

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**  
**December 28, 2025**  
**First Sunday After Christmas**



**Gathering As a People of God**

**Invitation to Our Shared Ministry**

Kent Workman

**Prelude**

Partita on *Coventry Carol*  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

John Barr

**\* Call to Worship**

Kent Workman, 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 witness with Anna.

**All: Jesus is our hope!**

One: We hold fast to our faith,

**All: trusting God's promises.**

One: Young and old, declare it together:

**All: love is born and salvation is here!**

One: Come and worship, all you who dream and imagine.

**All: We have come to wonder and praise.**

**\* Hymn #134**

*Joy to the World*, vs. 1-4  
[Antioch]

**Opening Prayer**

Kent Workman, Liturgist

God who keeps watch, who hears our every prayer, now that Jesus is born and the Word has become flesh, we do not turn from vigilance to distraction. Though the season of waiting is complete, our attention remains upon you and your movement in this world. Like Anna, we do not grow weary of care and compassion, of time spent in holy service, of love poured out upon our neighbors. The birth of Jesus rejuvenates us for a longer journey, a journey in which your will is fulfilled on earth, where the provisions of heaven meet the needs of the earth. Keep our eyes fixed upon your dream, O God, even in this joyous season of Christmastide. Amen.

**Response**

*We Are a People of Joy*  
[Table of Grace]

Barbara Hamm

*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 Confession

J Townley

One: Longing to see God's promised salvation, we confess our sins and pray for peace in our hearts.

**All: God of the covenant, you inspire all people to sing your praises and to proclaim your justice. We confess that we make judgments about which voices are worthy. We ignore the witness of those whose narratives make us uncomfortable or skeptical. We favor the voices of majority populations. We privilege ideas that reinforce our own opinions and validate our own experiences. Make us better listeners, ready to encounter your messages and your presence in all people. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

## Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

J Townley

One: God remains faithful and steadfast, drawing near to us with boundless forgiveness. You are redeemed and you are loved, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**All: We give thanks to God for everything: forgiveness, hope, new life. Amen.**

One: Where two or three of us are gathered, the prophetic Spirit is among us, inspiring our imagination and creating peace in our midst. Greet your fellow travelers now with the peace of Christ, and let these small doses of repair and reconciliation ripple out into a world in need of transformation. May 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

*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

Kent Workman, 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.

## Children's Sermon & Time of Wonder

J Townley

### First Scripture Reading

Psalm 148 (Common English Bible)

Kent Workman, Liturgist

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Second Scripture Reading

Luke 2:22-40

J Townley

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**\* Affirmation of Faith**

J Townley

One: Let us affirm God's gifts of faithful presence and persistent prayer.

**All: We believe the true life, the good life, is "a long obedience in the same direction." We look to the example of Anna, who modeled faithfulness founded in slow, persistent, daily presence.**

One: We believe close connection to God often comes not through what's flashy or visible, but through holy attentiveness, daily prayer, and the commitment to keep showing up.

**All: We believe in countering a world that pushes elders and women to the margins and instead celebrate generational wisdom and spiritual mothers.**

One: We believe in speaking up in a world that claims only the productive and young have worth, and instead bless how quiet presence and spiritual wisdom grow stronger with time. We believe eyes to see and a heart to sense the subtle miracle of God's love are the richest gifts we could receive.

**All: And so with gratitude for these gifts and those who have modeled persistence for us, we will sit at the feet of our elders, believing we, too, can carry on the legacy of faithfulness, one day at a time.**

**Special Music**

Amira Coleman, soloist

**Responding to the Word**

**Offering**

Kent Workman, liturgist

**Invitation**

**Offertory**

*Noel*

Jean-Francois Dandrieu

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

**\*Doxology #606**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Prayers of the People**

Kent Workman, Liturgist

One: Holy One,

**All: we pray in gratitude for deep faith, courageous wisdom, and enduring hope.**

**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.**

**Sent Out As a People of God**

**\* Hymn #132**

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice, vs. 1-3*

[In Dulce Jubilo]

**\* Charge and Benediction**

J Townley

As we go forth from this place, may we be grateful for the wisdom of those who have been faithful over decades of their lifetime. May we hear the testimony of our elders as we long for and dream about what is to come with our youth. May we value all people, at every step of life and faith, as God does.

**Postlude**

*In Dulce Jubilo*

Denis Bédard

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

\* Please rise in body or spirit

**Guest Preacher:** We welcome J (Jonathan) Townley (they, them) to the pulpit this morning. Jonathan is a member of PCO, who is currently attending seminary at Vanderbilt Divinity School, in Nashville, TN. J is seeking ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA) and is under care of the PCO Session and the Presbytery of Lake Michigan.

**Ushers:** Dave & Kathi Cook, Ron & Barbara Dorr

**This Morning's Fellowship Team:** Thank you to Shirley Rumminger for supplying refreshments, and to Edward Ennen for taking care of the coffee and washing the dishes.

**Education Hour:** No education hour this morning. Enjoy a time of extended fellowship.

**Next Week:** January 4, 2026, Epiphany Sunday & Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Scripture: Exodus 1:8—2:10 & Matthew 2:1—15

Adult Education: *Embracing What Matters in the End* facilitated by Pastor Lisa

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

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

*You are in an active recording environment, and your likeness may be captured in photographs and videos. By entering, you acknowledge giving consent to The Presbyterian Church of Okemos to take, own and use images containing your likeness at its sole discretion in perpetuity. If you do not wish to convey this consent, please contact a staff member immediately.*

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**  
2258 Bennett Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864  
(517) 349-9536  
Website: <https://okemospres.org>  
Email: [office@okemospres.org](mailto:office@okemospres.org)  
<https://www.instagram.com/okemospres/>  
<https://facebook.com/OkemosPresbyterian>

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