# The Presbyterian Church of Okemos December 18, 2022 Fourth 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:** "When Mary is perplexed by the proclamation of the angel Gabriel, the angel doesn't explain to her the biology of her pregnancy. The angel names a companion: "And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren." Gabriel gives Mary the gift of a friend for her journey." -- Rev. Eliza C. Jaremko

**Prelude** Variations on *Savior of the Nations, Come* Karen Keene

[Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland] Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Choral Introit Love Came Down At Christmas Leo Sowerby
PCO Chancel Choir

Love came down at Christmas, Love shall be our token,

Love all lovely, love divine; Love shall be yours and love be mine,

Love was born at Christmas, Love to God and to all men, Star and angels gave the sign. Love for plea and gift and sign.

### **Invitation to our Shared Ministry**

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Call to Worship Ron Dorr, Liturgist

One: We believe that creation is inextricably linked.

All: We belong to one another in an undeniable way.

One: We believe that God invites us to live into that truth—

All: to love without abandon, to see the good in one another, to trust that all belong to God.

One: We know that this life of connection is easier said than done, which is why we gather in this space, week after week, generation after generation, to be reminded:

All: We see God in each other.

\* **Hymn** #105 People, Look East, vs. 1-5 [Besançon]

## **Prayer of Confession**

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

One: One of the greatest gifts and challenges of faith is that we cannot be Christian alone. We need one another. We need one another to grow. We need one another to love. And we need one another to see God more clearly. Let us lean into the ties that bind and pray to our merciful God.

All: God of today and tomorrow, when Mary was pregnant and afraid, she ran to her cousin Elizabeth's house. Elizabeth threw open the door with joy and showered blessings upon her. How often do we have that same opportunity? How often do we leave the door locked, the curtains drawn, and the lights off? How often do we shower critique or judgment instead of blessings and joy? Gracious God, forgive us for our wrongs. We want to see you when we see our neighbor. Amen.

# **Promise of the Gospel**

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

One: Friends, this is what I know—God delights in us. God throws open the door, just like Elizabeth, and says, "Come on home. There is room for you here!"

All: And in that moment, we are blessed. In that moment, we are forgiven. In that moment, we are seen, healed, and welcomed home. We rest in this good news: we are saved by grace. Alleluia! 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 [Gloria] Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

### **Lighting the Candle of Love**

Claire, Andrew, Sarah and Steve Mayhew

David and Kathi Cook

Jacques Berthier

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 9:2-4

Nativity: Mary

Musical Response #88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vs. 6

#### **Children's Worship Experience**

Children ages 3-8 may depart for the Chapel following the musical response.

# **Prayer of Illumination**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Ron Dorr, Liturgist

God of all, we are a mixed bag of distracted and forlorn, eager and anxious. We hope that you might move through the obstacle course we build up around our hearts—made out of questions and defenses—and douse us in good news. For at the end of the day, all we want is to know that we are not alone, that you are always near. Pull us close and tell us your story of unbelievable good news. We are listening. We are grateful. Amen.

Scripture Luke 1:39-45; 56-58 Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Sermon** From Generation to Generation: We See God in Each Other

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Special Music He is Born Ron Mallory

PCO Handbell Choir Directed by Irene Shutt

Minute for Mission January 8 Kenyan Tea with Andrea Kaitany Ellen Hoekstra

Simbolei Academy

Offering Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending Charles Callahan

[Picardy]

\*Doxology #606

\*Prayer of Dedication

Minute for Gratitude Christmas Giving Tree Trudy Sturk

Prayers of the People

One: Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

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 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** 

Fanfare on Wake, Awake, for the Night Is Flying
[Wacher Auf]
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Michael Burkhardt

\* Please rise in body or spirit

Education Time: Digging Deeper into Advent: Seeing God in Each Other led by Pastor Lisa

**Next Week's Education Time:** There will be no Children, Youth or Adult Education on December 25 and January 1. Join us for Christmas Dinner on December 25 at 1 p.m. Sign-up on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall.

Christmas Eve Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

**Ushers:** Bill & Barbara Given, Ron & Barbara Dorr

**This Morning's Fellowship Team**: Thanks to Parish Life for providing birthday cake for everyone to celebrate those with birthdays in December and to Edward Ennen for preparing this morning's coffee.

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
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