

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
January 9, 2022
Epiphany Sunday



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: “Christmas, for the Christian, has never promised to soothe every pain or cure every ill. Unfortunately, life with God doesn’t work that way. Instead, Christmas is the grand miracle that makes space for all the smaller miracles. It gives us enough hope to walk a little farther in the dark toward the glimmer of something that seems too distant to reach.” Esau McCaulley, New York Times Opinion Writer

Prelude

Variations on *Puer Nobis*
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Michael Burkhardt

Greetings and Announcements of the Church

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Call to Worship

Ewen Todd, Liturgist

One: We come to this place—

All: each of us on our own path.

One: The path is winding, and the path is not always clear, and the path changes,

All: but we are here.

One: God is walking us home.

All: What a gift it is to not walk alone. Let us worship Holy God.

Prayer of Confession

Ewen Todd, Liturgist

One: Friends, we are not always the best versions of ourselves when we are faced with uncertainty or changing plans. Facing the unknown pulls on every ounce of our anxiety and fear. It rings all our stress alarms and can erode our patience, our calm, our sense of perspective. Fortunately for us, we worship a God who is gracious beyond imagination and meets us on every twist and turn of the road home. So let us pray together now, knowing that even in our worst moments, we are held by God.

All: Holy God, the Magi heard in a dream that they were to take a new way home—a different path, an untraveled road. And to our amazement, they did just that. The

Magi packed their bags and went home by another way. We wish that change could be easy for us, but more often than not, when whispers of change come, we tend to clench our fists and hold on tighter. Forgive us for resisting change that might be holy. Forgive us for failing to hear your invitation. Guide our steps to unfamiliar places. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Promise of the Gospel

Ewen Todd, Liturgist

One: No matter which roads we take in this one wild and precious life, God walks with us. God never leaves our side. When the road changes and we find ourselves on a new path home, God is always there. So hear and believe this good news:

All: **No matter where we go, no matter what we do, we are claimed, loved, and held by God. Thanks be to God for a love like that.**

Act of Praise #581

Gloria Patri

Hymn #150

As with Gladness Men of Old, vs. 1-4

[Dix]

Journey to Bethlehem

Roy, Christine, and Lucas Meland

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Nativity: Magi

Musical Response #151

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Holy God, you speak to us in Scripture and in prayers, in sunrises and sunsets, in friends and in strangers, in dreams and in songs. You are speaking all the time, and how often do we miss it? Still our minds so that we can listen with a depth that we have not heard before. Still our hearts so that we can receive with open arms what it is you are offering us today. We know you are speaking, so we are listening. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2: 1-12

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

Close to Home: Home by Another Way

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Special Music *We Three Kings* Cynthia Dobrinski
PCO Handbell Choir

Minute for Mission Loaves and Fishes Barbara Dorr

Offering Ewen Todd, Liturgist

Invitation

Offertory Pastorale on *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* Michael Burkhardt

Doxology #606

Prayer of Dedication

Holy Communion

Invitation Pastor Lisa Schrott

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Communion

Prayer

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Hymn#152 *What Star is This, with Beams so Bright*, vs. 1-4

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 Toccata on *Dix* David Lasky
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Ushers: Gary & Trudy Sturk, Jeff & Michele Arbour

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

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Edward Ennen, Sexton

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