

OAK HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 9, 2018

2nd Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m.

TIME OF QUIET PREPARATION

As you arrive in the sanctuary, please quiet and prepare yourself for worship. Relax your body; quiet the inner dialogue of your mind; be open and receptive to God's Spirit in our midst.

***those who are comfortable, please stand**

GATHERING

PRELUDE *O Come, Holy Savior* Traditional German Carol

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES The Woodward Family
Sing verses 1 and 5 of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* No. 88

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Adapted from Luke 1:68-79

One: Blessed be the Lord!

Children: *God loves us and saves us!*

All: God has raised up a mighty savior for us.

One: God has shown mercy and God has fulfilled promises.

Children: *God always remembers us!*

All: God is coming to be with us again.

One: And we are called to go and prepare the way.

Children: *Prepare the way for Jesus!*

All: We are called to share the ways of our Lord:

One: To give knowledge of salvation to God's people.

Children: *To teach about forgiveness!*

All: To tell the story of God's love.

One: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

Children: *To give light!*

All: O Lord, let there be light for all who sit in darkness, and always, guide our feet into the way of peace.

One: Blessed be the Lord!

Children: *Let's worship God!*

All: Blessed be the Lord our God!

***OPENING HYMN** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* No. 82

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unison: God of Grace, we confess that we've been lost in the wilderness. We have found ourselves straying from the path, striding toward temptation, off on our own,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (cont'd)

secluded from your voice, your community, your word, and your call. But we remember that you hear us, even here. We remember that you love us, even when we've drifted away. We remember that you forgive us, even when we've hurt others, or hurt you. Hear our crying out, now. Receive our confession, now. And have mercy on us, O Lord. Call us back to you and renew in us a spirit of courage, wisdom, and faith, through Christ Jesus, we pray. AMEN.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*Cantor sings responses through first, followed by the congregation*)

"We will glorify the Kings of Kings. We will glorify the Lamb.

We will glorify the Lord of Lords. Who is the Great I AM." (repeat)

*SHARING THE PEACE

(Share the peace of Christ as you feel led, with a wave, a smile, a kind word, or a handshake.)

THE WORD

TIME FOR GROWING DISCIPLES

(At the conclusion of the Time for Growing Disciples, children ages birth to 3rd grade may stay in worship or go to the nursery.)

ANTHEM *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* 4th Century Plainsong
Kim Smith, flutist

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Malachi 3:1-4
(see insert)

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 3:1-6
(see insert)

SERMON The Rev. Erin Counihan

MEDITATION IN MUSIC

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Oak Hill is enriched, affirmed, and extended as we welcome new members into fellowship. We celebrate the gifts of new life and the rich diversity we share as a church.

Elder: Moderator, the following persons have been received into membership of this congregation by action of the Session.

Reaffirmation of Faith: Kristine Gould and Michael Hale

Covenant Questions

Prayer

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will 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.

*HYMN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

No. 104

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

(Please sign the Friendship Register found at the end of the pew. Complete information, including your email, and pass pad along to those worshiping with you.)

*Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Of the Father's Love Begotten

5th Century Plainsong

*Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

No. 607

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.*

CONGREGATIONAL JOYS AND CONCERNS AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Sung Prayer *Wait for the Lord* No. 90

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

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.

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

(Not merely announcements, but the activities of our life together that reflect our day-to-day responses to God's call for faithfulness, and your invitation to join in!)

SENDING

*CLOSING HYMN

Prepare the Way of the Lord

No. 95

*BENEDICTION

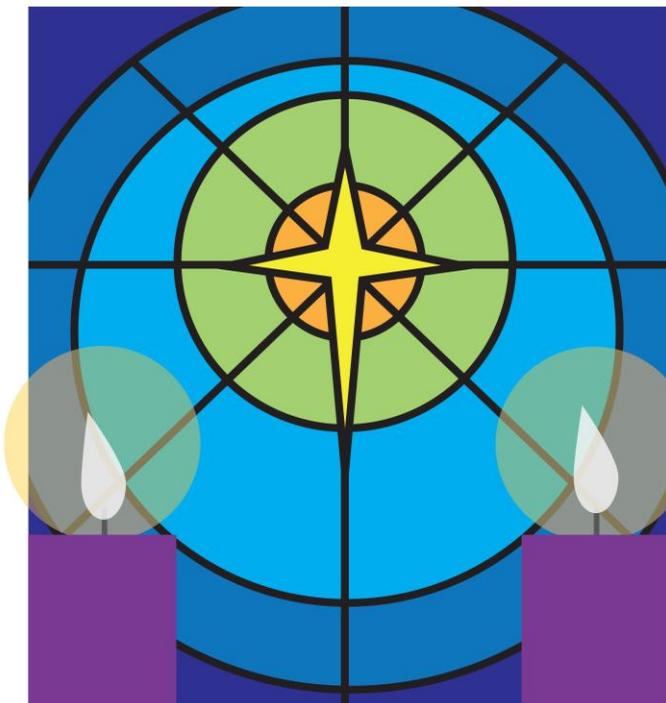
POSTLUDE

Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts

Saint-Saens

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Oak Hill Presbyterian Church



SECOND SUNDAY
OF
Advent

December 9, 2018

2018 ANNUAL REPORT - All committee chairs and organizational leaders are asked to prepare written summaries for the 2018 Annual Report. The deadline for submitting articles to the office is Friday, January 11, 2019. Reports may be submitted in writing or sent to the church via e-mail (office@oakhillpcusa.org). Any questions may be directed to Carole Adams, Clerk of Session

Presbyterian Youth Triennium: July 16-19, 2019



Presbyterian Youth Triennium is a gathering for high school age youth (entering 9th grade through graduated 12th grade) from the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church that occurs every three years. The 2019 event is July 16-20, 2019 at Purdue University.

The theme of the 2019 Presbyterian Youth Triennium gets right to the heart of the matter. Drawing from the words of the hymn, Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing, “Here’s My Heart” expresses our deepest desire to be part of something bigger and more beautiful than the tiny flicker of our own candles. It speaks of passion and identity. It speaks of purpose and action. Five days of CONVERSATION, RECREATION, LEARNING, WORSHIP AND FUN! Drawing from the rich and diverse theology, history and education of the Presbyterian tradition – the Triennium experience is packed with the information students long to explore!

The Presbytery is gathering a group of youth to attend Triennium together. There is an application on the Presbytery website, or you can contact Pastor Erin to get that form. Applications are due Dec. 19th. The cost is \$191 per student. The Rev. Mel Smith of Ladue Chapel is coordinating registration for our presbytery and can be contacted directly at msmith@laduechapel.org with any questions. You can also see more info at: www.glpby.org/2019-triennium/

Job Opening!

UKirk St. Louis, a Presbyterian campus ministry in the St. Louis area, is hiring a part-time Ministry Associate to help with communications and administrative tasks. The position is 8-10 hours per week. For more information, please go to www.ukirkstl.org and click on the button for “job opening”.

Oak Hill Presbyterian Church
 Rev. Erin Counihan, Pastor
 Rev. Dr. Alan Meyers, Parish Associate
 Mrs. Susan Brown, Minister of Music
 Ms. Annie Girresch, Director, AMEN St. Louis
 Ms. Carole Adams, Secretary
 Bulletin Deadline: Wednesday, 12:00 noon in writing.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

December 9, 2018

Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages
	10:30 a.m.	Service of Worship
	Following Worship	Time of Fellowship (and snacks)
Monday	7:45 – 8:00 a.m.	Prayer Pause
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Book Club at the Barrow Residence
Wednesday	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study in the Faith and Fellowship Room
	6:30 p.m.	Session Meeting in the Faith and Fellowship Room
Friday	6:30 p.m.	Arts and Crafts Club in the Theleos Room

We welcome you to worship at Oak Hill. We greet everyone in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and celebrate the gift of God’s incarnate love through our worship and service.

We hope you will stay and join us for a time of fellowship after worship today. We’ll gather downstairs for coffee and snacks!

For more information about what’s happening at Oak Hill, don’t forget to check out our website at www.oakhillpcusa.org.

Today's Liturgist is **Dena Roper**. Greeters are **Wendy Barrow and Josh Smith**. Ushers are **Donna Cook, Karl Kelley, Sheryl Ream, and Rich Wiethop**. Nursery Caregivers are **Matt Hanify and Heather Macarthur**. The **Mission Committee** is hosting the time of fellowship in December.

As a church family, we shall be praying this morning and all week for the following members and friends. You may wish to contact them to indicate your interest and ask if they have any special prayer concerns.

Brent, Millie, Lucie, and Gretchen Crittenden and Sarah Gibson
Mike, Kristy, and Miriam Hale
Linda and Lee Orellana

If you have a specific prayer request to share with the congregation, please fill out the yellow prayer request form in the pew and place it in the offering plate. For prayers and congregational support during the week, call Pastor Erin or the church office.

The book club will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 11, at the Barrow residence. We will be picking books for 2019. Please bring your dinner and join us. We are always looking for new members.

ATTENTION ELDERS – Session will meet on Wednesday, December 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the Faith and Fellowship Room. If any elder is unable to attend they should notify Pastor Erin or Carole Adams, Clerk of Session.

Please join us for Craft Night on Friday, December 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the Theleos Classroom, for a fun evening of crafting! It will be a "bring your own project" evening. It's a good time to work on those Christmas cards and winter projects. Please bring a snack to share! Please let Dena Roper know if you have any questions

Christmas Cantata – Sunday, December 16

What better way to lift your spirit than to share in the joy of the music of Christmas! The Chancel Choir of Oak Hill will present the cantata "*Holy Child*" by Marty Parks during our regular worship service. It is a combination of traditional and contemporary carols with narration recounting the birth of our Lord.

Presbyterian Women Christmas Cookie Sale next Sunday, December 16. Homemade cookies and other goodies. Cookies will be \$6 a pound. Donations are always appreciated! You don't have to be active in Presbyterian Women to donate something to the sale. If you make holiday breads, please price them for us. Donations should be brought to church by 10:15 a.m. on Sunday December 16, and delivered to the Presbyterian Women's table in the Large Assembly Room.. The sale will begin after the worship service.



Christmas Caroling! Join us next Sunday, December 16, at 2 p.m. to sing carols around the neighborhood. We'll meet at the church, don our silly holiday hats, pass out the song sheets, then wander a block or two singing and spreading holiday cheer. Bring your friends, invite your neighbors, warm up your vocal chords, and see you there!



The Worship and Christian Education Committee is collecting gloves for adults this year. We will be giving these items to the Isaiah 58 Ministries and other ministry partners to distribute to individuals who need them. Because we're looking to help folks stay WARM, please avoid those little "magic stretch" gloves. We're looking for big, thick, warm gloves! Please bring your items to church through December 16 and place them on the **tree located in the Large Assembly Room.** You are also invited to place your Christmas cards on this tree.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT OAK HILL: SAVE THE DATES!

Sun. Dec. 16 @10:30 a.m. Advent Worship with Cantata, PW Cookie Sale
Sun. Dec. 16 @2:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling in the neighborhood
Thurs. Dec. 20 @6:30 p.m. Blue Christmas Worship
Sun. Dec. 23 @10:30 a.m. Advent Worship with Children's Christmas Program
Mon. Dec. 24 @6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, Reception
Sun. Dec. 30 @10:30 a.m. Worship

Jeans for Teens! It's time for our annual collection for the Jeans for Teens Fund. For the last 5 years we have collected funds to assist with the Holiday Outreach project in the University City Public Schools. Christine Woodward, a church member and social worker at the school, facilitates the project by purchasing gift cards and more for families in need in their community. Our goal is \$500 for this great project. You can place your donation in a pew envelope and label it "Jeans for Teens." Thank you for your support! Please contact Dena Roper for more information.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Malachi 3:1-4

3See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Leader: This is the Word of the LORD;

People: thanks be to God!



SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:1-6

3In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Leader: This is the Word of the LORD;

People: thanks be to God!



The holiday season isn't all merry and bright for everyone all the time. So we set aside a night, to lament, to mourn, to grieve, to be still, to remember, and to pray for healing and hope. All are invited to this beautiful, evening worship experience, in the sanctuary on **Thursday, December 20, at 6:30 p.m.**



Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24. We will have a reception immediately following the service in our Large Assembly Room. We ask that everyone who is able bring hors d'oeuvres or appetizers to share. Please contact Donna Cook at (314) 807-3949 or belladonna63123@hotmail.com. with any questions.