

# The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

January 7, 2024

## Epiphany Sunday



**Preparation:** “Though my soul may set in darkness, it will rise in perfect light; I have loved the stars too fondly to be fearful of the night.” — Poet Sarah Williams, *The Old Astronomer to his Pupil*, 1868

### Gathering As a People of God

#### Prelude

Partita on *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Michael Burkhardt

#### Choral Introit

*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*  
PCO Chancel Choir

#### Setting the Table

Becca Boldrey & Lucas Meland

#### \* Call to Worship

Kathi Cook, 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 #150

*As with Gladness Men of Old*, vs. 1-4  
[Dix]

#### Prayer of Confession

Kathi Cook, Liturgist

One: The One who always hears us and is always with us calls us to repent. In trust that our Creator knows us through and through and loves us wholeheartedly, let us open our hearts to the healing of God’s forgiveness.

**All: Good and gracious God, we have lit candles of hope, peace, joy and love. We have celebrated the glorious birth of your Son. And yet we still struggle with living as a people assured of the promise of Immanuel, God-with-us. We too often seek wisdom from the crowd, rather than wisdom from the all-knowing One. Forgive us when we allow fear to drive us, afraid we will be left out, left behind, or left holding the short straw. Instead, turn us toward you. Help us live in the sure and certain confidence of your love. Silent prayer. Amen.**

**Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace**

Kathi Cook, Liturgist

One: Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason God sent Jesus into the world—not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. This is the good news of the Gospel:

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free to live a new life in him.**

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!*

**The Word**

**Prayer of Illumination**

Rebecca Mattern

O God of wonder, that ancient star rose and guided the Magi, the Wise Ones, illuminating the place where Jesus was. May the light of your Holy Spirit shine in our hearts and minds as the Word is read and proclaimed. Guide us again to Christ, and direct us in new paths of faithfulness. In Christ we pray. Amen.

**Children's Message**

Boldrey Family

**Journey to Bethlehem** Nativity: Wise Ones and Camels

**Old Testament Scripture** Isaiah 60:1-6

**Musical Response #151** *We Three Kings of Orient Are* vs. 1

*We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.*

*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

**New Testament Scripture**

Matthew 2:1 -12

Angie Boldrey, David Horner

*Different from the Beginning: A Magi's Tale*

Kent Workman

**Sermon**

*How does a weary world rejoice? We keep seeking.*

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Special Music**

*We Three Kings*

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

PCO Handbell Choir

Irene Shutt, Director

## Responding to the Word

### Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Rebecca Mattern

### Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

#### Invitation

#### Offertory

Meditation on *Quem Pastores*

David Lasky

#### \*Doxology #606

#### \*Prayer of Dedication

### Star Words

Star Words are 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 your Star 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

#### Invitation

Rebecca Mattern

#### 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

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

### Sent Out As a People of God

#### \* Hymn #152

*What Star is This, with Beams So Bright*, vs. 1-4  
[Puer Nobis Nascitur]

#### \* 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**

Fanfare on *Dix*  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

David Lasky

*\* Please rise in body or spirit*

**Education Time:** Who is My Neighbor? A Bible study accompanied by a demographic exercise about who lives around us.

**Ushers:** Jane Paterson, Jill Tribell, Keith Camann

**This Morning's Fellowship Team:** Thank you to Shirley Rumminger and Mickey Martin for bringing snacks and to Edward Ennen and Wayne and Barbara Scott for taking care of the coffee.

**Next Week January 14, 2024**

**Baptism of the Lord: Reaffirmation of Our Baptismal Vows**

**Scripture:** Luke 3: 1-3, 15-17, 21-22

**Education Hour:** Being a neighbor: Encountering our neighbor with authenticity and openness asks that we examine who we are and what we have been taught by others. We will examine bias - What is it? Who has it? How does it affect how we interact with others? How do we attend to it in our own lives, congregation, community, and world? Why does it matter?

This morning's Call to Worship is adapted from words by the Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed. *From Generation to Generation* A Sanctified Art LLC; Graphic design by the Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman. *A Weary World Rejoices* - A Sanctified Art LLC - sanctifiedart.org. The Prayer of Illumination is from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A*, Volume 1. Westminster John Knox Press; 2013. The scripture reading *Different from the Beginning: A Magi's Tale*, based on Matthew 2:1-12 was adapted from text by Rev. Karen Ware Jackson; 2015. Used with permission.

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