

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

January 2, 2022

Second Sunday of Christmas

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.*

Prelude

The Snow Lay on the Ground
[Venite Adoremus, Trad Melody]
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

arr: Wilbur Held

Greetings and Announcements of the Church

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Call to Worship

Linda Cravotta, Liturgist

One: God's light breaks through the darkness to fill our lives with grace and truth.

All: This is the good news of Christmas.

One: Christ came to show us how to walk the path of wisdom enlightened by love.

All: This is the good news of Christmas.

One: Light of the world, shine in our lives.

All: Light of the world, shine in our lives.

Prayer of Confession

Linda Cravotta, Liturgist

One: Every Sunday we pray a prayer of confession together. This is a small moment for all of us to pause and recognize that we aren't perfect, we are still works in progress, and we want God's help to grow. How powerful is that? Where else in the world does a group of people gather every week and say out loud: "I'm sorry. I want to grow. Help me get there." So this morning as we pray, remember how powerful this is. This is one small way we accept God's invitation to deeper faith and life-changing love. Let us pray together now . . .

All: Holy God, you throw open the door and invite us into a relationship, day in and day out. However, instead of running toward you, we dip our toes in the water of this faith. We hold our breath. We play it safe. We struggle to believe that a love so unfettered, so unfiltered, could be for us. As a result, we often deny this worth for ourselves and others. Forgive us for the ways in which we hold back from deeper connection to you or withhold your radical love from others. Open our ears to not

**only hear your invitation, but to trust that this good news exists even for us.
Gratefully we pray, amen.**

Promise of the Gospel

Linda Cravotta, Liturgist

One: Even when we fail to trust God's love, and even when we fail to love others as we should, God still loves us. That door never closes. So hear and believe this good news: God invites us into a life of faith. God loves us through every season of life. God forgives us when we lose our way and invites us deeper every step of the way.

All: We are loved, invited, claimed, celebrated, and forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

* **Act of Praise #581**

Gloria Patri

* **Hymn #143**

Angels from the Realms of Glory, vs. 1-4
[Regent Square]

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Heavenly Father, Holy Wisdom came to dwell with us in Jesus, filling our world with her light and life. May she also dwell within your word this day, that we may have intimate knowledge of your love for us, through the One who is close to your heart, Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.

Scripture Reading

John 1:1-5, 9-14, 16

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

Close to Home: Our Cosmic Home

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Affirmation of Faith

Nicene Creed

Pastor Lisa Schrott

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

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