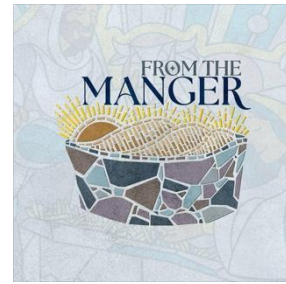


The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
January 5, 2025
Epiphany



Preparation: Reminded of the star the Magi followed to find Jesus, the Messiah, you are invited to take a Star Word to use as an intentional practice of seeking Christ throughout the year. Place it somewhere you will see it daily and use it in prayer and to wonder how you are being asked to follow Jesus. Star words are available in baskets after you have received the communion elements or from the worship leaders as you depart from the service. For those who are joining us via livestream, you can contact Pastor Lisa to receive a Star Word.

Gathering As a People of God

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Rebecca Mattern

Prelude

The Old Year Has Passed Away
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Wilbur Held
Based on *Das Alte Jahr*

Setting the Table

Roya Family

*** Call to Worship** (Isaiah 60:1-2, CEB)

Bill Given, Liturgist

One: Arise! Shine! Your light has come;

All: The Lord's glory has shone upon us.

One: Though darkness covers the earth and gloom the nations,

All: The Lord will shine upon us; God's glory will appear over us.

One: Let us worship God.

*** Hymn #744**

Arise, Your Light is Come!, vs. 1-4
[Festal Song]

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: In the light of Christ, we see the shadows of our world and of our hearts. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

All: Merciful God, you have given light to the world in Jesus Christ, but we have preferred to live in darkness. Your justice protects the weak and the distressed, yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power. Your righteousness redeems the poor and the needy, yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions. Your peace upholds the oppressed and the defenseless, yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution. Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance, that we may trust you in all things; through Jesus Christ we pray (silent confession) Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: This is the good news: Christ is the light of the world, who grants forgiveness and healing of our sins.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

One: 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: Journey to the Manger

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prayer of Illumination Hymn #121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem, verse 3*

sung

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!

So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.

No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,

where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

Old Testament Scripture

Isaiah 60:1-6

Bill Given, Liturgist

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

All: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Scripture

Matthew 2:1-12

Rebecca Mattern

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Guided by a Star

Rebecca Mattern

Special Music

We Three Kings

arr: Joel Raney

PCO Handbell Choir

Irene Shutt, director

Mike Moore, synthesizer

* **Affirmation of Faith:** A Brief Statement of Faith, 11.2

Bill Given, Liturgist

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,

teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,

healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,

eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, 20 Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, and delivering us from death to life eternal.

Responding to the Word

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

Variations on *Puer Nobis*

Albert Zabel

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Holy Communion

Invitation

Pastor Lisa Schrott

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rebecca Mattern

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is right to give both 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

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Communion of the People and receiving of star words

Communion will be served by intinction. Please take a piece of bread and dip into the cup of juice, then take a star word. The bread is gluten, soy, nut and dairy free so all may partake together.

Communion Prayer

Rebecca Mattern

Sent Out As a People of God

Litany of Transition in the Ministry of Rebecca Mattern

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Barbara Fretwell-Cooke, Personnel Committee

One: Rebecca was clothed with Christ in baptism and called by God through the voice of the Session of PCO to give particular service as our Interim Director of Faith Formation.

All: We celebrate with joy our common calling to serve Christ and celebrate God’s call to all who minister among us.

One: Through work of the Holy Spirit and faithful service, Rebecca has encouraged us to go deeper and wider in our love for God and each other; has nurtured connections across and within generations, and has modeled the life-long journey to faith formation to which we are all called.

All: We give thanks to God for Rebecca’s dedicated ministry, sharing her gifts so generously with us for the past 15 months.

One: Through work of the Holy Spirit, Rebecca and the PCO Session have recognized an opportunity for continued ministry at PCO in a continued role with our youth, and a new role in pastoral care. We as a congregation affirm this opportunity to foster Rebecca’s sense of call in pastoral care ministry, while providing continuity to our youth ministry.

To Rebecca: Will you continue to serve in this congregation with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

To the congregation: As we recognize this new service to the PCO congregation, as well as the Church universal, will you continue to share in ministry and service with Rebecca, celebrating and respecting her new role, and the boundaries of her part time service?

All: We will.

One: We mark this transition with a blessing and a gift of ministry transition.

* **Hymn #152** *What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright*, vs. 1-4
[Puer Nobis Nascitur]

* **Benediction**

Postlude *Postlude on St. Anne* Healey Willan
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

* *Please rise in body or spirit*

Ushers: Jane Paterson, Jill Tribell, Tom Schaberg, Keith Camann

This Morning’s Fellowship Team: Thank you to Jane Bobay for our snacks and to Wayne Scott for taking care of the coffee.

Education Hour: Children through 4th grade: Room 116
Middle School Youth 5th-8th grade: Middle School Room (107)
Adult & High School Youth: Sermon Talk Back with Rebecca Mattern (108)

Next Week: January 12, 2024 Baptism of the Lord

Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-7 and Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Education Hour: Children through 4th grade: Room 116

Middle School & High School Youth: Soup Bowl Making: Offsite

Adult: Understanding the Sacraments in the Presbyterian Tradition led by
Pastor Lisa

This morning's printed liturgy is from *Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1*.

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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
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