

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
February 26, 2023
First Sunday of Lent



COVID-19 Safety Recommendations

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

Preparation: “What emerges from this story, then, is a picture of the human being not as an independent actor over-against God, but rather as a humble creature made for symbiotic reliance on God. Relying on God for what? For sustenance, for loving-kindness, and for guidance. This story’s central theme, then, far from heroic “self-reliance,” is rather humble communion and trust in God.” — Salt Project Commentary on Matthew 4:1-11

Prelude Partita on *St. Flavian* Healey Willan
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Invitation to our Shared Ministry Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Call to Worship Ellen Hoekstra, Liturgist

One: We gather together at the edge of a new season.

All: We stand together on the cusp of something new.

One: Will we wade into self-reflection?

All: Will we invite honesty to dance?

One: Will we listen for God’s invitation?

All: What kind of faith will we build?

One: We gather together at the edge of a new season.

All: Listen, God is speaking.

* Hymn #166 *Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days, vs. 1-4*
[St. Flavian]

Prayer of Confession Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Friends, if you are seeking grace, this moment is for you. If you are seeking growth, this moment is for you. If you are seeking honesty, this moment is for you. In the prayer of confession, we admit to ourselves and to God that we do not have it all figured out. And in that vulnerability, we are surrounded by God’s grace. Let us pray:

All: Holy God, too often we treat your Word like a radio station—something we can tune in and out of when it’s convenient. Our minds are full of ads, emails, news updates, and notifications. In the midst of this clutter, we tend to gravitate toward the voices that think like us—easily ignoring the voices being silenced, easily ignoring your voice. Forgive us for failing to listen. Forgive us for getting caught in distractions. Forgive us

for forgetting what your voice sounds like. Drain the distractions from our minds and help us turn once again toward you. With earnest hearts we pray, amen.

Promise of the Gospel

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Friends, even when we tune God out, even when we prioritize other voices, even when we do all the talking and fail to listen, we are still held by God. Our sins are forgiven. Nothing could ever separate us from God's love. So with joy in our hearts, please repeat after me.

One: I am loved!

All: I am loved!

One: I am held in grace!

All: I am held in grace!

One: I belong to God.

All: I belong 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 after the Children's Sermon.

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Holy God, listening is always easier said than done. We shuffle into this space and try to quiet our minds, but the list of distractions is long. We need your help to listen. So today we ask that you would marinate us in your Word. Dust the cobwebs from our ears. Stir our souls awake. Crack open our hearts to make room for you. We want to hear you, really hear you, so speak to us now. With hope we pray, amen.

Scripture

Matthew 4:1-11

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

Wilderness Times
Pastor Lisa Schrott

Affirmation of Faith

From: Confession of Belhar 10.3

Pastor Lisa Schrott

We believe

we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind;
have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope;
together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ;

together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity;
together know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ;
that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another;
that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve
God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity.

Anthem *My Lord, What a Morning* arr. Hart Morris
PCO Handbell Choir
Irene Shutt, Director

Minute for Mission Opportunities to Serve Mary Schuring

Offering Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Invitation

Offertory *There is a Balm in Gilead* setting: Sam Batt Owens

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People Ellen Hoekstra, Liturgist

One: Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

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

* **Hymn #792** *There is a Balm in Gilead*, vs. 1-3

* **Benediction** Pastor Lisa Schrott

As you leave this place, may God bless you with seeking.
Seek out the hungry. Seek the weary.
Seek the good in every person you pass. Seek out the hopeful.
Seek the faithful. Seek God in each of us.
As you seek and as you wonder,
may you find what you are looking for.
In the name of our loving God,
who is always seeking us, go now in peace. Amen.

Postlude *Trumpet Tune in G* Sam Batt Owens
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

* *Please rise in body or spirit*

Education Time: The Journey Inward: Embracing the Divine in Our Truest Selves. Led by Pastor Rebekah. Part 1.

Next Week's Education Time: The Journey Inward: Embracing the Divine in Our Truest Selves. Led by Pastor Rebekah. Part 2.

Next Week's Scripture: Mark 6:1-13

Ushers: *Richard Norton, Brett & Lynn Cone*

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

Our liturgy is adapted from the work of the Rev. Sarah A. Speed, *A Sanctified Art LLC*. sanctifiedart.org. The Confession of Belhar is from *The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church Part 1. The Book of Confessions*. The Office of the General Assembly, PC(USA), 2016.

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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