is now in our sight!**

One: Let us offer thanks for our Father's loving choice!

All: **Giving us hope and a reason to rejoice!**

One: Praise to our God in Heaven above

All: **That we may abound in peace and in love!**

*Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" No. 211
Verses 1-4

*Prayer of Affirmation and Assurance

Gracious and Loving Savior, be with us this morning as we engage in worship. During these precious moments, let us savor your presence as we lift up our voices in prayer. Lend your ear to our pleas and our praises. We proclaim you as the Messiah — the one who shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

Lighting the Advent Candle Love

Unison Prayer

Father, we call out to you during this sacred season when we celebrate the birth of your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May there be peace in our hearts and tranquility in our world. Give us hope for a greater tomorrow when we might find joy and share our love with others as you so completely shared your love with us. Bless us and guide us as we seek to honor you, today and always. Amen!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus, we are frail in the flesh, which causes us to stumble and fall, but you are always there to pick us up, lift our spirits, forgive our sins, and purify our souls. For this undeserved gift of mercy and grace, we offer our profound gratitude as we confess our transgressions and pledge to live in accordance with your Word. Amen!

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Scripture Isaiah 7:13-14 CEB

New Testament Scripture Titus 3:1-8 CEB

Response One: Let us Rejoice in God's Holy Word!

All: **For His Word brings us Light, Hope, and Joy.**

*Gloria Patri No. 70

*Hymn "Just as I Am, Without One Plea" No. 357
Verses 1, 2 and 6

Message "Conflating the Christmas Story" Pastor John

Our Morning Prayer

As we gather today as a fellowship of believers, let us lift up our prayers and petitions at this time.

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer No.895

Presentation to God of Our Gifts

*Doxology No. 95

*Hymn "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" No. 240

*Benediction and Postlude

**= please stand in body or spirit*

We welcome Gene and Joyce Varns as new members of Oak Chapel by Letter of Transfer.

Rockin' Around the Chrismon Tree

We invite you to take a moment to look up and enjoy the beautiful ornaments on the tree. Each ornament was exquisitely crafted by members of the Oak Chapel Family, many of whom are now with the angels and the saints in heaven. There are about 75 ornaments on the tree, and each one has a special meaning. Here are just a few more of the lesser known Chrismon symbols...

The Shell: This ornament represents the Sacrament of Holy Baptism from Matthew's Gospel in which Jesus says, "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

The Torch: This is a symbol of the light and the witnessing we are to do to make Christ known to others as stated in Matthew 5:16 "Let your light shine before men that they may see your works and give glory to your Father, who is in heaven."

The Lilly: This beautiful flower is more commonly associated with the Easter season, but it originates with the Christmas story because it represents the resurrection of Jesus and the promise of eternal life for all who choose to proclaim him as their Lord and Savior.

There is a booklet on the first pew in front of the Chrismon Tree. We urge you to pick it up, page through it, and consider the many gifts we have been given as Disciples of the Lord, and how we can use them to reach out to others and exalt God's name in the process.

Celebrate Christmas Eve With Us

You've made your list and checked it twice, but just to be safe, be sure that you have circled December 24th on your holiday calendar. That evening, we will host our annual Christmas Eve service at Oak Chapel. Make plans to join us, and consider inviting a friend or family member as we welcome the Christ child once again into our church and into our lives. The service begins at 7 p.m., and all are welcome!



Our Prayer List

Our neighbors and our community
Those serving in the armed forces
Our country, its leaders

Our church family

Jennifer Adair	Elsie Mykrantz
Betsy Bower	Christy Rickard
Bill Feldman	Elaine Sprinkle
Esther Franks	Sandy Treece
Ewing Giffin	Jen Moser
Mark Ritchey	Jim and Patti Pfander
Ann Kahrig	Cameron Boyer

Our Friends, Family and Neighbors

All who are suffering with COVID
Melissa Davis, who is recovering from heart surgery
Kris Hawkinson, who is recovering from cancer surgery
Pat Rickard's mother
Tornado victims
Broc and Katy Derr and their unborn twins
The family of Patti Scripts
The Howard Webb family following the death of his daughter

Today's Prayer Concerns

Names will be removed from this list after three weeks unless otherwise requested.

Opportunities for Ministry This Week

Sunday 12/19	Sunday School	9:30 am
	Worship	10:30 am
	Fellowship Dinner	11:30 am
	Speaker	12:15 pm
Monday 12/20	Bible Study	9:30 am
	Trustees	6:30 pm
Tuesday 12/21	Days for Girls	1:00 pm
Friday 12/24	Christmas Eve	7:00 pm
Saturday 12/25	Christmas Day	

Looking Ahead

Sunday 12/26	Sunday School	9:30 am
	Worship	10:30 am
Monday 12/27	Prayer Shawl	6:00 pm

Office Closed 12/27/2021-1/1/2022

Tornado Relief

UMCOR is responding to the deadly tornadoes. As the massive storm cleanup continues across the country, we ask for your immediate response in prayer and financial support. Please **be there** for survivors by supporting UMCOR US Disaster Response with a gift today. To give by check, please send checks payable to Advance GCFA and mail to:

Global Ministries | UMCOR
GPO
P.O. BOX 9068
NEW YORK, NY 10087-9068

United Methodist Women, January 8, 2022

We will start with breakfast at 9:30, followed by a brief business meeting and then a speaker. We have voted to support Operation Christmas Child in 2022. A woman who has supported this project will attend our meeting to give an explanation of this program and how we can best serve the children. Please attend the meeting to hear our speaker who has a great passion for this project. Phyllis Weaver and Sandy Hower have helped her and asked us to help pack 50 boxes back in October. You will be amazed at the things these children need in their everyday lives. Please join us to learn how we can begin to gather items all year around.

Oak Chapel United Methodist Church December 19, 2021



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John Finn, *Pastor*

*Serving God and Community
through Love, Compassion,
Fellowship and Caring*