

December 15, 2024

Bringing Forth the Light

Prelude Jen Moser

Welcome and Announcements Pastor John

Opening Prayer Pastor John

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy Erica Boyer/Alex Merwin

Responsive Proclamation (Psalm 25:4-5) Pastor John

Pastor Show us your ways, Lord!

People: Teach us your paths!

Pastor: Guide us in your truth, and teach us!

People: For you are God our Savior!

*Apostles' Creed Miriam Zech

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. On the third day, He rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace Miriam Zech

*Hymn "Angels from the Realms of Glory" No. 220

*Prayer of Assurance Miriam Zech

Father of all that is good, we give you thanks and praise for the joy of this journey. Help us to overcome the obstacles that cause us to stumble and sometimes fall, so that we can rise above the tumult and turmoil and ascend to the glory that you have planned for us. In Your Magnificent Name, we pray. Amen!

Call to Confession Pastor John

Prayer of Confession Pastor John

Most Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have failed to love you with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. We are truly sorry, and we repent with great sincerity. Have mercy on us and forgive us so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your name, forever and ever. Amen!

Prayer of Preparation Pastor John

Scripture 1 I John 2:15-17 Pastor John

Scripture 2 Matthew 6:19-20 Miriam Zech

Scripture 3 I Timothy 6:17-19 Pastor John

Response

One: Let us rejoice in God's Holy Word

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

*Gloria Patri

*Hymn "Go Tell It on the Mountain" No. 251

Chancel Choir "Hear Our Prayer"

Message "An Angelic Investment" Pastor John

Our Morning Prayer Pastor John
The Lord's Prayer No. 895

Presentation of Our Gifts

*The Doxology

*Prayer Over Our Offerings Pastor John

*Hymn "Angels, We Have Heard on High" No. 238

Benediction Pastor John

Postlude Jen Moser

**=An Invitation to Stand in Body or Spirit*

WHAT'S COMING UP?

Advent Bible Study

Oak Chapel's Advent Bible Study concludes Wednesday evening, beginning with a light supper of soup and bread at 5:30 p.m. The study will commence at 6 p.m. and conclude at 6:50 p.m. so that members of the choir can attend practice at 7 p.m. There is no cost or pre-registration necessary, and you are not obligated to attend every session. Come when you can.

Tis the Season!

Our annual Christmas Hymn Sing is today at 2 p.m. Join us for a festive and inspiring afternoon of uplifting and joyful Christmas music. Admission is free and everyone in the community is welcome, so invite a friend or neighbor. The concert will be followed by a desert reception featuring a delicious variety of Christmas baked goods.

Church Endowment Fund

Oak Chapel has established an endowment fund to provide financial security for the future of the church. As you consider your estate planning, keep in mind that all gifts are protected as principal and that all dividends can be applied to future needs or opportunities at Oak Chapel.

Colors of Christmas

- ♥ December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent — **Blue**
- ♥ December 24: Christmas Eve—7:00 — **White**
- ♥ December 25: Happy Birthday Jesus
- ♥ December 29: **Gold**

Glass Candy

There is a limited supply of candy remaining in the Narthex. See Elizabeth or Miriam.



Praises and Prayers

Gracious Lord Jesus, we rejoice as we anticipate the anniversary of your birth during this sacred season of Advent. As we gather today, we ask that you to hear our voices as we lift up the following praises and prayers before you....

Praises

- *For God’s presence in our church and our world
- *For the compassion of our caregivers
- *For our warm and welcoming church
- *For Bruce Bloch’s recovery and the power of prayer
- *For Caroline Lilburn as she continues her rehabilitation
- *For Jennifer Adair as she continues to recover

Prayers

- *For the Family of Fred Cannon, who passed recently
- *For the family of Cheyanne Vansickle, who also passed
- *For traveling mercies for the Zech Family

Celebrate Christmas Eve With Us

Oak Chapel will celebrate Christmas Eve with its annual worship service on Tuesday, December 24, at 7 p.m. Make plans to join us, and consider inviting a friend, neighbor, or family member as we welcome the Christ child once again into our church and into our hearts.

Check Out Our Chrismon Tree

Don’t let the Christmas season pass without checking out our Chrismon Tree. The Chrismon Tree, which came to North America in 1957, is adorned with ancient symbols for Christ or some part of His ministry, including the Descending Dove, the Celtic Cross, the Shepherd’s Crook, the Sacred Chalice, and more than 40 other symbols. These unique ornaments help us to focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

Opportunities for Worship and Ministry This Week...

Sunday 12/15	Sunday School Worship The Light Within Us	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m.
Monday 12/16	Bible Study Trustees	9:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday 12/17	Girl Scouts	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday 12/18	Advent Bible Study Choir Rehearsal	5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
Looking Ahead		
Sunday 12/22	Sunday School Worship	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Monday 12/23	Prayer Shawl Ministry Girl Scouts	6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday 12/24	Worship	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday 12/25	<i>Happy Birthday Jesus!</i>	

Upcoming Worship Services

December 22.....	A Blue Christmas
December 24.....	A Sky full of Stars
December 29.....	Is This Real or Artificial

Thought for the Day

You are never too lost to be found by God

Last Week’s Attendance:43 in person..... 21 online

Last Week’s Offering: \$5313

Blue Christmas Services

Shreve Community Church (430 N Main St. Shreve) will host its annual Blue Christmas Service on Monday, December 23, at 6:30 p.m. This time of reflection enables those who have lost loved ones to rest in the presence of God and feel his comforting hand in the midst of struggle and grief. For more information, call 330-567-2051.

Church of the Cross (5100 Cleveland Rd) will also host a Blue Christmas Service on Sunday, December 22, at 2:00 p.m. All are welcome.

**Oak Chapel
United Methodist Church**



December 15, 2024

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John Finn, *Pastor*

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

Today’s Message

“Emotional Investment”

Third Sunday of Advent