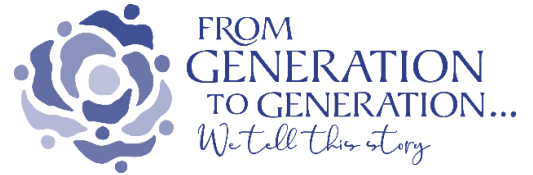


The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
December 24, 2022
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service



COVID-19 Safety Recommendations

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

Prelude *Two French Noels* Jean-Francois Dandrieu
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Welcome Pastor Lisa Schrott

Call to Worship Dorinda VanKempen, Liturgist

One: We believe that for generations people have gathered together on this holy night, because there is something about this story that speaks to the deepest parts of us.

All: We believe in bundling up this hope, this good news, and passing it on— to our children, to our neighbors, to the world around us.

One: I will tell this story—of a love that makes room for all. I will sing this story—of a love that knows our name.

All: I will live this story—because love has come again.

* **Hymn #119** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, vs. 1-3
[Mendelssohn]

Lighting the Christ Candle Becca, Laurel, Angie and Lance Boldrey
Bob and Candy Boldrey

Children are invited to come forward as we light the Christ candle and continue our journey to Bethlehem.

Journey to Bethlehem

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:6-7

Nativity: Jesus

Musical Response # 144 *In the Bleak Midwinter* arr: Jason Krug
PCO Handbell Choir
Irene Shutt, Director

Prayer of Adoration Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Old Testament Scripture Isaiah 11:6-10 Dorinda VanKempen, Liturgist

Special Music*Angel Carols*

arr: Bill Ingram

(Angels from the Realms of Glory, Hark the Herald Angels Sing)

PCO Handbell Choir

Irene Shutt, Director

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Lisa Schrott

O Holy God, we need this story—this Christmas story. We need this story of ordinary people who were brave. We need this story of love that changed the world. We need this story of angel choruses that give reason to hope, and starlight that reminds us to look up. We are here, gathered together to warm ourselves by your light, because we need this story. We need the truth that lies deep in these holy words. Quiet our minds. Open our hearts. Kindle the fire. Amen.

New Testament Scripture

Luke 2:1-20

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Meditation*From Generation to Generation: We Tell the Story*

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Hymn #112*On Christmas Night All Christians Sing, vs. 1-4*

[Sussex Carol]

Offering

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Invitation**Offertory***Coventry Carol*

arr: James Southbridge

The offering this evening will support those affected by the fire at the Knob Hill apartment complex through the Deacon's care and compassion fund. On this Christmas Eve, we are acutely aware of those in need of shelter. Let us respond with generous hearts.

Doxology #606**Prayer of Dedication****Holy Communion****Invitation**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

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**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

The Light of Christ

John 1:1-5, 10-12, 14

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

One: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

All: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

One: He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

All: But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.

One: And the Word became flesh and lived among us,

All: and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Sharing the Light

The ushers will bring the light from the Christ Candle to those seated near the aisle in each pew, who will then pass the flame to the end of each row. After we have sung all four verses of *Silent Night*, worshippers may extinguish their candles.

*** Hymn #122**

Silent Night, vs. 1-4

1 Silent night, holy night!

All is calm, all is bright

'round yon virgin mother and child!

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night, holy night!

Shepherds quake at the sight;

glories stream from heaven afar,

heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:

Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"

3 Silent night, holy night!

Son of God, love's pure light

radiant beams from thy holy face,

with the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

4 Silent night, holy night!

Wondrous star, lend thy light;

with the angels let us sing

Alleluia to our King:

Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

*** 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

Joy to the World
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

arr: Kristina Langlois

** Please rise in body or spirit*

Ushers: *Gary & Trudy Sturk*

Please join us for a Christmas Day Service of Scripture and Song at 10 am in the Sanctuary.

We welcome you to ring in the New Year with us on January 1, 2023 at 10 am.

This evening'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. Dr. Lisa Schrott, Pastor/Head of Staff
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