

Oak Hill Presbyterian Church

The Shepherds' Story



Third Sunday in Advent
December 17, 2023

Youth of Oak Hill

Adelaide Bays-Hanify	Lucie Crittenden
Ian Beckmann	Audra Hoegger
Ellis Kohn-Bordeaux	Leland Hoegger
Nayeli Kohn-Bordeaux	Aidan Smith
Gretchen Crittenden	Roze Zigler

Thanks to Sarah Gibson, Lisa Thompson, and Toby Eckert
for their help in rehearsals,
and to Lucie Crittenden for the bulletin cover.

OAK HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 17, 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m.

***Please rise, in body or in spirit.**

Welcome

Rev. Wanda Lawry

Prelude

Night Falls on Bethlehem

Susan Brown

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Presbyterian Women

Congregation Sings

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel,
God with us, revealed in us; His name is called Emmanuel.*

***Call to Worship**

Toby Eckert

Leader: Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice before the God of all people.

People: Let us open our hearts in worship and trust and offer ourselves in willing service.

Leader: Let us come before God with receptive and willing spirits.

People: May our souls magnify God's name and may our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

All: Rejoice! We await the Savior's coming with gladness and with expectation that in the holy birth our lives may be strengthened and renewed.

***Opening Hymn**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

No. 93

***Prayer for the Day (unison)**

Toby Eckert

God of the Wilderness, God of the Wastelands of our lives, lead us apart to those places where we hear your Word most clearly. In the startling awareness of Christ's coming, may we order our lives with repentance and with compassion. Sift from our lives all useless chaff, that like good wheat into a barn, we may be gathered into the realm of your righteousness, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Call to Confession

Rev. Wanda Lawry

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Oak Hill Community

Almighty God, Light of the World, you caused light to shine out of darkness in the advent of Jesus Christ; you continually open to us the ways we are to prepare. We confess our unwillingness to see the light and to walk in your ways. We have not always opened our eyes to the needs of others, and our feet have wandered from the path of justice and peace. We ask that the Spirit of Christ be born anew within us, that our hearts may be moved to glorify the nativity with acts of kindness, compassion, and service. Amen.

Time for silent prayers of confession.

Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Wanda Lawry

Peace

Oak Hill Community

Children's Christmas Program

"The Shepherds' Story"

Youth of Oak Hill

Offering *You can make an offering online at www.oakhillpcusa.org,
place it in the plate on the table in the back of the sanctuary or mail your check to the church.* Oak Hill Community

***Response** *We Give Thee but Thine Own*
**We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord from thee.**

Prayers of the People Oak Hill Community

The Lord's Prayer Oak Hill Community

**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.**

Announcements Pastor Wanda

***Closing Hymn** *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow* No. 135

Benediction Pastor Wanda

Postlude *Music Box Carol* Susan Brown

*Thank you for participating today in worship with Oak Hill. Please check our website for more
information and updates: www.oakhillpcusa.org.*

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
 thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7–10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer's heart, and concludes with the individual's welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.

TEXT: Georg Weissel, 1642; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1855, 1863
 MUSIC: *Musica Sacra*, c. 1778

TRURO
 LM

There's a Star in the East 135

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

1 There's a star in the east on Christ-mas morn. Rise up, shep-herd, and
 2 If you take good heed to the an-gel's words, rise up, shep-herd, and

fol-low. It will lead to the place where the Christ was born.
 fol-low. You'll for-get your flocks; you'll for-get your herds.

Refrain

Rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low. Fol-low, fol-low;

rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low. Fol-low the star of

Beth-le-hem. Rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.

This African American spiritual, cast in a characteristic call-and-response style, provides a reminder that the good news of the Incarnation should lead Christians not only to awe and adoration but also to living and acting in ways that make God's purposes known to others.

TEXT and MUSIC: African American spiritual

FOLLOW
Irregular