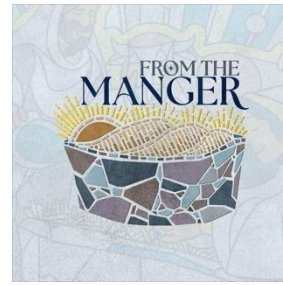


**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos  
December 29, 2024  
First Sunday of Christmas**



**Gathering As a People of God**

**Invitation to Our Shared Ministry**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Prelude**

*In Dulci Jubilo*

Setting by Denis Bédard

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

**\* Call to Worship**

Kent Workman, Liturgist

One: Since the beginning, God has been relentlessly pursuing us in love.

**All: Though our faithfulness ebbs and flows, God's love endures forever.**

One: Taking on flesh like ours, God became one with humanity in the person of Jesus Christ.

**All: God lived and moved and ministered in the margins of power.**

One: God incarnate was not what we expected. We did not recognize God in Jesus. Still, we struggle to recognize God with us.

**All: And yet, God continues to dwell in our midst. Thanks be to God.**

**\* Hymn #132**

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

[In Dulci Jubilo]

**Prayer of Confession**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Before we put away the ornaments and put the tree out by the curb, before we toss the cards and wrapping paper into the recycling bin, before we store the movies and music back in the closet, let us confess how quickly we forget the true meaning of this holy season, as we offer our prayers to our God, saying,

**All: How patient You are with us, Loving Creator, and how hard we find it to put up with the foolishness of others. In humility, You became one of us, and we keep wanting everything to be about us. You model a life of meekness in service to others, and we are convinced life is all about power and success. Yet, rather than becoming frustrated with us, Joy of Christmas, you continue to forgive us. Clothe us with Your love, we pray, so we might be more compassionate towards others. Fill us with that peace which longs to reside in our hearts, even as we seek to continue our journey with the Child of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. (Silent prayer). Amen.**

**Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: In these moments, let God's peace dwell in your hearts. For God gives us hope, gives us peace, and gives us new life in the forgiveness of God's grace.

**All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Amen.**

One: With gratitude in our hearts for the forgiveness we have received, we pass the peace of Christ to others. The love of God compels us to create peace among ourselves, our families, and in this world. 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

*Gloria, Gloria*

Jacques Berthier

[Gloria]

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

**The Word**

**Children's Message**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Prayer of Illumination**

Kent Workman

God of possibilities, by the breath of your Spirit inspire us, that in the hearing of your Word we may be filled with new understanding. May these words of scripture speak into our hearts and into our lives so that we answer your call in our lives and serve you. Amen.

**Old Testament Scripture**

1 Samuel 2:18-26

Jonathan Townley

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

\* Hymn #123

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear, vs. 1, 2, 5*

**New Testament Scripture**

Luke 2:41-52.

Jonathan Townley

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

*For The Holidays*

Jonathan Townley

**Special Music**

Westin Sorrell

PCO Chancel Choir Director

**Responding to the Word**

**Offering**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Invitation**

**Offertory**

*Cold December Flies Away*

Catalonian Carol

Setting by Wilbur Held

**\*Doxology #606**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Prayers of the People**

Kent Workman, liturgist

One: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

**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 # 134**

*Joy to the World*, vs. 1-4

[Antioch]

**\* Benediction**

Jonathan Townley

**Postlude**

*Sussex Carol*

Setting by Michael Burkhardt

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker

*\* Please rise in body or spirit*

We welcome Jonathan Townley to the pulpit this morning. Jonathan is a member of PCO, who is currently attending seminary at Vanderbilt Divinity School, in Nashville, TN. Jonathan 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.

**This Morning's Fellowship Team:** Thank you to the Rummingers and the Detrisacs for supplying our snacks and to Tom Schaberg & Edward Ennen for taking care of the coffee.

**Education Hour:** Extended time of fellowship.

**Next Week: January 5, 2025 Epiphany Sunday with Communion and Star Words**

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:7-14 and Matthew 2:1-9

Education Hour: Age based classes for children through middle school. High school youth and adults: Sermon talkback by Rebecca Mattern.

The Call to Worship is from *Enfleshed*. Online at [enfleshed.com](http://enfleshed.com). The Prayer of Confession is adapted from words by the Rev. Thom Shuman at *Lectionary Liturgies*. Online at <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2021/12/liturgy-for-december-26-2021-christmas.html>

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**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  
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