

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

Jacques Berthier

[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

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

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 MissionJanuary 8 Kenyan Tea with Andrea Kaitany
Simbolei Academy

Ellen Hoekstra

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation**Offertory***Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*
[Picardy]

Charles Callahan

Doxology #606**Prayer of Dedication****Minute for Gratitude**

Christmas Giving Tree

Trudy Sturk

Prayers of the People

Ron Dorr, Liturgist

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* Michael Burkhardt
[Wacher Auf]
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

** 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
Anna Thiel, Office Manager

