### SUNDAY December 21, 2025

9:30 AM

Welcome members, friends, and visitors! In this hour, may you find fellowship and experience the presence of the Spirit of God in our midst. If you are visiting with us for the first time, we invite you to sign the Guest Book and complete a welcome card. Please join us for coffee and fellowship following worship.

#### 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT WORSHIP

As a courtesy to other worshipers, please silence your cell phones. Thank you. Welcome to Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church for a time of worship. Greet each other in Christian love being mindful of those who need some time for quiet meditation.

### The Chimes Call Us to Worship

Prelude

"Ding Dong! Merrily on High!"

French Carol

~~ During the prelude, please take time to "Be still and know that God is Lord." ~~

Greetings

Pastor Linda

**Sharing Joys and Concerns** 

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Announcements

Jim Ellison, Worship Leader

**Symbols of Remembrance** 

**Choral Opening** 

"God Is Near"

Call to Worship – The Angels' Message: Love

Leader: During Advent, we remember God's faithfulness shown to us.

People: Help our lives to reflect your ways, O Lord.

Leader: During Advent, we remember God's humility set before us.

People: Help our lives to reflect your ways, O Lord.

Leader: During Advent, we remember God's promises, spoken to us.

People: Help our lives to reflect your ways, O Lord.

Leader: During Advent, we remember God's incredible love, shared with us.

People: Help our lives to reflect your ways, O Lord.

**Lighting the Advent Candles** 

Darlene Conti, Lynne Kemp & Sue McMillen Today, we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love. As we light this candle, we remember God's love for us, expressed in a humble beginning in a stable. As we continue our

Advent journey, let us hear what God has spoken to us, believe what God has promised, trust in what God has revealed, and cherish the love that came to humanity that night.

\*Gathering Hymn

"God Is Near" (see insert)

\*Invocation and Lord's Prayer: As we come before the Lord in worship, let us come in faith, confident that God will hear, and the Holy Spirit will bless. Let us pray: Gracious God, our Advent journey has challenged us to find hope in the midst of uncertainty, and peace where we see conflict. Today, we lean into your steadfast love that encourages us to be the people you have called us to be. Open our eyes that we may see the wonders you have done. Open our ears that we may hear the promises you have spoken. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord who taught us to pray, saying...

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy Kingdon come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Sanctuary Choir** 

"Sleep, Little Lamb"

Joseph M. Martin

Our Offerings, Gifts and Tithes including the Children's Mission Offering.

Offertory "Silent Night" Franz Gruber; Arranger: James M. Stevens

\*Doxology #34 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

"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."

\*Offering Prayer

**Children's Moments** (Children leave for Sunday School after Children's Moments)

Prayer Hymn #178

"Emmanuel. Emmanuel"

**A Time of Silent Prayer** 

**Pastoral Prayer** 

Response #490 "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

**Scripture Lesson** 

Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon

"Boundless Love"

\*Closing Hymn #179 "Joy to the World!"

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

"Christmas Postlude on 'In Dulci Jubilo"

15<sup>th</sup> Century Latin Melody

Enter to Worship

**Depart to Serve** 

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### The flowers are given to the Glory of God!

"...and you shall be called ministers..."

Ministers: all members of Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Linda Hartley
Worship Leader: Jim Ellison
Organist: Margery Jones
Choir Director: Margery Jones
Choir Accompanist: Marilyn Drummond

Oak Lawn Choral Bells Directors: Marilyn Drummond & Bob Kolb

Secretary: Beth Lamarre



We encourage you to visit American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island's website at: <a href="www.abcori.org">www.abcori.org</a> and American Baptist Churches USA's website at: <a href="www.abc-usa.org">www.abc-usa.org</a>



# 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT WORSHIP SUNDAY December 21, 2025 OAK LAWN COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

229 Wilbur Avenue, Cranston, RI 02921-1016

Church Office: 401-944-0864 ~ Pastor's Study: 401-944-0811

Email: <u>olcbc229@gmail.com</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Linda Hartley

For assistance, please contact Chair of Deacons, Mike Moore at 401-944-0864 For other questions or concerns, please contact Moderator, Jim Ellison at 401-743-3480

### WWW.OLCBAPTISTCHURCH.COM



### This Week's Calendar

<u>Today</u> 9:30 AM – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Worship. Children's Mission

Offering. Coffee Hour to follow. First Day of Winter!

Monday 10:00 – 11:30 AM – Advent Bible Study Wednesday 6:00 PM – Christmas Eve Worship Service

Thursday Merry Christmas!!

**Next Sunday** 9:30 AM – Bell Sunday Worship. Coffee Hour to follow.

### Please keep in Prayer...

<u>Homebound:</u> Joyce MacGray, Diane Miner, Mim Vincent, Janet Breckenridge, Linda Palazzo and Ivar Gustafson.

For Peace & Healing: Rylan James Davidson (Chuck & Marge's great nephew), Jody Ricketson, Tom Drummond, Brandon and Adam Young (Grandsons of Fran Sisson), Carolyn Sharp (Bob & Dee Kolb's sister-in- law), Lynne (Pam Pearson's sister), Rachel Provencher, James Marsocci, Mary Ackroyd, Judy Butzier, Mary Lou North, Doug & Barbara Petersen, Pat Barone, "J" Linkenback, Corinne Ricketson, Judith Coletta, Dave Linkenback, Barbara Lauer (Julie Ellison's mom), Melinda McCann, Rev. Barbara DaCosta, Mike Moore, Michelle Emery, Heidi Vonderohe (Julie Ellison's cousin), Dean Coutu (Karen Coutu's husband), William T. Drozdal II, Pat Doran, Roger Lamarre, Bob Butzier, Robin Butzier, Harvey (Carol Rathbun's brother) and Ed (Rick Cunningham's brother).

*Our College Students:* Jake Antonelli, Jenna Antunes, Brock Bouchard Jr., Anthony Marchetti and Samantha Boragine.

Prayers for all our Service Men & Women, and for peace and calm in all situations for our country.

## Ongoing Projects

**Operation Stand Down Rhode Island** which services Men and Women Veterans. Bring in food donations, as well as toiletries (needed items include toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo, body wash, bar soap, razors, toilet paper, paper towels and feminine products) any time and leave in the box outside Fellowship Hall. We will be delivering on the third Friday of each month.

**Pop-top tabs for Ronald McDonald House:** These may be left on the table in the upper hallway.

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# Advent Book Study!

Join us this Advent as we explore <u>The Characters of Christmas: The Unlikely People Caught Up in the Story of Jesus</u> by Daniel Darling. Through essays and study reflections, Darling will guide us to take a fresh look at the individuals so central to the story of Jesus' birth – Joseph and Mary, the Inn Keeper, the Angels and the Shepherds, as well as many others.

We will meet on three Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Church parlor from December 2<sup>nd</sup> to December 16<sup>th</sup>. We will also be meeting this week on Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

If you would like to join us, please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the table outside the pastor's office. We are asking for a \$5.00 donation for each book to help cover the cost.

Come join us for a fun and thought-provoking exploration of Jesus' birth through the people who became "caught up in the story of Jesus".

### Oak Leaves Deadline!

Please forward any information and updates to the secretary for the January Oak Leaves by December 23, 2025! You can email olcbc229@gmail.com or leave a note on the office desk with the information and details you'd like to have included. This helps keep everyone informed!

Thank you for your contributions!

Beth Lamarre, Church Secretary



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Beth Lamarre, Church Secretary

~~ Please mark your Calendars ~~ *The Annual Church Financial Meeting* will be held on January 25, 2026.

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