



SONGS OF ADVENT

THE NUNC DIMITTIS



Oakwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
December 21, 2025

WELCOME TO OAKWOOD

The Oakwood church family is multi-generational and multi-cultural. We are singles, young couples just starting out, families of all ages, and retirees. Every year we welcome Penn State undergrads and grad students from all over the world. We are all different but united by an earnest quest to know and serve our Lord.

*By God's grace, we long 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.*

Prelude

8:30 – Rick Betts | 11:15 – Oakwood Musicians

Welcome and Announcements

Silent Time of Reflection

Oakwood Adult and Children's Choir

Come Near to the Manger

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

God's Word of Invitation

Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "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. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

8:30 SERVICE MUSIC
Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Hymn #207

11:15 SERVICE MUSIC
Joy to the World!

Words by Isaac Watts based on Psalms 98, 1719. Music by George Frideric Handel. Antioch C.M. rep. Arranged by Lowell Mason, 1836.
Public Domain | Arranged by Keith Getty and Fionan de Barra

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven
And nature sing.

4. He rules the world
With truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

2. Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

Our Prayer of Adoration

Rev. Dan Kiehl

THE CONFESSION OF SIN & ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God's Law

James 5:7-11

Corporate Prayer of Confession

God's Promise to Pardon

Isaiah 44:21-23

8:30 SERVICE MUSIC

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymn #201

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.

THE BLESSINGS OF REDEMPTION

Advent Explanation

“Advent is a tradition observed throughout many centuries of church history, where the four Sundays leading up to Christmas day are focused upon the “advent” (“coming” or “arrival”) of Jesus Christ. With its association to the celebration of Christmas, it’s primary focus has been upon Christ’s first coming, His incarnation. But, historically, Advent has also been a time to focus on Christ’s second coming, when He will bring to completion the deliverance and transformation promised to His people and all creation.”

Advent Reading

4th Sunday of Advent

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

8:30 – The Gay Family | **11:15** – John and Brea Asbury

Oakwood Choir

Sussex Carol

God's Promise to Hear

Psalm 40:1-2

Prayer of Petition

Elder Doug Sharp

God's Promise to Provide

Lamentations 3:25-26

Our Tithes and Offerings*

Congregational Song

8:30 CONGREGATIONAL SONG*

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Hymn #211

11:15 CONGREGATIONAL SONG*

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

Words by Edmund Hamilton Sears | Music by Richard Storrs Willis. | CCLI License No. 478868

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heaven’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.
2. For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

THE WORD OF LIFE

The Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:22-35

Associate Pastor Rev. Ben Lee

WAITING FOR COMFORT

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,

according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,

and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.

³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed

³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

SERMON NOTES

8:30 SERVICE MUSIC*

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Hymn #224

11:15 SERVICE MUSIC*

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Public Domain. Words: Charles Wesley. Music: Rowland Prichard

1. Come Thou long-expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the saints Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

2. Joy to those who long to see thee,
Day-spring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse,
Of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing
News, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to Him, your praises bringing;
Christ the Lord has come to earth."

3. Come to earth to taste our sadness,
He whose glories knew no end;
By His life He brings us gladness,
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number,
Born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder;
Christ was born the Lord of all.

4. Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

THE BLESSING & SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

God's Promise of Blessing

Isaiah 40:31

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 – Rick Betts | 11:15 – Oakwood Musicians

**GET > > > >
CONNECTED**



**Share a prayer need or request our weekly emails, keeping
you connected to the life of your church!**



*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service*

Dec 24 | 6:00pm

**Please Join Us
As we celebrate
Our Lord Jesus Christs Birth**

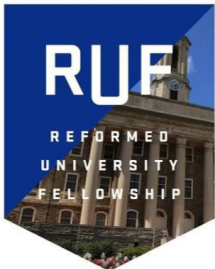
**Wednesday, December 24, at 6:00 pm
For Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.**



The Session (Elders and Pastors) set a goal earlier this year to help Oakwood grow in Christ-exalting, member-strengthening connectedness and strive toward a goal of “Everybody Has Somebody.” If you are not already connected to a small group we encourage you to join one this fall.



Use the QR Code for more information on how to connect.



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

Contact Matt Dabiero: matt.dabiero@ruf.org

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

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING AT OAKWOOD?

Learn about ministry events going on throughout the week, and more about our church with the Church Center app & website!

www.oakwoodpca.churchcenter.com



OAKWOOD CHURCH OFFICE

Need to get in touch with us during the week?

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