

**North Haven**  
CHURCH

# How does a weary world rejoice?

*We make room*

Christmas Eve Service  
December 24, 2023 @ 6:00pm

North Haven Church | 1100 W. Main St., Ste. 120 | Norman, OK  
www.northhavenchurch.net

Join us on Christmas Eve at 6pm as we celebrate the birth of our Lord. This will be a candlelight service for the entire family. We would love to see you!

**Contact Information:**

Church Phone:  
405.321.8170

Emails:

- [jakob@northhavenchurch.net](mailto:jakob@northhavenchurch.net)
- [sheri@northhavenchurch.net](mailto:sheri@northhavenchurch.net)
- [kaitlyn@northhavenchurch.net](mailto:kaitlyn@northhavenchurch.net)
- [pamela@northhavenchurch.net](mailto:pamela@northhavenchurch.net)
- [pattidrennan@gmail.com](mailto:pattidrennan@gmail.com)
- [info@northhavenchurch.net](mailto:info@northhavenchurch.net)

Website:

[www.northhavenchurch.net](http://www.northhavenchurch.net)

Physical Address:

1100 W. Main St., Suite 120  
Norman, OK 73069

Mailing Address:

PO Box 722772  
Norman, OK 73070

Return Service Requested

P.O. Box 722772  
Norman, OK 73070



**Letters to My Church**



Jakob Topper  
Senior Pastor

**HOW DOES A WEARY WORLD REJOICE?**

About our Advent Theme

Joy is often a companion to many other emotions. We can feel joy in addition to feeling many other things at once: grief, anticipation, anxiety, excitement, disappointment, exhaustion. Perhaps many of us live with the myth that joy is not something we deserve—or that it is wholly out of reach. But our joy is rooted in the truth that we belong to God. Can you tether yourself to that deep truth? You deserve to feel joy—fully. The world needs your joy, even if you are weary. Our joy is better when it is shared.

This theme of course alludes to a line in the familiar Christmas hymn, “O Holy Night,” which has an interesting history. The song was originally written by a French poet who was atheist, and the music was supplied by a Jewish composer. The hymn was later translated into English by an American Unitarian minister. In the 1800s, it became a popular hymn for Christian abolitionists due to its justice-focused language in verse 3. Like Mary’s song, the hymn reminds us that justice and joy belong together. Sometimes our joy is an act of resistance.

And so, this Advent, we will hold space for our weariness and our joy. We will seek a “thrill of hope” in our hurting world. We will welcome joy—even and especially if, like the prophet Isaiah, we cry out for comfort (Isaiah 40:1). In this weary world, may we find many ways to rejoice.

A Poem for the Theme:

*The Last Time I Saw God*

*The last time I saw God face to face I was looking at a bed of tulips. God was every color of red.*

*I was merely a mortal, in awe of it all.*

*The time before that, we were tying back the curtains, looking for stars. God was the deepest purple and the brightest light.*

*The time before that, the city was soft with snow. God was the quiet that tucked us all in.*

*And in between these small gifts there were newborn babies, and sapling trees, homemade bread, the sound of a church singing on Sunday.*

...

*Why, yes, we are lucky. We are more than lucky for the moments when delight and awe unzip the weight we carry around.*

Prayer by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



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

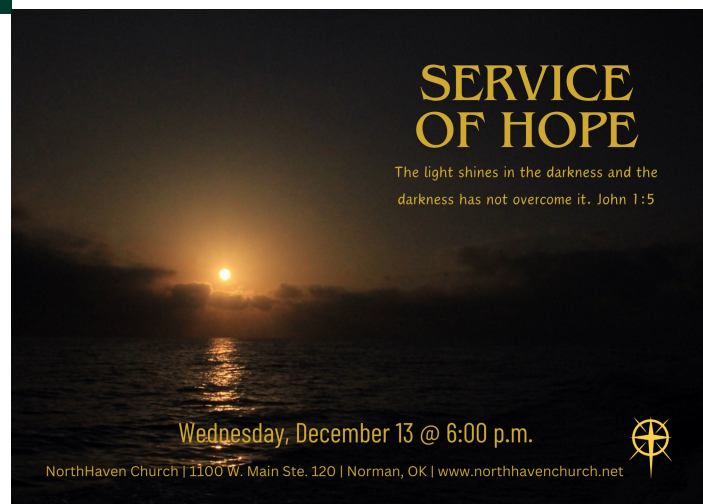
On Sunday, December 19th, during our worship hour at 10:30 a.m., join us for Lessons & Carols as we hear the story of the birth of Jesus through song and readings. A very special service you won't want to miss!



NorthHaven is once again collecting toys for our friends at the Native American churches in Canton and Watonga. Please bring unwrapped toys to the church and place them under the tree by Sunday, December 17th.



The Service of Hope on Wednesday, December 13th at 6:00 p.m. is a service for anyone who needs a word of hope during this Christmas season. Christmas can be very difficult for some due to the loss of a loved one, a job, friends, or just the loss of hope in an everchanging world. Please come and experience the light that shines in the darkness.



- December 3: Loneta Hayes
- December 3: Garrett Hollingsworth
- December 16: Ethan Cox
- December 21: Neveah Abbott

- December 29: Lavonn Brown
- December 29: Richard Gray



### Christmas Cookies & Caroling

DECEMBER 9TH @ 10:00-12:30

THIS IS A TRADITION THAT YOUR WHOLE FAMILY CAN GET INTO! COME TO THE CHURCH FOR SOME FUN COOKIE DECORATING AND THEN JOIN US WHILE WE CAROL AROUND TOWN! CAROLING WILL START APPROXIMATELY AT 11!



### jingle AND mingle

### Youth Christmas Party

DECEMBER 10TH @ 11:30-1:30

YOUTH WILL STAY AFTER CHURCH FOR AN AFTERNOON FILLED WITH FOOD, CHRISTMAS CAROLS, AND GAMES!

### Christmas Eve Service

DECEMBER 24TH @ 6:00-7:00

COME AND MAKE THIS A LOVELY FAMILY TRADITION OF TOGETHERNESS AND LOVE. THERE WILL BE CAROLS, THE MOST FUN LIVE NATIVITY (IN WHICH THE KIDS GET TO PARTICIPATE) AND GETTING TO LIGHT CANDLES (ALWAYS A FAVORITE OF ALL PARENTS, EVERYWHERE!)



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

PAMELA@NORTHHAVENCHURCH.NET  
KAITLYN@NORTHHAVENCHURCH.NET