

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**  
**December 24, 2023**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve**



**Prelude**

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*  
Based on “Tempus Adest Floridum”  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

James Biery

**Welcome and Invitation to Shared Ministry**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Lighting the Advent Candle: Love and Children’s Message**

Haskel Family

**Old Testament Scripture**

Isaiah 11:1-9

Ben, Laura, Connor, Evan

**Journey to Bethlehem**

Nativity: Empty Manger

**Musical Response #88**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, vs. 4

*O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan’s tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o’er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**\* Call to Worship**

Andrew Mayhew, Liturgist

One: How does a weary world rejoice?

**All: We sing songs of hope, of peace, of joy, and of love. We allow God’s hope, peace, joy, and love to change us, to strengthen us.**

One: There is room for you here:

**All: Weary and worn or full of hope and peace.**

One: There is room for you here:

**All: Tired and lost or filled with joy and love.**

One: If you’re new to this place or have been here before

**All: Come in, come in. There is room for you here.**

One: The angels are singing, “Be not afraid.”

**All: The angels are singing, “Good news and great joy!”**

One: So come in, come in!

**All: There is room for us here and it is filled with hope, peace, joy, and love.**

**\* Hymn #105**

*People, Look East*, vs. 1-5  
[Besançon]

## Prayer of Confession

Andrew Mayhew, Liturgist

One: Did you know that a version of the phrase, “Be not afraid” is written in scripture as many as 365 times? God says, “Be not afraid.” The angels say, “Be not afraid.” So let us be honest with God about the mess of our lives remembering we are met with God’s grace. God does not meet us with anger, hold a grudge or keep score. Instead, God wraps us in mercy and holds us in love. So be not afraid, and join me in the prayer of confession.

**All: Loving Christ, Scripture tells us that you were placed in a manger among livestock and hay because there was no place in the guest room. The space was full, and yet—your parents made room. Scripture tells us that shepherds arrived from the fields beyond town. The space was full, and yet—they made room. Too often we assume there is no more room. Too often we choose exclusion and close off our hearts. Teach us how to make room for one another. Teach us how to make room for you. Teach us how to live in your hope, peace, joy, and love. *Silent prayer. Amen.***

## Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Andrew Mayhew, Liturgist

One: The angels say, “Be not afraid,” but they also say, “Unto you a child is born.” Christ is born for you. Christ walked this earth for you. Christ forgives you. That’s what love does. It makes room. It offers grace. It learns your name. So repeat these words after me:  
I am God’s beloved.

**All: I am God’s beloved.**

One: I am forgiven.

**All: I am forgiven.**

One: I am blessed and sent to serve.

**All: I am blessed and sent to serve.**

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]*

Will be sung once by soloist; please join on the second time

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!*

## Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

### Invitation

### Offertory

*What Child is This*

Paul Manz

Based on “Greensleeves”

### \*Doxology #606

### \*Prayer of Dedication

## Prayers of the People

Rebecca Mattern

**The Lord's Prayer**

**in unison**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Prayer of Illumination**

Rebecca Mattern

**The Christmas Story**

*A Little Child Shall Lead Them*

Lizzie Conroy-Krutz, Connor and Evan Haskel, Teddy Krawczyk,  
Andrew and Claire Mayhew, Aria and Reiland Roelofs

**Special Music:** *O, Little Town of Bethlehem* Lewis H Redner, arranged by B. C. Dockery  
Andrew Mayhew (euphonium) and Connor Haskel (cello)

**Scripture Lesson:** Luke 2:1-7 Mary and Joseph Go to Bethlehem

**Hymn #114:** *Away in a Manger*, vs. 1-3

Lizzie Conroy-Krutz, violin  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, piano

**Scripture Lesson:** Luke 2:8-14 The Angels Appear to the Shepherds

**\* Hymn #113:** *Angels We Have Heard on High*, vs. 1-3

**Scripture Lesson:** Luke 2:15-20 The Shepherds Visit Jesus

**\* Hymn #136:** *Go Tell It On the Mountain*, vs. 1-3

**Scripture Lesson:** Matthew 2:1 The Wise Ones Come from the East

**Reflection:** God's Greatest Gift to Us

**Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in a God who makes room for us— who opens the door, pulls up a seat, puts the kettle on, and says, “Tell me everything.” We believe that God not only treats us this way but also makes room for our neighbors, for strangers, and for our enemies. Jesus modeled this kind of room-making love when he said, “Let the children come to me,” and, “Let me wash your feet,” so we try to follow suit. In a world of closed doors, we believe in saying, “There is room for you here.”**

**Prayer**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**  
**Old Testament Scripture**  
**Journey to Bethlehem**

Isaiah 9:6-7  
Nativity: Jesus

Detrisac Family  
Dave, Sandy, Marissa, Matthew,  
Annabelle, Ainsley, & Evelyn June

(Christmas Story participants return “home” to pews during hymn)

**\* Hymn #122**

*Silent Night*, vs. 1-4  
[Stille Nacht]

**\* Benediction**

Rebecca Mattern

Family of faith, as you leave this place,  
you go into a weary world—so speak tenderly.  
Do the good that is yours to do.  
Choose connection. Hold onto hope.  
And remember that Christ took on flesh for you.  
You are God’s beloved. So go rejoicing.  
The world needs it. Amen.

**Postlude**

*Noel Fanfares*  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Charles Callahan

*\* Please rise in body or spirit*

**Join us this evening at 8 pm:** Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve Service

**Scripture:** Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:1-20

**Christmas Day Dinner at the Church at 2 pm:** Sign up on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall.

**This Morning’s Fellowship Team:** Thank you to David and Sandy Detrisac and the Parish Life Committee for supplying treats this morning, and to Tom Schaberg and Gary VanKempen for taking care of the coffee service.

This morning’s liturgy is adapted from words by the Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed. Graphic design by the Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman. A Sanctified Art LLC - *A Weary World Rejoices*  
sanctifiedart.org.

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*Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott, Pastor/Head of Staff*

*Rebecca Mattern, Interim Director of Faith Formation*

*Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist*

*Westin Sorrel, Chancel Choir Director*

*Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director*

*Edward Ennen, Sexton*

*Anna Thiel, Office Manager*