



*REDEMPTION'S QUEST:
AN ADVENT JOURNEY*

**Oak Grove Church of the Brethren
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2024**

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December 22, 2024 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

Introit

Of the Father's Love Begotten
(Congregation, please join on 4th verse.)

Divinum Mysterium

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
Arranged by Christopher Walker



1. Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds
2. Bless - ed was the day for ev - er when the Vir -
3. This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of
4. O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore him; an - gel hosts,

1. be - gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
2. gin, full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
3. with one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
4. his prais - es sing; all do - min - ions, bow be - fore him,

1. he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are,
2. bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the child, the world's
3. prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long -
4. and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth

1. that have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
2. Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
3. ex - pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise the Lord,
4. be si - lent, ev - ery voice in con - cert ring,

1-4. ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: 87 87 87 7; *Corde natus ex parentis*; Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413;
tr. by John M. Neale, 1818–1866, and Henry W. Baker, 1827–1877. Music: *Sanctus* trope, 11th cent.;
Chant, Mode V; adapt. fr. *Piae Cantiones*, Greifßwald, 1582; arr. © 2019, 2021 Christopher Walker.
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Welcome and Announcements, Joys and Concerns

Prelude

For Unto Us A Child is Born

Arr. Hayes

*Call to Worship

The congregation responds in bold.

Along redemption's quest, we might think we've been fooled—the thing we've desired doesn't always appear as we expected.

Gazing upon the infant Jesus, we see the One promised of old—the One who will exalt the lowly and bring down the mighty so that all might have enough.

Do we believe that this Jesus is the One for whom we've searched? Can we imagine that in Jesus we find all we need for this life and the next?

We light this candle as a sign of our belief that in Jesus we have found the One we have desired.

***Prayer of Invocation**

God of Love, Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, the One for whom we have joined redemption's quest. Having committed our lives to him because of his work in his first coming, may we both wait and prepare well for his coming again. Amen.

***Hymn**

O come, all ye faithful

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1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 True God of true God, Light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem. Come and be - hold him,
our low - ly na - ture he hath not ab - horred; Son of the Fa - ther, be -
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God, all
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels.
got - ten, not cre - at - ed.
glo - ry in the high - est. O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let
now in flesh ap - pear - ing.

us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Text: John F. Wade, ca. 1743, *Adeste fideles laeti triumphantes*, Office de St. Omer (Sts. 1,3-4), 1822, Etienne J. F. Borderies (St. 2), 1822; tr. Frederick Oakeley and others (Sts. 1,3-4), 1841, alt., William Mercer (St. 2), 1854
Music: attributed to John F. Wade, ca. 1743, *Essay on the Church Plain Chant*, 1782

Offering

*To make an online contribution,
scan the QR code on the back of the bulletin.*

Offertory

What Child is This

Arr. Smith/Hustad

***Response**

Gloria (refrain)

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Hearing from God's Word

Scripture

John 1:14 (NT, p. 91)

Message

Redemption's Quest: Desire

Pastoral Prayer, with the Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Scripture

Isaiah 40:3-5

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Song

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

D. Clydesdale

Scripture

Mark 1:1-4

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight,'"

so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Scripture**Luke 2:11**

to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Song

One Small Child
(Women's Ensemble)

arr. Molly James

Scripture**Luke 2:12**

This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

Song

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Howard Helvey

Scripture**Luke 2:13-20**

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,
praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,
"Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has
made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child
lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them
about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and
Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds
returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been
told them.

Song

Carol of the Angels

Allen Pote

Narrator***Hymn**

Joy to the world (vs. 1, 4)

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1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room, and
 ploy while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, re -
 ground. He comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: based on Psalm 98, Isaac Watts, *Psalms of David* ..., 1719, alt.
 Music: Lowell Mason, *Occasional Psalm and Hymn Tunes*, 1836

Narrator

Song

A Spiritual Christmas

arr. T. Fettke

***Benediction**

***Sending Song**

We Three Kings (refrain)

1045

***Postlude**

ANTIOCH

Handel

*Please stand as you are able.

THANKS to our Narrators

John King III
Monica Rich

THANKS to our Choir

Sopranos

Victoria Goodman
Julie Hall
Sharon Hanger
Rosie Wood
Susan Woodard

Altos

Eleanor Brogan
Shelly Haas
Jill Mooney
Becky Widdowson

Tenors

Sara Blaha
Tim Harvey
Fred Porter
Scott Yingling

Basses

Joe Blaha
Marshall Brogan
Jake Keating
Ralph Petcher
Mike Tyler

THANKS to our Instrumentalists

Stephen Wills, organ
Joe Blaha, piano, arranger
Ric McClure, trumpet
Kathie Robinson, flute
Sam Phillips, viola
Ronald Robinson, string bass

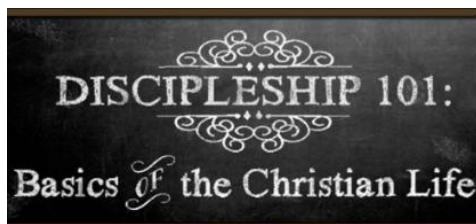
UPCOMING EVENTS



Sunday, December 29

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship



A class for our youth January 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2025 beginning at 9:45 a.m.

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING (12/15)

Sunday School: 28

Worship: 102 (in person); 28 (online) = 130

Offering: \$7,989.00; \$785.00 (online) = \$8,774.00

PRAYER

Jonna Detweiler, cancer treatment

Rachel Mabe, battling cancer

Phyllis Meadows, Pheasant Ridge Nursing Center

Marge Montgomery, Pheasant Ridge Rehab

Tanya Pizzullo, cancer diagnosis

Rena' Brown, hip surgery recovery

Gil Henshaw, lung cancer

You will see several Nativity sets decorating our church. They are from the collection of Emma Jean Woodard. Please enjoy.

CHURCH STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Pastor Tim Harvey
pastortim@oakgrovecob.org

Minister of Nurture and Music Carol Elmore
elmores24153@gmail.com

Worship leader John King & Monica Rich

Nursery Amanda and Jaxson Leddy
Gloria Harmon & Cooper Purcell

Nursery (12/29) Ellen Phillips, Anna Hosey
Joan Simpson & Cooper Purcell

Head Usher Bill Hall

Sound Booth Don Pizzullo, Evan Jacobs
& Eli Raymond

CONNECTING WITH OAK GROVE



Find us on Facebook:
Oak Grove Church of the Brethren



Interested in supporting our mission and ministry financially? Scan this QR code to contribute to via Tithely.



Pews and chairs marked with this logo are reserved for persons with mobility challenges and their companions.



Need a hearing device, wheelchair, cushion, or have a question? Our head usher will be glad to be of assistance.



Childcare is available during the worship service for children birth to 2nd grade.



Hospitality is an important part of our life together—we want to know your name! If you're new here, we'd be glad to make a nametag for you. If you've been here a while, we'd love to provide a permanent nametag.