

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
January 8, 2023
Epiphany



COVID-19 Safety Recommendations

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

Preparation: *“Blessed are you who plant trees and sing the harmony, who tell the children how this world can be magic. Blessed are you who walk and seek and turn over every stone, pointing out all the corners and colors that God lives in. Blessed are you.”-- Rev. Sara (Are) Speed*

Prelude Variations on *Puer Nobis* Michael Burkhardt
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Choral Introit *Arise, Shine, for Thy Light is Come* Healy Willan
PCO Chancel Choir

Invitation to our Shared Ministry Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Call to Worship Lance Boldrey, Liturgist

One: We believe that faith is active, found on long walks, and in long talks, in future days, and down memory lane.

All: We believe that those who seek will find, although it may not be what they expected.

One: We believe that God finds us first. We believe that God drops breadcrumbs along our way in the shape of people, invitations, and even starlight.

All: We believe that being a seeker—of God, of justice, of community—is a holy thing.

One: So we strive to live with an open spirit, with soft hearts, and with room to grow.

All: May it be so. Amen.

* Hymn #152 *What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright*, vs. 1-4
[Puer Nobis Nascitur]

Prayer of Confession Pastor Rebekah Anderson

One: In the prayer of confession, we acknowledge that more often than we'd like to admit, we find ourselves following the wrong star. Fortunately for us, God is the map maker, and God's map is measured in grace, so we have nothing to fear. Let us seek God together. Join me in the prayer of confession:

All: God of starlight, we know that faith isn't a vending machine. Good news can't be bought or manufactured. It does not arrive with a push of a button. Instead, in this noisy world, we have to look for you in our midst. We have to walk toward you, just as the Magi did. We have to believe that love really can change the world. We have to seek the stars

beyond the city lights. Forgive us for forgetting that. Forgive us for seeking you with only part of our hearts. We long to be more like the Magi; may we walk your way every single day. Amen.

Promise of the Gospel

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

One: Even in our failings, God has washed us with words of grace, belonging, and love. No matter what star you've followed, no matter how far you've walked, no matter how lost you got—you belong to God. God loves you. God forgives you. God claims you.
End of story.

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!

Journey to Bethlehem

Claire, Andrew, Sarah and Steve Mayhew

Children are invited to come forward as we complete our journey to Bethlehem.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Nativity: Wise Men and Camels

Children's Worship Experience

Children ages 3-8 may depart for the Children's Worship Experience in the Chapel following the Journey to Bethlehem.

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Lisa Schrott

God of starlight, every part of us is trying to seek you: our bodies that carried us into this space, our heads bowed in prayer, our hearts that keep whispering, "There is more than just this." Quiet the rest of the world. Open the door to us. We know you're near, so know that it's you we seek. Find us in these words. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Scripture

Matthew 2:1-12

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

From Generation to Generation: We Keep Seeking

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Anthem

Walk in the Light
PCO Chancel Choir

André Thomas

Offering

Lance Boldrey, liturgist

Invitation

Offertory

Improvisation on *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

David Lasky

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

Star Words

The use of star words is a prayer practice connected to Epiphany and the new year. It can be easy to miss God in our daily midst. Having an intention word allows for us to see God in ways we may not have seen God before. After you have received the communion elements, you are invited to draw a star from one of the baskets. Use that word as a guiding word throughout the year. For those who are joining us via livestream, you can contact Pastor Lisa to receive a Star Word.

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 #150

As with Gladness Men of Old, vs. 1-4

[Dix]

* **Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Holy God of candlelight and open doors,
God of tables and feasts, God of holly and of ivy,
we give you our prayers.

Like pennies shaken loose from our pockets,
we turn over every corner of our hearts
to give you our truth through prayers of gratitude,
prayers of fear, prayers of grief.

Collect them all and hold us close
on this Epiphany morning,
for today, especially today,
we long to feel you near.

With gratitude and joyful hearts we pray.

Postlude

Fanfare Toccata on *Dix*
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

David Lasky

** Please rise in body or spirit*

Education Time: Join us in Fellowship Hall for a Kenyan Tea with Andrea Kaitany. Andrea will review Simbolei Academy's first year of operation and discuss possibilities for a mission trip to Kenya in June.

Next Week's Education Time: Embracing What Matters in the End. In life and death and life beyond death we belong to God: A look at scriptures and confessions that shape our understanding of the end of earthly life. Led by Pastor Lisa.

Next Week's Scripture: Luke 2:22-40

Ushers: Gary & Trudy Sturk, Jeff & Michele Arbour

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Edward Ennen for preparing coffee 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*.
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The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
2258 Bennett Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864
(517) 349-9536
Website: <https://okemospres.org>
Email: office@okemospres.org
<https://twitter.com/okemospres>
<https://facebook.com/OkemosPresbyterian>



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