

NORTHHAVEN CHURCH  
**OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**  
 December 24 @ 5:30pm

A Christmas Eve meditation will be available on FaceBook on Christmas Eve



**Office Hours:**  
 Monday - Thursday  
 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Contact Information:**  
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 Day School Phone: 321-8170

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Return Service Requested

NorthHaven  
 P.O. Box 722772  
 Norman, OK 73070




### Letters to My Church



Jakob Topper  
Senior Pastor

#### Advent

O Come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel.

If there's an anthem for our advent journey this year, then this is the one.

Advent begins in the dark. With an inventory of the world as it is and not as we would have it to be. With a determined look into the

darkness, and a heart open to the suffering of the world.

Advent begins with the real and present knowledge that we cannot save ourselves, that we cannot legislate our way out of sinfulness nor progress so far as to become our own liberators. We need a savior.

This is not a move toward apathy or resignation to the status quo. On the contrary, to be an Advent people is to live into the coming kingdom of God today. To participate in the bringing of peace on earth as in heaven through the creation of policy and systems that address racism, poverty, and ensure the flourishing of all people.

It is possible to participate in the world building endeavors of God today, but it is not possible to do so without God.

Advent begins in the dark, but it does not stay there. It moves. It does not close its eyes to the pain of the world. It does not avert its gaze. It sees that even

in the darkest recesses of our age, the light is shining there as well. It may only be a faint glimmer. The flicker of one small candle flame. It may take our eyes time to adjust before we can see it, but it is there.

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

Everywhere there is pain. Everywhere there is loneliness and sorrow. Christ is there. Christ is eternally being born at night and in the stables of our lives.

The good news of Advent is that we do have a savior. He came as a babe in a manger long ago, he comes to us today in the face of the stranger, the prisoner, and the hungry. He comes today in the presence of the Holy Spirit. And he will come again in power and glory.

Christ is at work in the world even now. He is calling out to us to come and join in the struggle. Will we answer the call? Because standing beside him is where we will find the true light of the world. Standing beside him is where we will find true hope, peace, joy, and love, as our Advent candles testify. But standing next to him is a call to enter into the darkness, because He is the light, and that's where we find him at work.

O Come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel.



*NorthHaven: An inclusive family of Christ followers, inspiring, challenging and equipping each other to participate in God's great story.*

**December Mission Project**  
**Christmas Toy Drive**  
 Benefitting Native American churches  
 in Canton & Watonga



Bring new, unwrapped toys for kids of all ages  
 from December 1 through December 13

**Stay Connected!**  
 The Gnosis and Ridenour Adult Sunday School classes continue to meet on Zoom at 8:30 a.m. It's been such a blessing to the classes to be able to stay connected during the pandemic this way. If you would be interested in participating with one of these classes, contact the church office and Sheri will get you connected with a class.

[sheri@northhavenchurch.net](mailto:sheri@northhavenchurch.net)  
 (405)321-8170

**End of Year Contributions**  
 must be received by the church office or postmarked by **December 31, 2020.**

Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of NorthHaven!

**EXTEND HOPE & HOSPITALITY**

**CBF OFFERING FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS GOAL \$2,000**

**DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER**



- |                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| December 3: Jerry Evers       | December 15: Donna Evers  |
| December 3: Loneta Hayes      | December 15: Joe Nostrand |
| December 4: Chris Canary      | December 16: Ethan Cox    |
| December 8: Caroline Whitaker | December 20: Merry Dorean |
| December 10: Jamie Whitaker   | December 28: David Biles  |
| December 14: Connel Smalling  | December 30: Lavonn Brown |

**KidsHaven**  
 December 2020 Monthly Newsletter of NorthHaven Children's Ministry



**Zoom Sunday School!**

**DROP YOUR KIDS OFF FOR A VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON EACH SUNDAY MORNING AT 10:30AM ON ZOOM AND USE THAT TIME TO WORSHIP OR DO LAUNDRY, YOUR PICK!**



**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**Caroling**  
 Please join your NorthHaven church family this Christmas Eve at 5:30pm for an outdoor time of carols, nativity reading, and candles.

If you cannot attend (or even if you can), we would love for you and your family to video yourselves singing one of your favorite carols! We will attempt to include them in the online services over the next several weeks of epiphany.

**ADVENT NEWSLETTER**  
 weekly

We invite you and your little ones to wait and prepare for the arrival of baby Jesus. Each week, we will email a ready-made Adventures in Advent newsletter that will help your family get ready by learning, creating, serving and exploring together! The activities in the newsletter will encourage your family to spend intentional time together this Advent season.

Email Kaitlyn or Pamela for printed and mailed copies.

**Talk to Us!**

WE MISS YOU ALL. IF THERE IS ANYTHING YOU NEED, PLEASE CALL/TEXT/EMAIL/ US NO MATTER THE TIME!

[PAMELA@NORTHHAVENCHURCH.NET](mailto:PAMELA@NORTHHAVENCHURCH.NET)  
[KAITLYN@NORTHHAVENCHURCH.NET](mailto:KAITLYN@NORTHHAVENCHURCH.NET)