

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
December 4, 2022
Second Sunday of Advent



COVID-19 Safety Recommendations

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

Preparation: “Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves, like locked rooms and like books that are now written in a very foreign tongue. Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.” -- Poet Rainer Maria Rilke

Prelude

An Advent Prelude
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Charles Callahan

Choral Introit

Of The Father’s Love Begotten
PCO Chancel Choir

Invitation to our Shared Ministry

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Call to Worship

Dorinda VanKempen, Liturgist

One: We believe in a God who knows our fears.

All: We believe in a God who says, “Be not afraid.”

One: We believe in a God who hemmed stars into the night sky so that we can find our way home,

All: and who sends us friends with open doors, so we can find our way to love.

One: We believe in a God who finds us in our fear and does not leave us alone.

All: Thanks be to God for a love like that.

* **Hymn #82**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, vs. 1,2
[Hyfrydol]

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

One: For so many of us, fear of the other, fear of failure, or fear of the unknown has led us to make sinful choices in our lives—choices such as building walls or tearing others down. Today, in confession, we ask for mercy and pray for guidance. As we confess, we come before an entirely merciful and loving God who says to us, “Do not be afraid.” Let us pray:

All: Patient God, you know just how often we make decisions from a place of fear rather than love. You know just how often we allow fear to take the place of logic, fanning

unhealthy fires in our lives. You know just how often we tuck your words, “Do not be afraid” on dusty shelves and in the back of closets, stubbornly holding onto our own point of view. Forgive us for giving fear the microphone. Silence the voices of scarcity, shame, and rejection, which spark and feed so much of our fear, to recenter us in love. With hope we pray, amen.

Promise of the Gospel

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

One: Family of faith, even when we forget God’s words, God does not forget us. Even when we lose our way, God does not lose us. Even when we fall short or make mistakes, God forgives and holds onto us.

All: In Jesus Christ we are known, forgiven, and loved. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

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!

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Lucas, Olivia, Christine and Roy Meland

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

Journey to Bethlehem

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5

Nativity: Angels

Musical Response #88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vs. 2

Children ages 3-8 may depart for the Children’s Worship Service in the Chapel during the musical response.

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Holy God, whether it’s through angels or music, friendships or sermons, study or nature— when you speak, we long to hear it. In a world as chaotic and broken as ours, we could use your words of hope and healing. With gratitude we pray, amen.

Scripture

Luke 1:26-38

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon *From Generation to Generation: God Meets Us in Our Fear*
Pastor Lisa Schrott

Anthem *O Come Emmanuel* Elaine Hagenberg
PCO Chancel Choir
Dr. Barbara Fretwell-Cooke, cello

Minute for Mission Alternative Gift Market Jayne Zuhlke

Offering Dorinda VanKempen, Liturgist

Invitation

Offertory *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* Charles Callahan
Gabriel's Message

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Holy Communion Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

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 "...forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors..."

Breaking of the Bread

Communion Prayer

*** Hymn #498** *Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken*, vs. 1, 3, 4
[Beach Spring]

*** Benediction** Pastor Lisa Schrott

As you leave this place, may you go knowing that
from generation to generation, we have been claimed and loved.

From generation to generation, God has been by our side.

From generation to generation, we are not alone.

The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow
knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth,
saying, "Go be the person you are called to be,
love wildly, do justice, and come back soon."

May it be so. Amen.

Postlude

People, Look East!
Based on *Besançon*
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Kristina Langlois

** Please rise in body or spirit*

Education Time: *Visio Divina* on Luke 1:26-38. This is similar to the practice of *Lectio Divina*, with images as the focus.

Next Week's Education Time: Digging Deeper into Joseph's story. Led by Pastor Rebekah.

Next Week's Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

Ushers: *Jane Paterson, Jill Tribell, Tom Schaberg, Keith Camann*

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

This morning's liturgy is adapted from work by the Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed. 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