

GROWING
BEARING
BRANCHING OUT
ROOTS
FRUIT



Oakwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DECEMBER 24, 2023



WELCOME | TO OAKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are so glad you've joined us today! We pray that you see Jesus Christ glorified in our midst, and that you are led to glorify Him as well. As a church our vision, by God's grace, is to become "oaks of righteousness," growing roots deep in God's Word, bearing fruit of God-centered holiness and worship, and branching out with Gospel-centered witness and service to State College, Penn State, Central Pennsylvania, and the world.

Get connected on Church Center: If you are new here and would like to receive Oakwood news and announcements, or just want to share a prayer request, please see the tear-off section on the last page of this bulletin or send an email with your information to churchoffice@oakwoodpca.org.



Children in Worship: *For those with small children, we offer nursery for ages 7 months to 3 years during the sermon in both the 8:30 am and the 11:15 am service. Children will need to check-in through our Church Center system. PLEASE NOTE: children need to be picked up by a parent during the last song. Unsure what to do? Reach out to one of our ushers or talk to someone at the Welcome Center.*

December 24, 2023

Prelude

8:30 – Amy Gustafson | 11:15 – Oakwood Musicians

Announcements

Christmas Eve Service

8:30 Silent time of reflection

"Behold a new and wondrous mystery. My ears resound to the Shepherd's song, piping no soft melody, but chanting full forth a heavenly hymn. The Angels sing. The Archangels blend their voice in harmony. The Cherubim hymn their joyful praise. The Seraphim exalt his glory. All join to praise this holy feast, beholding the Godhead here on earth, and man in heaven. He who is above, now for our redemption dwells here below; and he that was lowly is by divine mercy raised."

~ St. John Chrysostom

11:15 Oakwood Choir

He is Born

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

God's Word of Invitation

Luke 2:8-14

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

8:30 SERVICE MUSIC

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hymn #203

11:15 SERVICE MUSIC

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Words: Charles Wesley, *Hymns and Sacred Poems*, 1739, alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn, in his cantata *Festgesang an die Künstler*, 1840 (second movement, *Vaterland, in deinem Gauen*); the cantata celebrated the 400th anniversary of Johann Gutenberg's invention of the printing press. This arrangement, by William H. Cummings, appeared in the *Congregational Hymn and Tune Book*, by Richard R. Chope, 1857.

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

3. Hail, the heav'n-born
Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

Our Prayer of Adoration

Rev. Ben Lee

THE CONFESSION OF SIN & ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God's Law

Luke 5:30-32

Our Prayer of Confession

Silent Prayer

God's Promise to Pardon

Galatians 4:4-7

8:30 SERVICE MUSIC

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymn #201

11:15 SERVICE MUSIC

In Christ Alone

2001 Thankyou Music Keith Getty, Stuart Townend (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing). | CCLI License No. 478868

1. In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest
Drought and storm.
What heights of love,
What depths of peace,
When fears are stilled,
When strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

2. In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.

3. There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious
Blood of Christ.

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand.

THE BLESSINGS OF REDEMPTION

Advent Reading

Isaiah 60:1-5, John 1:9-18

8:30 – Ed and Ruth Fenton | 11:15 – The Scott Family

Isaiah 60:1-5

- ¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
- ² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
- ³ And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
- ⁴ Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.
- ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

John 1:9-18

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

**God's Promise to Hear
Prayer of Petition
God's Promise to Provide
Our Tithes and Offerings
11:15 Oakwood Choir**

8:30 SERVICE MUSIC

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

11:15 SERVICE MUSIC

What Child is This

Public Domain

1. What child is this who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

2. Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary.

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Psalm 40:3
Elder Brian Roberg
Psalm 40:16-17
Offertory
Cradle Song

Hymn #211

THE WORD OF LIFE*

Hebrews 11:30-12:2

Senior Pastor Rev. Dan Kiehl

RUNNING WITH ENDURANCE BY FAITH

^{11:30} By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies. ³² And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. ³⁹ And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

8:30 SERVICE MUSIC*

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Hymn #207

11:15 CONGREGATIONAL SONG*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Translator: John Mason Neale (1851). Tune: VENI EMMANUEL (Chant) Opening Hymns. Published in 411 hymnals. Public Domain. | CCLI License No. 478868

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

4. O come, thou Dayspring from on high
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

5. O come, thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

3. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

THE BLESSING & SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

God's Promise of Blessing

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen, Amen.

Postlude

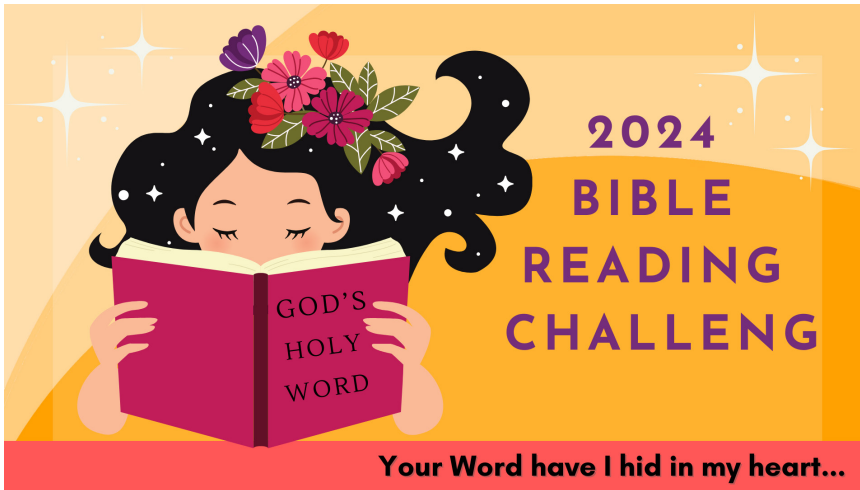
8:30 – Amy Gustafson | 11:15 – Oakwood Musicians



HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE
DECEMBER 24, 2023 | 6:00 PM

OAKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1865 WADDLE ROAD, STATE COLLEGE



WOMEN'S ONE-YEAR BIBLE READING CHALLENGE

The women of Oakwood are invited to take on this year's Fourth Annual Bible Reading Challenge starting January 1, 2024. Let's read our way through God's Word together, encouraging and sharing our thoughts about the daily assigned passages through the Church Center App and other social media. You can find the new Church Center group forming by logging into oakwoodpca.churchcenter.com and look for *2024 Women's Bible Reading Challenge*.

Look for the details of where you can access the plan online or get the printed copy of the reading plan coming out soon!

OAKWOOD ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE

Online giving is available by going to
www.oakwoodpca.org/give

WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING AT OAKWOOD?

Want to receive the weekly email announcements? You can fill out the tear off portion of the bulletin and check "Receive the e-announcements," send an email to churchoffice@oakwoodpca.org or sign up on the website at www.oakwoodpca.org



Looking to get involved with a community of believers on campus?

Contact Cam Smith:
cam.smith@ruf.org

Contact Richard Smith:
richard.smith@ruf.org for
RUF International



HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST?

Complete online by using the QR code or complete the section below and place it in the offering plate.

GET >>>> CONNECTED



Complete online by using the QR code or complete the section below and place it in the offering plate.

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

EMAIL

PHONE

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP

SPOUSE / CHILDREN'S NAMES

I WOULD LIKE TO:

- Become a member
- Be contacted by an Elder
- Join a small group
- Volunteer for:

- Receive the e-announcements
- Add my info to the directory
- Get more info about Oakwood

Have a prayer request?

Please complete the other side.

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING AT OAKWOOD?

Learn about ministry events going on throughout the week, & learn more about our church online!

www.oakwoodpca.org

OAKWOOD CHURCH OFFICE

Need to get in touch with us during the week?

OFFICE HOURS: M-F | By Appointment

PHONE: 814.238.5442

EMAIL: churchoffice@oakwoodpca.org

ADDRESS: 1865 Waddle Rd.
State College, PA 16803



Oakwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH