The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent



At PCO we strive to be a faithful, open, and inclusive community. We welcome the full participation of all people of any age, ability, gender identity, race, ethnicity and sexual orientation.

Gathering As a People of God

Preparation: 'A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse.' Through a Christocentric reading, Jesus is that shoot, the promised king to come in the power of the Spirit to redeem all of creation. And what power it is. Power to redeem a stump so that it will flourish again and bear fruit. Power to create something big out of something small. A shoot from the seed of a stump will be the hope of a new creation sparked by the Spirit. A flourishing future stems from a stump whose roots are watered in the baptism of the Spirit. A world with the scriptural motto "They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain." It is the reconciliation of all things." – Rev. Dr. Luke A. Powery; Sermon preached in Duke University Chapel on December 8, 2013.

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prelude Prelude on *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel* Charles Callahan
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Choral Introit *"Come to Us, O Christ, With Singing"*
Come to us, O Christ with singing, Christ, our Hope, your dream is strong.
Come to us, Emmanuel! O Christ, be our song!
Shelby Laird, soloist

*** Call to Worship** Doug Paterson, liturgist

One: Like notes on a music staff, we are called to join together to sing songs.
All: Songs that proclaim the renewed creation of Hope.
One: "Where words fail, music speaks."
All: Song poets help us "speak" when our own words fail in the face of our human struggle.
One: The promise of the Coming Christ is that our hearts can hold the world.
All: And that the songs in our hearts can heal our weariness.

*** Hymn** # 107 *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn,* vs. 1-4
[Rejoice, Rejoice]

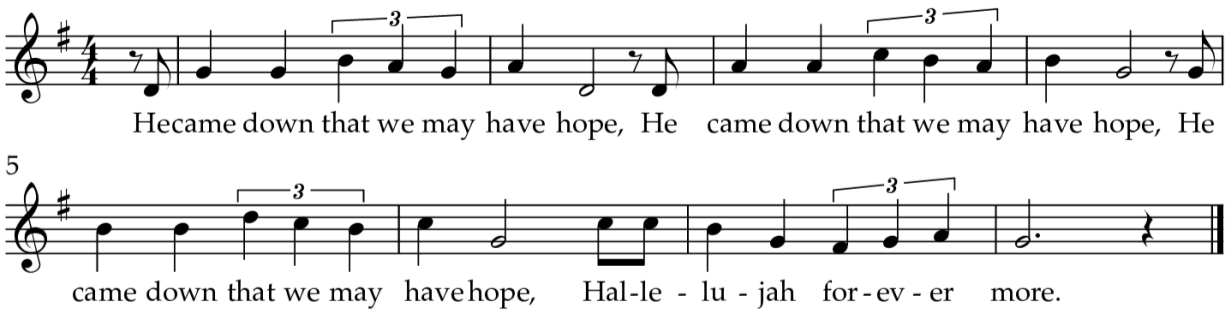
Advent Candle Lighting Claire Mayhew & Emma Roya

One: Lift your voices in praise to the Composer of our lives.
All: We sing for Hope!
One: Blend your tune in harmony with all people.
All: We sing for Hope!

One: Hang your note on the music staff of all creation.
All: We sing for Hope!
One: May this light bring hope to those feeling hopeless.
All: We sing for Hope! *(The candle of Hope is lit.)*

Advent Response *He Came Down*

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



Prayer of Confession Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Christ of many names, we come to you today needing the hope you promise. Come to us, abide with us, and help us to rejoice even in the midst of uncertainty. We bring all of our misgivings, disappointments, and regrets to you in this silence *[Time of Silence]*.
All: Let the music of hope fill and heal our hearts. Let us free ourselves from the chains of regret. Let our rejoicing lead to action on behalf of the hopeless. We pray this in the name of the Coming Christ, who forgives and uplifts us with melodies of grace. Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Heaven and earth may pass away, but God's faithfulness is sure. We are forgiven and forever claimed as beloved of God, through the saving love 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 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]
Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!
Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

The Word

Prayer of Illumination Doug Paterson, Liturgist

God of whispers and shouts, you proclaim the good news of hope from all corners of creation. As we turn to our scriptures, may the words inspire us to dream of a world where hope thrives among us. Amen.

Children's Sermon & Time of Wonder Pastor Lisa Schrott

First Scripture Reading Isaiah 11: 1-5 Doug Paterson, liturgist

One: The Word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

Second Scripture Reading Isaiah 11: 6-10 Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: The Word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon *O Come, Emmanuel* Pastor Lisa Schrott

Responding to the Word

Minute for Mission Simbolei Academy Trip Ellen Hoekstra

Offering Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending* Charles Callahan

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People Doug Paterson, Liturgist

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Sung One: Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free
Sung All: from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

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 # 88** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,* vs. 1-4, 7

*** Charge** Pastor Lisa Schrott

***Benediction (in unison)**

"May Christ come to us now and always, and may we have a song in our hearts to welcome him."

Postlude *Prepare the Royal Highway* Setting by Michael Burkhardt
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

***** Please rise in body or spirit

Liturgy and images for Advent are from *Carols for the Coming Christ* by the Rev. Dr. Marcia McFee, Worship Design Studio. Online at *https://worshipdesignstudio.substack.com/p/carols*

Ushers: Jennifer Gordon, Jayne Zuhlke, Sue Cobbett

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Dorinda VanKempen for providing snacks this morning and to Mitch Marcus for washing the dishes.

Education Hour following worship and fellowship time

No Elementary or Middle School Education due to Thanksgiving holiday.
Adult Education Sermon Talk Back with Pastor Lisa in Room 108

Next Week: December 6, Second Sunday of Advent

Lighting the Candle of Peace & Celebration of the Lord's Supper
Scripture: Luke 3: 2b-6; 4:16-21 Hymn of Focus: *Hark! The Glad Sound*
All-Ages Advent Art Workshop Following Worship

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Rev. Aaron Punt, Associate Pastor
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist
Shelby Laird (she, her), Chancel Choir Director
Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director
Edward Ennen, Sexton
Anna Thiel, Office Manager
Jacob Meland, Media Specialist