

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos  
December 12, 2021  
Third 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:** *“When you are kind to someone else, you end up being joyful, but why? Because we realize that we are made for goodness” ---Archbishop Desmond Tutu.*

**Prelude** *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* Charles Callahan  
[Gabriel’s Message]  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

**Greetings and Announcements of the Church** Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Call to Worship** Matt Pearson Liturgist

One: We are seeking—

**All: deeper faith,  
a place to belong,  
the feeling that God is here in this room.**

One: We are seeking—

**All: joy that overflows,  
the movement of the Spirit,  
a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.**

One: We are seeking, but here in this space,

**All: We experience the joy of being found and known.  
Let us worship and praise our God.**

**Prayer of Confession** Matt Pearson Liturgist

One: Mary’s world turned upside down with the visit of an angel. This is a moment we can relate to, because over the course of the last year and a half, our world has seemed to turn upside down more than once. When those moments come, we hope to respond with grace; but more often than not, fear can get the best of us. So today we turn to God in

prayer, asking for God's guidance and grace in the places and moments we need it most. Let us pray together now...

**All: God of safe spaces, we wish we were more like Mary, who in the face of great change, went and sought help. She did not wait for help to find her; she walked to the shelter she needed. Too often we wait silently for the world to change around us instead of speaking up for the things we need. Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way you would care for us. Give us the courage to be more like Mary. God of safe places, we wish we were more like Elizabeth, who greeted Mary with laughter and contagious joy. How many people have crossed our doorstep and how many times have we failed to see them? Give us the courage of Mary, and the grace of Elizabeth. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

**Promise of the Gospel**

Matt Pearson, 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 #82**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, vs. 1-2*

Hyfrydol

**Brass Quartet**

*Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel*

arr: Kenneth Abeling

Owen Locke, trumpet; Alex Juarez, trumpet,  
Andrew Mayhew, euphonium; Spencer Locke, tuba

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

**Lighting the Candle of Joy**

Ben, Connor and Evan Haskel

**Brass Quartet:**

*The First Noel*

arr: Kenneth Abeling

**Journey to Bethlehem**

Old Testament Reading: Micah 5:2-3

Nativity: Stable and Manger

**Musical Response #88**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vs. 3*

**Prayer of Illumination**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Holy God, We come to your Scripture today hoping that it will feel a bit like an open door, like Elizabeth welcoming Mary, like coming home. We want to fall into it. We want to find sanctuary here. And we want to find ourselves laughing because this good news is just too good to keep inside. So hover close to us now, we pray. Open the door to our hearts so that we might find sanctuary in your words. Gratefully we pray, amen.

**Scripture Reading**

Luke 1:46-55

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Sermon**

Close to Home: Seeking Sanctuary

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Anthem**

*A Child is Born in Bethlehem*  
PCO Chancel Choir

Philip Stopford

**Minute for Mission**

Christmas Giving Tree Update

Trudy Sturk

**Offering**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Invitation****Offertory**

*Puer nobis nascitur*  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Dandrieu

\* **Doxology** #606\* **Prayer of Dedication****Prayers of the People**

Matt Pearson, Liturgist

**The Lord's Prayer** "...forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors..."\* **Hymn** #105

*People, Look East* vs. 1, 2, 4, 5  
[Besancon]

**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**

*People, Look East*  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Kristina Langlois

Ushers: Gary & Trudy Sturk, Jeff & Michele Arbour

\* Please rise in body or in spirit.

*You are in an active recording environment, and your likeness may be captured in photographs and videos. By entering, you acknowledge giving consent to The Presbyterian Church of Okemos to take, own and use images containing your likeness at its sole discretion in perpetuity. If you do not wish to convey this consent, please contact a staff member immediately.*

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**

2258 Bennett Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864

(517) 349-9536

Website: <https://okemospres.org>

Email: [office@okemospres.org](mailto: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