

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
January 22, 2023
Third 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 “The heart that breaks open can contain the whole universe.” Joanna Macy

Prelude

Air and Gavotte
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Samuel Wesley

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Call to Worship (adapted from Isaiah 40)

Jill Schaberg, Liturgist

One: A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

All: **Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.**

One: Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed. and all flesh shall see it together,

All: **for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”**

* **Hymn #163**

Wild and Lone the Prophet’s Voice, vs. 1-3
[Aberystwyth]

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: A prophet appeared in the wilderness, calling the people to repent, be baptized, and prepare the way of the Lord. We return to the water to confess our sins, giving thanks for the grace of Jesus Christ, the one who has come to save us.

All: **You have given us the words of the prophets and the Word himself; why, then, do we ignore what we have heard from you? You have sent the light into the world; why, then, have we loved darkness rather than light? Forgive us. Restore us. Strengthen us to live lives of steadfast love. Remind us that we belong to God and are raised to new life in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Promise of the Gospel

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: You have already been cleansed by the word that God has spoken to you. In baptism God claimed you and joined you to Christ. The promise of our faith is that we are already forgiven and empowered to be witnesses of God’s resurrection power in Jesus Christ.

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 Rebekah Anderson

Children's Worship Experience

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

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Holy One, giver of life and light, as your word is read and proclaimed, illumine our hearts and minds, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, our lives may reflect God's glory. Amen.

Scripture

John 1:19-28

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Sermon

Preparing our Hearts
Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Affirmation of Faith*From A Brief Statement of Faith*

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

...The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

Handbell Anthem

Rock-A-My Soul
PCO Handbell Choir
Irene Shutt, director

arr. Valerie Stephenson

Minute for Gratitude

Advent House

Susan Cancro

Offering

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Invitation**Offertory***Aberystwyth*

setting: Wilbur Held

Doxology #606**Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People

Jill Schaberg, Liturgist

One: Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

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

* **Hymn #297**

In Christ Called to Baptize, vs. 1-4
[St. Denio]

* **Benediction**

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Postlude

Postlude on St. Denio
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Michael Burkhardt

* *Please rise in body or spirit*

Education Time: Embracing What Matters in the End. Advanced Care Planning. Using material from Five Wishes, the session will cover: health care agents, medical treatment decisions, comfort and care decisions, what you want your loved ones to know. Will meet in Fellowship Hall. Led by Pastor Lisa.

Next Week's Education Time: Having THE Conversation. How to share your end of life wishes with those who are important to you. We will use information from The Conversation Project. Led by Pastor Lisa.

Next Week's Scripture: Matthew 3:13-17

This Morning's Fellowship Team: *Thank you to the Schabergs for preparing coffee and to Deb Major and Becky Gillespie for supplying snacks.*

Ushers: *Richard Norton, Joel & Deb Major*

The Prayer of Confession and Promise of the Gospel are adapted from *Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion Liturgies for Year B. Volume 1*, Westminster John Knox Press. 2014. The Affirmation of Faith is a selection from The Brief Statement of Faith in the *PC(USA) Book of Confessions*. General Assembly. 2014.

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Rev. Rebekah Anderson, Associate Pastor
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist
Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director
Colleen Chester, Choir Director
Edward Ennen, Sexton
Anna Thiel, Office Manager