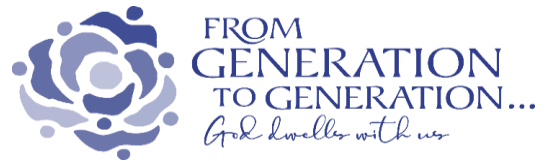


The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
January 1, 2023
Christmastide



COVID-19 Safety Recommendations

- *Masking is now optional during the service (including while singing).*
- *Remember that young children may not have been vaccinated.*

Prelude

Noël Huron
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Denis Bédard

Invitation to our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Call to Worship

Kent Workman, Liturgist

One: Like Mary, we believe in cherishing good news.

All: Like the angels, we believe in singing God's praise.

One: Like the shepherds, we believe that God's presence in our life is something worth talking about.

All: Like generations before, we believe that God dwells with us.

One: Like the generations to come, we believe that God dwells with us.

All: God is here. God is love. We believe. Thanks be to God!

*** Hymn #143**

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

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: The prayer of confession is an invitation. It's an opportunity to say, "This is who I've been, and this is who I long to be." Let us be truth tellers. Let us hold our heads high and speak honestly before God and one another. This is easy to do when we are surrounded by a God who delights in us. Friends, let us pray:

All: God of Grace, we surrender our words and our silent thoughts to you. They are broken and whole, senseless and meaningful, profane and sacred, painful and joyful, confessional and prophetic. We are not called to stand silently in the face of injustice, yet sometimes we swallow words of love. We are not called to speak lies and half-truths, yet sometimes we distort words of love. We are not called to strike out with our words, yet sometimes we violate words of love. Forgive us and we surrender to you now, wordless, silent, still...(Silent reflection). Amen.

Promise of the Gospel

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God, and the Word was Love.

All: We came into being by this Word of Love, and the Word calls us to wholeness, welcoming us again and again; forgiving us again and again.

Passing of the Peace

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: As a forgiven people, let us greet each other, sharing the peace of Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you. *Please greet your fellow worshippers in ways you feel comfortable.*

*** Act of Praise #583**

Gloria, Gloria

Jacques Berthier

[Gloria]

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

God of manger straw and swaddle cloth, God of silent nights and joyfully-chaotic mornings, we long to know you. Quiet our minds. Help us to sink deeply into this day. Help us to pause here, to linger here as we hear your good news spoken over us. God, we long to know you, so speak to us now. With grateful hearts, we pray. With grateful hearts, we listen. Amen.

Scripture

John 1:1-14

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Sermon

From Generation to Generation: God Dwells With Us

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

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.

Andrea will review Simbolei Academy's first year of operation and discuss possibilities for a mission trip to Kenya in June.

Next Week's Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

This Morning's Fellowship Team: *Thank you to the Schabergs for preparing coffee this morning.*

The Call to Worship is adapted from work by the Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed. The Prayer of Confession and Promise of the Gospel are adapted from The Word was Love by Lisa Ann Pierce in *Together in Worship* <https://togetherinworship.net/ResourceView/82/22770>. Graphic design by the Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman. A Sanctified Art LLC - *From Generation to Generation*. sanctifiedart.org.

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Rev. Rebekah Anderson, Associate Pastor
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist
Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director
Colleen Chester, Choir Director
Edward Ennen, Sexton
Anna Thiel, Office Manager