

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
January 15, 2023
Second Sunday After the Epiphany



COVID-19 Safety Recommendations

- *Masking is now optional during the service (including while singing).*
- *Remember that young children may not have been vaccinated.*

Preparation “Through our scientific and technological genius, we have made of this world a neighborhood and yet we have not had the ethical commitment to make of it a brotherhood. But somehow, and in some way, we have got to do this. We must all learn to live together as brothers or we will all perish together as fools. We are tied together in the single garment of destiny, caught in an inescapable network of mutuality. And whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. For some strange reason I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. And you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be. This is the way God’s universe is made; this is the way it is structured.” -- The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, from his final Sunday sermon titled: “Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution” preached at Washington National Cathedral on March 31, 1968.

Prelude

We Shall Overcome
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist Adolphus Hailstork
African-American Spiritual

Choral Introit

Holy Ground
PCO Chancel Choir

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 40)

Laura Haskel, Liturgist

One: I waited patiently for the Lord; the Lord leaned down to me and heard my cry.

All: The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

One: Happy are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not turn to the proud.

All: You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you.

One: Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.

All: Let all who seek you celebrate and rejoice in you. Let those who love your salvation always say, “The Lord is great!”

*** Hymn #744**

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

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: We confess our sins to God, to whom we have access through faith in Christ. We come in boldness and confidence, not according to our merit, but according to God’s grace. Let us pray together.

All: God of love and compassion, you have come into the world and yet we have not recognized you. We have not participated fully in your purposes and plans; we grow weary and give up when the way is hard. We have not loved our brothers and sisters as you intend. Complacent in the presence of injustice and violence, we fail to recognize our own complicity. Forgive our misuse of power against people, and against your creation. Help us to praise you by living in harmony and peace. Forgive our lack of insight and open our eyes to see you here and now, that we may receive your grace through Jesus our Christ. Amen.

Promise of the Gospel

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: God freely bestows God's grace on us through Jesus Christ. In Christ we receive redemption and forgiveness of our debts, according to the riches of the grace that God lavishes on us.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free to live a new life in him. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: As a forgiven people, let us greet each other, sharing the peace of Christ. 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 #581

Gloria Patri

Children's Sermon

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Children ages 3-8 may depart for the Children's Worship Experience in the Chapel following the Children's Sermon.

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Lisa Schrott

By the light of the Holy Spirit shining in our midst, open our hearts and minds, O God, to your Word, present now and always. Still any voice but your own, so that we may recognize you in the words of scripture read and proclaimed. As we seek your vision for our lives, may we be transformed by your love and grace and may your light shine in our lives. Amen.

Scripture

Luke 2:22-38

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

Recognition

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Affirmation of Faith

Confession of 1967

Pastor Lisa Schrott

The Mission of the Church

9.31 To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares God's labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other. ...

9.32 The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong.

9.33 The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

Anthem *We Shall Walk Through the Valley* Undine Smith Moore
We shall walk through the valley of peace.
There will be no trials there.
If Jesus himself shall be our leader,
we shall walk through the valley of peace.

Minute for Mission Judson Clothing Bank Jayne Zuhlke

Offering Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

Arioso

James H. Rogers

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People Laura Haskel, Liturgist

One: Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

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

* Hymn #749

Come! Live in the Light!, vs. 1-3

[We Are Called]

* **Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

Trumpet Finale

Francesco Manfredini

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

* *Please rise in body or spirit*

Education Time: Embracing What Matters in the End. In life and death and life beyond death we belong to God: A look at scriptures and confessions that shape our understanding of the end of earthly life. Led by Pastor Lisa.

Music Notes: Undine Smith Moore (1904-1989), composer of this week's Choral anthem, was a prolific pianist, educator, and composer of more than 100 works. A grandchild of Virginia slaves, she held piano, organ, and music theory degrees from Fisk and Columbia University. Moore's contributions to the vocal music genres are profound and equally influenced by jazz and blues of the Harlem Renaissance as well as "black folk music and Bach." She was the co-founder of the Black Music Center at Virginia State College, which aimed to educate members about the "contributions of black people to the music of the United States and the world."

Next Week's Education Time: Advanced Care Planning. Using material from Five Wishes, we will cover: health care agents, medical treatment decisions, comfort and care decisions, what you want your loved ones to know. Led by Pastor Lisa.

Next Week's Scripture: John 1:19-28

This Morning's Fellowship Team: *Thank you to the Parish Life Committee for supplying birthday cake and to Edward Ennen for preparing coffee.*

Ushers: *Bill and Barbara Given, Ron and Barbara Dorr*

The Prayer of Confession and Promise of the Gospel are adapted from *Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1*, Westminster John Knox Press. 2013. The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from *The Confession of 1967 Inclusive Language Text*, found at https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/theologyandworship/pdfs/confess67.pdf

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