

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
December 24, 2025
Christmas Eve
Celebration of the Lord's Supper



Gathering As a People of God

Welcome

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prelude

Noel Fanfares
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Charles Callahan

Handbell Introit

Good Christians All, Rejoice

arr. by Jason W. Krug

Bell quintet: Kathi & Dave Cook, Linda & Lou Cravotta, Sarah Mayhew

*** Call to Worship**

Vickie Marcus, Liturgist

One: We gather together in this place:

All: prophets and dreamers, singers and poets,

One: we who dare to imagine a world renewed;

All: we who dare to dream God's dream.

One: We ponder with Mary;

All: we marvel at Christ's birth.

One: God comes to us, a vulnerable child—

All: heaven and earth, meeting in a manger.

One: The angels sing, the shepherds dance.

All: We treasure these things in our hearts.

*** Hymn #133**

O Come, All Ye Faithful, vs. 1-4

Advent Candle Lighting

Roy, Christine, Jacob, Olivia & Lucas Meland

Opening Prayer

God of the vulnerable, you come to us in ways that defy expectation: as a fragile baby, not a trampling warrior; birthed in a stable, not a palace; born in the quiet stillness of night. Teach us to look for you in the tender things. Make our hearts soft and our spirits generous, living the way of Christ, born to us this night. Amen.

One: The birth of Jesus has been told and retold a thousand times and in a thousand ways.

All: Its impact cannot be contained in any one perspective. But who is telling the story changes how we hear it, how we imagine it, how we experience it.

One: Close your eyes for a moment and imagine new parents who are excited to meet their son. ...

....Our world is not what it should be, but with Jesus, we have hope that one day it will be.

All: We light the candle of hope because hope creates a path for a new, unknown story to unfold. We light the candle of peace because peace requires us to pay attention to the needs of those around us. We light the candle of joy because joy sustains us in the midst of uncertainty. We light the candle of love because love makes the impossible possible.

One: Tonight, we light the Christ candle. May we acknowledge the new light it provides, breaking through the darkness, disrupting what is, lighting the path for our dreams to come.

All: Give us the will to dream, O God. May all be true in your name.

Advent Response

We Are a People of Hope

Barbara Hamm

[Table of Grace]

The response will be played through once, the congregation will join in the second time.

Christ is the light of the world;

Christ is the light of the world.

Lighting a candle, we witness the dawn;

Christ is the light of the world.

Prayer of Adoration

Pastor Lisa Schrott

*** Act of Praise #583**

Glory to God

[Gloria, Gloria]

The response will be played through once, the congregation will join in the second time.

Glory to God, glory to God,

glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God,

alleluia, alleluia!

The Word

Prayer of Illumination

Vickie Marcus, Liturgist

God of newborn cries and shouts of justice, you proclaim the good news of God-with-us from all corners of creation. As we turn to our scriptures, may the words inspire us to dream of a world where hope, peace, joy, and love thrive among us. Amen.

The Word in Scripture & Song

Scripture

Prophecy of the Messiah Foretold

Zach Nawyn-Hellinga

Isaiah 9:2-6

Micah 5:2-5a

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Song #121

O, Little Town of Bethlehem, vs. 1-4

Scripture Angels Bring the News of the Messiah Henry Nawyn-Hellinga
Luke 1:26-38
Matthew 1:18-21

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Shepherds Hear the Good News Mitch Marcus
Luke 2:8-14

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Song #113 *Angels We Have Heard on High*, vs. 1-3

Children's Sermon & Time of Wonder Pastor Lisa Schrott

Scripture The Birth of Jesus Pastor Lisa Schrott
Luke 2:1-7
Luke 2:15-20

Special Music *Handbell Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* arr. by Larry Sue
Bell trio: Linda & Lou Cravotta, Sarah Mayhew

*** Affirmation of Faith** Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Let us affirm God's gift of courageous care and loving embodiment through the incarnation.

All: We believe the birth and incarnation of Jesus changes everything. In a world that pushes out the vulnerable, erases the poor, and forgets the weary, we worship a God who is birthed in humility, cares for the overlooked, and shelters with peace.

One: We believe that in a world that prizes wealth, domination, and force, we choose to kneel before a God who chose poverty and embraces with welcome.

All: We believe peace, justice, and care can start small—just like the manger. We believe with Mary as our model of courageous care and loving embodiment, we, too, can give ourselves as spaces where love grows and grace breathes.

One: We believe peace will come when we let the sides of our own souls stretch so we might become large with God's promise.

All: We believe in allowing the Spirit to push us to the furthest rims of who we are, so the imagination of a new kingdom expands with life. We fully give ourselves to the Christmas miracle that Jesus may be born in us, to us, and through us.

Responding to the Word

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

The Christmas Eve offering supports the Board of Deacon's Fund for congregation and community members in need.

Offertory

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Johannes Brahms

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn # 145

What Child is This, vs. 1-3
[Greensleeves]

Holy Communion

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your fears, your hopes, your dreams.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to our generous, imaginative God.

All: We joyfully give our 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

Communion of the People

Communion will be served by intinction. Please take a piece of bread and dip into the cup of juice and partake as you return to your seat. The bread is gluten, soy, nut and dairy free so all may partake together.

Communion Prayer

Special Music

Rocking Carol
PCO Handbell Choir
Irene Shutt, director

Hart Morris

Sent Out as a People of God

* The Light of Christ

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

Pastor Lisa Schrott

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.

* Charge & Benediction

Pastor Lisa Schrott

What a gift to be present at the beginning of new life. God, incarnate, stepped out of heaven to come as an infant, reminding us all that new life is possible in the most difficult of times. As we go forth from this place, may we see present possibilities, not just distant dreams. May we lift up our gratitude that on that quiet night beneath the noise of the empire, Christ was born, not in power but in vulnerability.

Postlude

Joy to the World
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Kristina Langlois

Ushers: Brett Cone, Catherine Holdway, Gary & Trudy Sturk, Tom Schaberg

Please join us for a reception of cookies and punch following the worship service.

Thank you to Sandy Detrisac and Shirley Rumminger for supplying our refreshments and the Rumminger family for the arrangements.

This Sunday: December 28, 2025 First Sunday After Christmas

Seminarian J (Jonathan) Townley preaching

Scripture: Psalm 148 (CEB) & Luke 2: 22-40

Our Advent Worship Liturgy *The Will to Dream* is from Illustrated Ministry, 2025.

<https://store.illustratedministry.com/collections/the-will-to-dream>

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Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist
Shelby Laird, Chancel Choir Director
Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director
Edward Ennen, Sexton
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