

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
February 5, 2023
Fourth 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: “Over time, staying real becomes the work of keeping our actions in the world connected to the truth of our inner being, allowing our True Self to see the light of day.” Mark Nepo

Prelude *His Eye Is on the Sparrow* arr. Victor Labenske
Gail Lytle Lira, pianist

Choral Introit *Spirit and Grace* arr. Craig S. Kingsbury
PCO Chancel Choir

Invitation to our Shared Ministry Pastor Lisa Schrott

Call to Worship Emily Conroy-Krutz, Liturgist

One: We have gathered in God's holy presence, the One who etches grace on our hearts.

All: This is the place where God will transform us into disciples.

One: We glorify our God, who yearns for justice, not just for a favored few, but for the least of our world.

All: This is the place where God will write compassion on our souls.

One: We give thanks to God for unceasing grace; we remember God's persistence in saving us.

All: This is the place where God will breathe the Word into our lives.

* **Hymn #404** *What is This Place*, vs. 1-3
[Komp Nu Met Zang]

Prayer of Confession Emily Conroy-Krutz, Liturgist

One: Seeking to follow Jesus, we often wander down the wrong roads. Impatient with God's schedule, we rush off to do things our way. Let us confess the ways we have strayed, that we might receive God's hope for our lives.

All: Your words are given to us, Author of Life, so we might be reformed, but we are intent on changing others. Your words are offered to us so we might be transformed, but we are focused on conforming to our culture. Your words are spoken to lead us into new life, but we hold our old ways tight to our chests. Forgive us, Patient God. Do not remember our sins, but continue to touch us with your steadfast mercy. Show us how to be persistent in living out our faith, even as you are so persistent in offering us your grace and life in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Promise of the Gospel

Emily Conroy-Krutz, Liturgist

One: Jesus reminds us that we are to keep seeking a life of faithfulness and service. The good news is that God is continually filling us with love and grace, making us a new creation in Christ.

All: **We are forgiven people. May we live as siblings in Christ, God's children in word and deed, in hope and joy. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

Emily Conroy-Krutz, Liturgist

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 Worship Experience**

Children ages 3-8 may depart for the Children's Worship Experience in the Chapel during the *Gloria Patri*.

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Loving God, through Scripture and the stories of your people long ago, we see our own humanity reflected and continue to hear your call to us to love one another. Speak to us today and give us the strength and courage to see our lives clearly. Guide us as we work to better reflect your love and create new paths of justice and mercy. And let some word of this be yours. Amen.

Scripture

John 2:13-25

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Sermon

Defining Moments

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Anthem*At the Table of the Lord*

Jay Althouse

PCO Chancel Choir

*At the table of the Lord bread is broken.**At the table of the Lord we are fed.**We remember now the words that Christ has spoken: "This is my body", He said.**At the table of the Lord, in thanksgiving, we have come to drink the wine which is poured.**We remember Him, who died for us, now living.**We remember Christ, our Lord.**At the table of the Lord we are meeting.**In communion we are many in one.**For wherever we are gathered, there our Lord will be.**At the table of the Lord, we shall be free.***Offering**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation**Offertory***Nocturne Op. 9 No. 2*

Frederic Chopin

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

Holy Communion

Invitation

Pastor Lisa Schrott

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

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 "...forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors..."

Breaking of the Bread

Pastors Rebekah Anderson and Lisa Schrott

Communion Prayer

Pastor Lisa Schrott

* Hymn #516

For the Bread Which You Have Broken, vs. 1-4
[Kingdom]

* Benediction

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Postlude

Prelude (English Suite No. 2)
Gail Lytle Lira, pianist

J.S. Bach

Congregational Meeting

** Please rise in body or spirit*

Education Time: The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held following the service.

Next Week's Education Time: PCO is pleased to welcome jazz artist and educator Jon Gewirtz as our guest speaker. Jon, an active performer, has a Master's degree in saxophone performance from MSU and teaches a variety of music classes at Olivet, Hillsdale, and LCC including music theory, music appreciation, jazz band, jazz history, and saxophone performance. Please join us following the worship service for this entertaining and informative prelude to Jazz Weekend.

Next Week's Scripture: Matthew 4:18-22

Ushers: *Jane Paterson, Sue Cobbett, Tom Schaberg & Keith Camann*

This Morning's Fellowship Team: *Thank you to Dave & Shirley Rumminger for preparing the coffee and snacks for after our annual meeting.*

The Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession and Promise of the Gospel are adapted from the work of Thom M. Shuman in *Lectionary Liturgies* <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>.

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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