

Let us confess today, knowing that nothing could keep God from loving us.

All: We find ourselves with two options every day—to work for the world you had in mind, or to allow cynicism to win. Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel? Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it’s impossible? Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins. Forgive us for numbing our hurt instead of using it to fuel a better world. Kindle in us a hope that won’t let go. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Promise of the Gospel

Andrew Mayhew Liturgist

One: Family of faith, even when we throw in the towel, even when we give up on hope, God does not give up on us. We are loved. We are claimed. We are invited closer to God’s home. So hear and trust this good news:

All: There is room for us in God’s house, and nothing can separate us from that love. We are claimed. We are forgiven. We are welcomed home. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Act of Praise #581

Gloria Patri

Hymn #357

The Days Are Surely Coming, vs. 1-3
[Llangloffan]

Lighting the Candle of Hope

John, Chandra, Sophia and Alex Juarez

Children are invited to come forward as we light the Advent candles and begin our journey to Bethlehem.

Journey to Bethlehem

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Nativity: Shepherds and Sheep

Musical Response #88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vs. 1

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Lisa Schrott

God of the stars and God of our hearts, our days will pass but your words will last. The earth might fade but your words will last. Our memories might blur but your words will last. The grass will wither but your words will last. The sky could go dark and your words would last. So as we listen today, help us to hold onto what will last. Help us hold onto you. Gratefully we pray,

Scripture Reading

Luke 21:25-36

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

Close to Home: Waiting and Longing

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Special Music

Let All Things Now Living
Monday Mallets Handbell Choir
Irene Shutt, Director

arr: Cathy Moklebust

Sally Belloli, Dave & Kathi Cook, Linda & Lou Cravotta
Barb Fretwell-Cooke, Betty Grzesiak, Beth Layhe, Sarah Mayhew
Carolyn Sherrill, Kathleen Shutt, Helen Taylor, Ewen Todd

Minute for Mission

Keith Camann

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

Prelude on *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Charles Callahan

Doxology #606

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Andrew Mayhew, Liturgist

Refrain: One

All:

The Lord's Prayer "...forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors..."

Hymn #83

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, vs. 1-4
[Stuttgart]

Benediction

Pastor Lisa Schrott

As you leave this service, your service begins:
Comfort those who are suffering and longing for hope.
Open your doors to others.
Seek sanctuary.
Be brave enough to go home by another way.
And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed—so come back soon.
In the name of our Foundation—God, Spirit, and Son—go in peace.

Postlude

An Advent Postlude
Based on *Wachet Auf*
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Charles Callahan

Ushers: Morrie & Barb Hoevel, Ron & Barbara Dorr

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The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
2258 Bennett Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864
(517) 349-9536
Website: <https://okemospres.org>
Email: office@okemospres.org
<https://twitter.com/okemospres>
<https://facebook.com/OkemosPresbyterian>



Rev. Lisa Schrott, Pastor/Head of Staff
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist
Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director
Colleen Chester, Choir Director
Edward Ennen, Sexton
Anna Thiel, Office Manager
Yusuf Sultani, Technology Coordinator