

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
December 19, 2021
Fourth 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: *“Advent is our invitation to strip away the facade and reveal what really matters. Christ is not concerned with performing a “recital” of apparent success. Rather, Jesus rips the drywall off society’s apathy, revealing brokenness in need of urgent tikkun olam (repair).” ---J. Dana Trent*

Prelude Chorale Partita *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* Friedrich Zachau
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Greetings and Announcements of the Church Pastor Lisa Schrott

Call to Worship Barbara Given Liturgist

One: A voice calls out in the wilderness.
**All: It sings of a home for all.
It speaks of justice and peace.**
One: Mary sang out praise
**All: for the one who will lift up the lowly
for the one who fill the hungry with good things.**
One: We could choose to ignore these voices.
We could drown out that song.
**All: Instead, we come into this space.
We let the world grow quiet.
We listen. We worship.
Let us draw near to God.**

Prayer of Confession Barbara Given Liturgist

One: Our job as people of faith—to create a home for all—has never been easy. As we confess this morning, may we have the courage to tell the truth about ourselves and our world. We speak the truth out loud because we know that we cannot grow and change without first being honest. So let us be brave. Let us be bold. Let us be truth-tellers as we confess

together now to a God who couldn't love us any more than God already does. Let us pray. . .

All: **Expansive God, we know that the church is your house, and your house has room for everyone. Yet, too often, instead of setting the table for our neighbors, we block the door. Instead of welcoming all, we judge others by our own standards. Instead of sharing our second coat, we hide it in the attic, holding on to fear instead of letting go with love. Remind us that your home is a home for all, that truth requires hard work, that truth requires uncomfortable justice. Help us to be bold enough to see it and brave enough to live it. With hope we pray, amen.**

Promise of the Gospel

Barbara Given Liturgist

One: Family of faith, helping create a world where all might have a home, and all might be loved, and all might know peace, is an audacious goal. Fortunately for us, when we mess up—when we lose our way or forget our call—we are met with grace. God could not love us any more or any less than God already does. So rest in this good news:

All: **We are at home with God—forgiven, claimed, and loved. The door is always open for us. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

* **Act of Praise #581**

Gloria Patri

* **Hymn #99**

My Soul Gives Glory to My God, vs. 1-5
[Song of Mary]

Lighting the Candle of Love

Jeff, Emily and Lizzie Conroy-Krutz

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

Journey to Bethlehem

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 11:1-5

Nativity: Mary and Joseph

Musical Response #88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vs. 4

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Lisa Schrott

God, whose love is like the sun warming me from the inside, if you are my home, then your Word is the street light guiding me there. We are looking for your light. We are listening for your word. When you see us coming, when you feel our hearts move, we hope you'll run down the driveway and catch us. Leave the light on. We are on our way home. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Scripture Reading Luke 1:46-55 Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon Close to Home: A Home for All Pastor Lisa Schrott

Anthem *Carols for Christmas* arr: Linda Scholes
PCO Handbell Choir – Monday Mallets
Director: Irene Shutt
Bell Ringers: Sally Belloli, Jeff Conroy-Krutz, David & Kathi Cook
Linda & Lou Cravotta, Barbara Fretwell-Cooke, Beth Layhe, Sarah Mayhew
Michael Moore, Kathleen Shutt, Helen Taylor, Ewen Todd

Offering Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory *The Coventry Carol* arr: James Southbridge
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

* **Doxology #606**

* **Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People Barbara Given, Liturgist

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

* **Hymn #110** *Love Has Come*, vs. 1 – 3
[Bring a Torch]

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 *Fugue on From Heaven Above* J.S. Bach
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Ushers: Morrie & Barb Hoevel, Ron & Barbara Dorr

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

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

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Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist

Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director

Colleen Chester, Choir Director

Edward Ennen, Sexton

Anna Thiel, Office Manager

Yusuf Sultani, Technology Coordinator