

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
December 24, 2023
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service



Gathering As a People of God

Prelude

Saraband BWV 1013
I Wonder As I Wander
Nicolas Lira, soprano saxophone
Gail Lytle Lira, piano

J.S. Bach
John Jacob Niles
Arr: Gail Lytle Lira

Welcome

Pastor Lisa Schrott

*** Call to Worship**

One: There is room for you here. If you're weary and worn, or hopeful and patient.

All: If you're tired and lost, or wrapped up in hope.

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.

*** Hymn #133**

O Come, All Ye Faithful vs. 1-4
[Adeste Fideles]

Prayer of Adoration

Rebecca Mattern

Act of Praise #583

Gloria, Gloria
[Gloria]

Jacques Berthier

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

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

The Word

Prayer of Illumination

Rebecca Mattern

Loving God, we have heard this story before—the story of a star in the sky and a baby who was laid in a manger. We have heard this story before—passed down in hopeful whispers through the generations. So this night, as we lean our hearts and our ears closer to you, we ask that you would make room in our souls to hear this story again. Pull us into the narrative, that we might

hear the truths in this ancient Word as if it were the first time. For we know that you are still speaking. We are listening. We are already making room. Amen.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Mayhew Family

Old Testament Scripture

Isaiah 9:2-7

Steve, Sarah, Andrew & Claire

Journey to Bethlehem

Nativity: Jesus

Musical Response

The First Noel

arr. Arnold Sherman

PCO Handbell Choir

Dave & Kathi Cook, Linda & Lou Cravotta

Barbara Fretwell-Cooke, Beth Layhe

Sarah Mayhew, Carolyn Sherrill

Westin Sorrel, Director

New Testament Scripture

Luke 2:1-20

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Meditation

How does a weary world rejoice? We make room.

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Anthem

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

PCO Christmas Eve Choir

Responding to the Word

Offering

Rebecca Mattern

Invitation

Offertory

O, Holy Night

Westin Sorrel, Vocalist

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

*** Hymn # 145**

What Child is This, vs. 1-3

[Greensleeves]

Holy Communion

Invitation

Pastor Lisa Schrott

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rebecca Mattern

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

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Communion Prayer

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Musical Response

Carole of the Bells
PCO Handbell Choir

arr: Arnold Sherman

Sent Out as a People of God

* The Light of Christ

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

Rebecca Mattern

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*, worshipers may extinguish their candles.

Hymn #122

Silent Night, vs. 1-4

[Stille Nacht]

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

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

Joy to the World

arr: Kristina Langlois

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

** Please rise in body or spirit*

Next Week December 31, 2023

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-9, Luke 1:46-55

Education Hour: There will be no classes for children, youth or adults.

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

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