

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
March 13, 2022
Second Sunday of Lent



COVID-19 Safety Recommendations

- *Wear a mask while singing in the sanctuary, and when interacting with young children..*
- *Seat yourself while being aware to keep 6 feet of distance from the neighbors in your pew.*
- *While seating is now allowed in every row, please stagger your seats so that you are not sitting directly behind or directly in front of anyone in the pews around you.*
- *Remember that young children are not vaccinated.*

Preparation: "...remember those moments in our lives when Christ came to us in countless disguises through people who one way or another strengthened us, comforted us, healed us, judged us, by the power of Christ alive within them." --Frederick Buechner from *A Room Called Remember*

Prelude

Aria in F Major

G.F. Handel

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Greetings and Announcements of the Church

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Call to Worship

Barbara Given, Liturgist

One: If God is a hen,

All: we are under God's wing.

One: If God is a table,

All: we each have a seat.

One: If God is a house,

All: we are safe from the storm.

One: If God is a melody,

All: our names are the lyrics.

One: If this is God's house,

All: then all are welcomed. All are loved. All belong.

One: Let us worship our Holy God.

* **Hymn #53**

O God, Who Gives Us Life, vs. 1-3

[Noel]

Prayer of Confession

Barbara Given, Liturgist

One: Family of faith, we come to confession not to wallow in our own guilt. Instead, we come to confession because we know that change starts with being honest. So in a desire to grow and change, let us pray to a God who loves us like a mother hen. Let us confess our sins together. . .

All: Merciful God, you have made us citizens of heaven, but we confess that we have set our minds on earthly things. Too often we have let our desire for security restrain our commitment to serve the poor. We have let our fear of danger curb our obligation to love our enemies. You know the desires of our heart and nothing is hidden from you.

Silent Prayer

By the power of the Holy Spirit, conform our sin-weakened bodies to the glory of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ for the world. Amen.

Promise of the Gospel

Barbara Given, Liturgist

One: Family of faith, because Jesus' love just keeps going, we can trust that that love and grace exists for us. So rest in this good news:

All: No matter what we do wrong or what we leave undone, we are under God's wing. We are loved, held, and forgiven. Thanks be to God for a love like that! Amen.

*** Act of Praise #581**

Gloria Patri

Children's Sermon

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Holy God, this life of ours is full to the brim. Our days are overflowing with emails and to-do lists, schedules and deadlines. We wake up feeling behind, we go to sleep worrying about tomorrow, and we know—there has to be more than this. So we pray: bend down and show us the way. Leave breadcrumbs in the street. Point us toward awe and wonder. Gift us with laughter that will make us cry and hope that will make us feel alive. Show us the way. We are listening for your cues. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Scripture Reading

Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

Healing Through Remembering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

***Affirmation of Faith**

From *A Brief Statement of Faith* (in unison)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. ...

In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

Anthem

Gentle Jesus

Philip Rice & Richelle Wilson

[Refuge]

Verse 1

Gentle Jesus, lowly son, love the road to reach thee,
Holy star, sweet shining one, humbly I beseech thee.
Lead me, ever lead me, though the night be dark and cold,
Stay here, never leave me, lonely pilgrim safely hold.

Verse 2

Gentle Jesus, wand'ring one, far I've come to hear thee,
Rabbi, teacher, blessed son, bring your garment near me.
Lead me, ever lead me, though the night be dark and cold,
Stay here, never leave me, lonely pilgrim safely hold.

Verse 3

Gentle Jesus, loving friend, refuge we implore thee,
Savior, healer, heaven send, wrap us in thy glory.
Lead us, ever lead us, through the night be dark and cold,
Stay here, never leave us, we thy pilgrims safely hold.

Minute for Mission

Relief for Ukraine

Kent Workman

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

* **Offertory**

Andante

G.F. Handel

* **Doxology #606**

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Barbara Given, Liturgist

One: Lord in your mercy

All: **Hear our prayer**

The Lord's Prayer "...forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors..."

* **Hymn #250**

In the Bulb There Is a Flower, vs. 1-3

[Hymn of Promise]

Benediction

Pastor Lisa Schrott

As you leave this place,
may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world.
May you laugh, and may it be contagious.
May you overflow with love for those around you.
May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy.
And in all of your living, and breathing, and being,
may you find yourself full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit,
and may it change your life.

Go in peace. Amen

Postlude

Processional

G.F. Handel

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

** Please rise in body or spirit*

Ushers: *Gary & Trudy Sturk, Jeff & Michele Arbour*

Flowers: *The flowers beautifying the altar today are from Matt Pearson on the occasion of his and Kjerstin's 20th wedding anniversary.*

Adult Ed: *Pastor Lisa will give a sermon talk back in the Kedhe Chapel and on Zoom 434 304 558. The conversation with Iman Sohail Chaudhry of the Islamic Center of East Lansing has been postponed.*

Music Notes

The anthem for this morning is a hymn written by PCO friend and former choir scholarship student Philip Rice. The hymn was co-written in 2015 with Richelle Wilson in response to the Syrian civil war refugee crisis. It is only too timely to revisit the text in this present time of unbelievable suffering.

The Call to Worship, the Promise of the Gospel, and the Prayer of Illumination are adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed. *A Sanctified Art LLC* sanctifiedart.org. The Prayer of Confession is adapted from *Feasting on the Word. Worship Companion Year C*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2012. The Affirmation of Faith is from the PC(USA) *Book of Confessions*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2016.

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