



**Sunday, December 14th, 2025**

**7pm**

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**

**2258 Bennett Road**





## **AN EVENING OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025 — 7:00 PM



**Dr. Marlene Brewbaker**  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & ORGANIST

**Shelby Laird**  
CHANCEL CHOIR DIRECTOR

**Irene Shutt**  
HANDBELL CHOIR DIRECTOR

**Rev. Dr. Kenneth Bieber**

**Rev. Melissa Congleton**

**Susan Cancro**

**Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott**  
READERS

### **WELCOME TO THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OKEMOS**

Whether you are visiting in the community or are looking for a church home, you will find a welcome at the Presbyterian Church of Okemos. This is a place where all are invited to gather together and engage God through worship, study, fellowship, and service.

The music programs at the church provide people of all ages with an opportunity to make a joyful noise unto the Lord, to enjoy the fellowship of others in a choir setting, and to grow in their faith and life.

If you are interested in participating in any of our music ensembles, please email [shelbylaird@okemospres.org](mailto:shelbylaird@okemospres.org).

# The Origin of the Lessons and Carols



For millions of people, the annual broadcast service of “A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols” from the chapel of King’s College, Cambridge, is an essential part of Christmas. The service consists of lessons telling the story of our Redemption interspersed with carols and hymns sung by the choir and congregation. The service was first held in its present form on Christmas Eve, 1919. The British Broadcasting Company (BBC) first broadcast the service in 1928 and is now heard by millions all over the world. In the United States alone, over three hundred radio stations including WKAR carry the broadcast on Christmas Eve morning.

The service begins with a solo voice singing “Once in Royal David’s City.” It invokes the enchantment of the storyteller’s “once upon a time...,” and we are drawn in as the story unfolds through words and music.

What accounts for the continued success of this yearly event? The strength of the service itself comes from the fact that the story being told lies at the very core of our Christian faith. The vitality and freshness comes in part from the new arrangements of old carols and hymns, and the introduction of new music each year. The continued interest is supported by the ways in which the service has been adapted throughout the world, from large cathedrals to small parishes, from the West Indies to the Far East.

As Michael Till, former dean of King’s College, so eloquently stated, “a diversity of people with different personalities, preoccupations and needs are caught up in a common act of attention, and find within the story, something which speaks to them personally and revives a capacity for wonder. For the magic of this particular ‘once upon a time’ is that, in one way or another, as the story unfolds ‘once’ becomes ‘now’ and ‘for us.’”

— Dr. Marlene Brewbaker

**PRELUDE**

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**Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**

HANDBELL TRIO: LINDA CRAVOTTA, LOU CRAVOTTA, SARAH MAYHEW

Arr. Larry Sue

**Es Ist Ein Ros'**

**Sussex Carol**

IVANA CHACON RAMIREZ, FLUTE

DR. MARLENE BREWBAKER, ORGAN

Setting by Peter Crisafulli

**Angel Glory**

HANDBELL CHOIR

Arr. Kevin McChesney

**Noel: Mais on San es allé Nau**

DR. MARLENE BREWBAKER, ORGAN

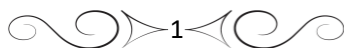
Jean-François Dandrieu

**WELCOME**

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Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos



## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

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Makinsey Rosser, soloist

- 1 (Solo)** Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.
- 4 (All)** For he is our childhood's pattern,  
Day by day like us he grew,  
He was little, weak and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us he knew;  
And he feeleth for our sadness,  
And he shareth in our gladness.
- 2 (Octet)** He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable,  
And his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,  
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.
- 5 (All)** And our eyes at last shall see him,  
Through his own redeeming love,  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heaven above;  
And he leads his children on  
To the place where he is gone.
- 3 (Choir)** And through all his wondrous childhood  
He would honor and obey,  
Love, and watch the lowly maiden,  
In whose gentle arms he lay;  
Christian children all must be  
Mild, obedient, good as he.
- 6 (All)** Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see him; but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high;  
When like stars his children crowned  
All in white shall wait around.

## BIDDING PRAYER

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Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott

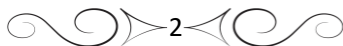
### <sup>1\*</sup> CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

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- 1** O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold Him, born the King of  
angels!
- 2** Sing, choirs of angels;  
Sing in exultation;  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!  
*[Refrain]*
- Refrain** O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!
- 3** Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
*[Refrain]*

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<sup>1\*</sup>Members of the congregation are invited to stand as they are able.



FIRST LESSON

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## Genesis 3: 8-15, 17-19

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise, and that his seed will bruise  
the serpent's head*

Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott

CAROL

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## Adam lay ybounden

CHANCEL CHOIR

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Adam lay ybounden,<br>Bounden in a bond;<br>Four thousand winter<br>Thought he not too long.       | 4 Ne had the apple taken been,<br>The apple taken been,<br>Ne had never our lady<br>Abeen heavne queen.                          |
| 2 And all was for an apple,<br>An apple that he took,<br>As clerkes finden<br>Written in their book. | 5 Blessed by the time<br>That apple taken was,<br>Therefore we moun singen,<br><i>Deo gracias, Deo gracias,<br/>Deo gracias!</i> |

Melody, Boris Ord

Words, Anonymous 15th Century Text

SECOND LESSON

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## Genesis 22: 15-18

*God's promised blessing to all nations of the earth*

Rev. Melissa Congleton

St. Katherine's Episcopal Church

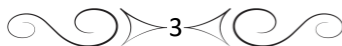
HANDBELL ANTHEM

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## The Promised Coming

HANDBELL CHOIR

Sandra Eithun



THIRD LESSON

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Isaiah 9: 2-6

*The prophet foretells the promised Messiah*

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Bieber  
Henry Ford Hospital, Jackson

CAROL

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Break Forth, O Beauteous Light

CHANCEL CHOIR & BRASS

Words, Johann von Rist  
Melody, Ermuntre Dich by Johann Schop  
Arranged, Johann Sebastian Bach  
Brass parts and harmonization, Adrian Lucas

FOURTH LESSON

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Isaiah 11: 1-9

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown*

Susan Cancro  
Advent House

CAROL

---

Come, Child of Peace

CHANCEL CHOIR

Ruth Elaine Schram

CAROL

---

The Holly and the Ivy

CHANCEL CHOIR

French Traditional Carol  
Arr. June Nixon

FIFTH LESSON

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Matthew 1: 18–23

*He shall be called “Emmanuel,” which means “God-with-us”*

Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott

HANDBELL ANTHEM

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West Indies Carol

HANDBELL CHOIR

Sondra Tucker

SIXTH LESSON

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Luke 2: 1–7

*The birth of Jesus*

Rev. Melissa Congleton

CAROL

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Gesù Bambino

CHANCEL CHOIR & FLUTE

AMIRA COLEMAN, SOLOIST

SARAH MAYHEW, HANDBELLS

Pietro A. Yon

Arr. Patrick M. Liebergen

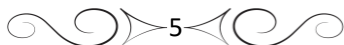
SEVENTH LESSON

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Luke 2: 8–20

*The shepherds go to the manger*

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Bieber



**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN**

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- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>1</b> While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around. | <b>4</b> “The heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed, all humbly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid.” |
| <b>2</b> “Fear not,” said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind: “Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and humankind.”   | <b>5</b> Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith appeared a shining throng of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song:  |
| <b>3</b> “To you, in David’s town this day, is born of David’s line the Savior, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign:        | <b>6</b> “All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace; good will to all from highest heaven begin and never cease!”         |

Words, Nahum Tate  
Melody, Este’s Psalmes  
Harmonized, George Kirbye  
Descant, Allen Gray

**CAROL**

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## Fum, Fum, Fum!

CHANCEL CHOIR & PICCOLO

Catalonian Carol  
Arr. Mark Wilberg

“Fum, Fum, Fum” is a Catalonian Christmas carol that originated in the 16th or 17th century. The word “fum” has many meanings, ranging from the sound of a rocking cradle, the sound of a drum, the strum of a guitar, or playing on a fiddle. The literal definition of “fum” in Catalan means smoke, which could refer to smoke rising from a chimney.

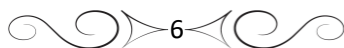
**EIGHTH LESSON**

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## Matthew 2: 1–12

The magi are led by the star to Jesus

Susan Cancro



# Star Carol

MSU ENSEMBLE

Alfred Burt

NINTH LESSON

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## John 1: 1–5, 10–12, 14

St. John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation

Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott

CAROL

---

## Yeoman's Carol

CHANCEL CHOIR & BRASS

ENGLISH TRADITIONAL  
ARR. HENRIK TOROLPHI

\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

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- 1** Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King. Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"
- 2** Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity, pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

- 3** Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Words, Charles Wesley  
Melody, Felix Mendelssohn  
Arranged, William Hayman Cummings  
Setting by Michael Burkhardt

**\*PRAYER AND BLESSING**

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Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott

**POSTLUDE**

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**In dulci jubilo, BWV 729**

DR. MARLENE BREWBAKER, ORGAN

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Please remain seated for the postlude.*



# Acknowledgements



In addition to the musicians, clergy, and readers already mentioned in the program, this special evening would not have been possible without the help and support of The Presbyterian Church of Okemos, Advent House Ministries, and the Doemel Music Endowment. We wish to express our sincere thanks to the following: all of the musicians for their work and dedication in preparing the music for this program; Jennifer Gordon, Edward Ennen, Jayne Zuhlke, Jill Schaberg, Brett Cone, Eunice Creswell and the PCO youth for the beautiful sanctuary decorations; and Lou and Linda Cravotta for organizing the lovely poinsettias; Edward Ennen, Carl Lira, and Jacob Meland for building and audio assistance.

Finally, we would like to thank you for attending the concert and for supporting Advent House Ministries and the music programs of The Presbyterian Church of Okemos.

## Chancel Choir

Fina Arnett*	Laurie Harkema	Elliot Ryser
Calvin Aupperlee†	Ali Juenke	Benjamin Saunders*
Jim Boyer	Micah Laird	Irene Shutt
Julie Boyer	Dee Mason-Walker*	Helen Taylor
Cassandra Cohen*	Will Mason-Walker*	Ewen Todd
Amira Coleman†	Doug Paterson	Keilah Ussi*
Jonathan Dahn†	Riley Piazzon*	Gary VanKempen
Roger David*	Kathy Richardson	Janae Washington†
Barbara Fretwell-Cooke	Makinsey Rosser*	Paula Zichi
Amanda Goldberg*		

\*MSU Singers

†PCO Scholarship Singers

## **Instrumentalists**

### **Trumpet**

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Therese Wizniewski  
Kaley Rodriguez

### **Horn**

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Alexander Delperdang

### **Trombone**

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Korie Brewer

### **Tuba**

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Anderson Johnson

### **Flute & Piccolo**

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Ivana Chacon Ramirez

## **Handbell Choir**

Julie Boyer  
Jeff Conroy-Krutz  
David Cook  
Kathi Cook  
Linda Cravotta

Lou Cravotta  
Barbara Fretwell-Cooke  
Betty Grzesiak  
Beth Layhe

Sarah Mayhew  
Lydia Morgan  
Helen Taylor  
Ewen Todd

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For over thirty years, Advent House has provided assistance for mid- Michigan's most vulnerable individuals who are often in desperate need of food and housing. As the needs of the homeless and impoverished have changed and become more apparent, Advent House has responded and expanded to bring aid to the needy in a timely and effective manner.

**As you leave the sanctuary, please consider making a donation. Visit the website at [www.adventhouse.com](http://www.adventhouse.com) for more information.**

# THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OKEMOS

Sunday Worship, 10 am

## STAFF

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Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott (she/her)

PASTOR/HEAD OF STAFF

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker

ORGANIST

Shelby Laird

CHANCEL CHOIR DIRECTOR

Irene Shutt

HANDBELL CHOIR DIRECTOR

Edward Ennen

SEXTON

Anna Thiel

OFFICE MANAGER

Jacob Meland

MEDIA SPECIALIST

## OFFICE HOURS

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Tuesday - Friday: 9 am – 2 pm

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