



**Sunday December 15th, 2024**

**7pm**

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**

**2258 Bennett Road**





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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024 — 7:00 PM



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

**Westin Sorrel**  
CHANCEL CHOIR DIRECTOR

**Irene Shutt**  
HANDBELL CHOIR DIRECTOR

**Susan Cancro**  
**Rev. Timothy Chon**  
**Rebecca Mattern**  
**Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott**  
**Rev. Bruce Thorsen**  
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 [chorus@okemospres.org](mailto:chorus@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

## Choral Partita: "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

DR. MARLENE BREWBAKER, ORGAN

Friedrich Zachau

## Christmas Meditation: Away In A Manger And Carol

HANDBELL CHOIR

ARRANGED, MICHAEL HELMAN

## Sinfonia from "Christmas Oratorio"

ANNE MARTIN, OBOE

DR. MARLENE BREWBAKER, ORGAN

J.S. BACH

Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

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Eleanor Barbour, soloist

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

## BIDDING PRAYER

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Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott

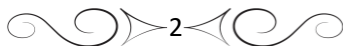
## <sup>1\*</sup> CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

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

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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 22: 15-18

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

Rebecca Mattern

Presbyterian Church of Okemos

CAROL

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Love Came Down at Christmas

CHANCEL CHOIR & OBOE

Nancy Grundahl

SECOND LESSON

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Isaiah 9: 2–6

*The prophet foretells the promised Messiah*

Rev. Timothy Chon

North Westminster Presbyterian Church

HANDBELL ANTHEM

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Sing We Now of Christmas

HANDBELL CHOIR

Arranged, KEVIN MCCHESENEY

THIRD LESSON

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Isaiah 11: 1–9

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown*

Rev. Bruce Thorsen

Faith Lutheran Church

## All Is Well

CHANCEL CHOIR

AMIRA COLEMAN, SOLOIST

Michael W. Smith & Wayne Kirkpatrick

FOURTH LESSON

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## Luke 1: 26-38

*The angel Gabriel visits the blessed Virgin Mary*

Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott

Presbyterian Church of Okemo

CAROL

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## Angelus ad Virginem

CHANCEL CHOIR

14th-Century Irish Carol

Arranged, DAVID WILCOCKS

1. *Gabriel to Mary came, and entered at her dwelling, with his salutation glad her maiden fears dispelling all hail, thou queen of virgins bright! God, Lord of earth and heaven's height, Thy very Son, shall soon be born in pureness, The Saviour of mankind. Thou art the gate of heaven bright, The sinners' healer kind'.*
2. *How could I a mother be that am to man a stranger? How should I my strong resolve, my solemn vows endanger? Pow'r from the holy ghost on high shall bring to pass this mystery. Then have no fear: be of good cheer, believing that still thy chastity in God's almighty keeping shall all unsullied be.*
3. *Then to him the maid replied, with noble mien supernal, Lo! the bumble handmaid I of God the Lord eternal! With thee, bright messenger of heav'n, by whom this wondrous mew is giv'n, I well agree and long to see fulfilled thy gracious prophecy. As God my Lord doth will it, so be it unto me!*
4. *Hail thou mother of the Lord, who bring'st of gifts the rarest, peace to angels and to men, when Christ the Lord barest! Do thou, we pray, entreat thy Son for us our long'd redemption himself to win, and from our sin release us; His succour for to give, that when we hence are taken, we too in heav'n may live.*



## Matthew 1: 18–23

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

Susan Cancro

Advent House Ministries

CAROL

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## Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

CHANCEL CHOIR

AMANDA GOLDBERG & ROGER DAVID, PERCUSSION

*Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day is an English carol originating in the 16th century. Numerous composers have arranged this ancient tune which narrates the story of Christ’s life in Christ’s own voice characterizing the story of salvation as a dance.*

John Gardner

SIXTH LESSON

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## Luke 2: 1–7

*The birth of Jesus*

Rev. Timothy Chon

**\*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!”

**CAROL**

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**Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head**

CHANCEL CHOIR & OBOE

Trevor Manor

**SEVENTH LESSON**

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**Luke 2: 8–20**

*The shepherds go to the manger*

Rebecca Mattern

## While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

CHANCEL CHOIR & HANDBELLS

17th-Century German Carol

TRANSLATED AND ARRANGED, HAL H. HOPSON

EIGHTH LESSON

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### Matthew 2: 1–12

The magi are led by the star to Jesus

Rev. Bruce Thorsen

HANDBELL ANTHEM

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### We Three Kings

HANDBELL CHOIR

Arranged, Joel Raney

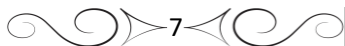
NINTH LESSON

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### John 1: 1–5, 10–12, 14

St. John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation

Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott



## Gloria (from Christmas Cantata)

CHANCEL CHOIR & BRASS

DANIEL PINKHAM

*Glory to God in the highest and on earth to those of good will, peace and love abiding. Oh be joyful in the Lord, ye nations. With gladness serve the Lord, Come before His presence, come unto Him with singing, joy and exultation. Now know ye: know that the Lord, He is God and strong and mighty, He created us and not we ourselves. Alleluia.*

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### \*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

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|----------|---|----------|--|
| <b>1</b> | Joy to the world, the Lord is come!<br>Let earth receive her king;<br>Let every heart prepare him room,<br>And heaven and nature sing,<br>And heaven and nature sing,<br>And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.    | <b>3</b> | No more let sins and sorrows grow,<br>Nor thorns infest the ground;<br>He comes to make his blessings flow<br>Far as the curse is found,<br>Far as the curse is found,<br>Far as, far as the curse is found. |
| <b>2</b> | Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!<br>Let all their songs employ,<br>While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains<br>Repeat the sounding joy,<br>Repeat the sounding joy,<br>Repeat, repeat the sounding joy. | <b>4</b> | He rules the world with truth and grace,<br>And makes the nations prove<br>The glories of his righteousness<br>And wonders of his love,<br>And wonders of his love,<br>And wonders, wonders of his love.     |

Arranged, ROBERT HOBBY

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### \*PRAYER AND BLESSING

Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott

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### POSTLUDE

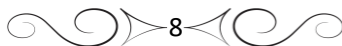
## Fanfare on Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying

[Wachet Auf]

DR. MARLENE BREWBAKER, ORGAN

SETTING BY MICHAEL BURKHARDT

*Please remain seated for the postlude.*





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# Acknowledgements

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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; Lou Cravotta, Linda Cravotta, Sally Belloli, Mary Lou Hatfield, Edward Ennen, Gabrielle Shelton, Mary Hahn, and Carl Lira.

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

Calvin Aupperle†	Laurie Harkema	Erika Senecal*
Jim Boyer	Paige Heidrich*	Irene Shutt
Julie Boyer	Michael Huey-Jones*	Helen Taylor
Michael Carter*	Connor Lindsey*	Ewen Todd
Eleanor Barbour†	Saleel Menon*	Keilah Ussi*
Amira Colemant	Doug Paterson	Gary VanKempen
Roger David*	Kathy Richardson	Melanie Walker*
Barbara Fretwell-Cooke	Mariana Romero Serra*	Ben Yoder†
Amanda Goldberg*	Benjamin Saunders*	Paula Zichi

\*MSU Singers

†PCO Scholarship Singers.

## Instrumentalists

Trumpet

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Jon-Michael Taylor  
Jack Louvar

Horn

---

Jennifer Pepper

Trombone

---

Alex Ortiz

Tuba

---

Sam Tuttle

Oboe

---

Anne Martin

## Handbell Choir

Sally Belloli

Jeff Conroy-Krutz

David Cook

Kathi Cook

Linda Cravotta

Lou Cravotta

Barbara Fretwell-Cooke

Beth Layhe

Sarah Mayhew

Lydia Morgan

Kathleen Shutt

Helen Taylor

Ewen Todd

Synthesizer: Michael Moore

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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

Rebecca Mattern (she/her)

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker

ORGANIST

Westin Sorrel (he/him)

CHANCEL CHOIR DIRECTOR

Irene Shutt

HANDBELL CHOIR DIRECTOR

Edward Ennen

SEXTON

Anna Thiel

OFFICE MANAGER

Gabrielle Shelton (she/her)

MEDIA SPECIALIST

## OFFICE HOURS

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Tuesday - Friday: 9 am – 2 pm

PHONE 517-349-9536

EMAIL [office@okemospres.org](mailto:office@okemospres.org)

WEB [okemospres.org](http://okemospres.org)

