

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
December 5, 2021
Second Sunday of Advent



COVID-19 Safety Recommendations

- *Wear a mask at all times while in the sanctuary, fellowship hall, or classrooms.*
- *Seat yourself while being aware to keep 6 feet of distance from the neighbors in your pew.*
- *While seating is now allowed in every row, please stagger your seats so that you are not sitting directly behind or directly in front of anyone in the pews around you.*
- *Remember that young children are not vaccinated.*

Preparation: "Shalom is what love looks like in the flesh. The embodiment of love in the context of a broken creation, shalom is a hint at what was, what should be, and what will one day be again. Where sin disintegrates and isolates, shalom brings together and restores."

Jamie Arpin-Ricci, *Vulnerable Faith: Missional Living in the Radical Way of St. Patrick*

Prelude

Comfort, Comfort These My People
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

arr: Michael Burkhardt

Greetings and Announcements of the Church

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Call to Worship

Doug Paterson Liturgist

One: If life was a home, then we would pray—

All: may love be the foundation.

May God be the cornerstone.

May the Spirit be the windows—ushering light in.

And may hope be the walls—holding us together.

One: In this hour of worship, let us work toward building that home together.

All: We may not know the path ahead, but God is here, even now.

One: Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.

All: Let us worship Holy God.

Prayer of Confession

Doug Paterson Liturgist

One: In our scripture passage for today, Zechariah, a new father, speaks to his newborn son, John the Baptist, for the very first time. What would you say to a newborn sleeping in your arms? What would you want them to know on their very first day? I imagine that all of you would speak words of love. Let us return to our foundation—to words of love. And let us join our hearts and voices as we pray the prayer of confession together.

All: Holy God, when John was born, Zechariah leaned down and whispered words of love into his ear. We know that you do the same for us, day in and day out, yet we

fail to hear it. We forget that in the beginning we were made good. We doubt that we could possibly be enough. We hustle for our self-worth and wear ourselves out aiming for perfection. We deflect words of praise. We hide behind shiny first impressions. Forgive us. Trusting our worth is the hardest job. Open our ears as you open our hearts, so that we might rest on the foundation of goodness you have laid for us. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Promise of the Gospel

Doug Paterson Liturgist

One: Family of faith, no matter how old we get, God continues to say to us: “You are loved; you are forgiven.” That is the foundation of our lives. That is the truth upon which we build our home. So breathe deeply. There is grace and peace here. Join me in proclaiming this good news:

All: **We are loved. We are forgiven. We are claimed. This is our foundation. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Act of Praise #581

Gloria Patri

Hymn #109

Blest Be the God of Israel
Song of Zechariah, vs. 1 – 3
[Merle’s Tune]

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Kent, Michelle, Hope and Lincoln Nessa,

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

Journey to Bethlehem

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5

Nativity: Angels

Musical Response #88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vs. 2

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Lisa Schrott

God, who speaks a good news language—we admit, listening has never been our greatest gift. We are easily distracted, our minds run a million miles a minute. So today we bow our heads and ask for help. Settle our hearts. Quiet our minds. Steady our breathing. Help us to rest in you. Help us to listen for your good news. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:57-60; 67-79

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

Close to Home: Laying the Foundation

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Special Music

Oh Come Emmanuel
PCO Chancel Choir

arr. Ulysses Kay

Minute for Gratitude

Doug Paterson, Liturgist

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory *Communion on Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*

Picardy
Charles Callahan

Doxology #606

Prayer of Dedication

Holy Communion

Invitation

Pastor Lisa Schrott

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Doug Paterson Liturgist

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts,

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is right to give both thanks and praise.

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Communion

Prayer

Hymn #87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People, vs. 1 -3
[Genevan 42]

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

Fanfare on *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Winchester New
Charles Callahan

Ushers:

Jane Paterson, Tom Schaberg, Keith Camann, Jeff Arbour

Liturgy for today's service and the theme Closer to Home are from A Sanctified Art.
<https://sanctifiedart.org>

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