

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
March 12, 2023
Third 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: “All of these stories make me who I am. But to insist on only the negative stories is to flatten my experience and to overlook the many other stories that formed me. The single story creates stereotypes, and the problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete. They make one story become the only story.”-- author Chimamanda Adichi

Prelude

Cantilena

Charity Boyles

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Invitation to our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Call to Worship

Judi Harris, Liturgist

One: We gather together—

All: the seekers, the dreamers, the shooting-star wishers, in hopes of seeing God.

One: We gather together—

All: the curious, the hungry, the loving, the lonely, in hopes of finding peace.

One: We gather together—

All: those who are thirsty and those with water to spare, in hopes of finding justice.

One: So come to the well, come to the table.

All: Come, let us worship God. Amen.

*** Hymn #81**

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken, vs. 1-3

[Austrian Hymn]

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

One: In today’s service we will hear the story of the Samaritan woman. It’s a well-known story of a woman who, in the heat of the day, meets Jesus at a well and he asks her for a drink. Every time I read this story, I cannot help but ask myself—when was the last time I drew water for someone? When was the last time I drew water for myself? So with this same open curiosity, we come to the prayer of confession, trusting that even if we forget our bucket, God will still meet us at the well. Friends, with that grace in mind, let us pray:

All: Holy God, we have been on every side of this story. We have been the one who is thirsty and in need of compassion, and we have been the one with a bucket and a deep well. So today we wonder: how often have we missed the opportunity to share water with our neighbors? How often have we forgotten that we have a bucket and the power to bring change? How often have we simply decided that justice and compassion were not worth

the work? Forgive our fragile hearts and remind us that it was you who sat at that well in Samaria in the heat of the day. It was you. It is still you. With hope we pray, amen.

Promise of the Gospel

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

One: Family of faith, as hard as it is to imagine: we could lose the bucket, we could hoard the water for ourselves, we could pretend we do not see all who are thirsty, and we would still belong to God. This is the good news of the gospel:

All: God's grace is deeper than any well. We are seen, loved, and forgiven. May this realization change and inspire us. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

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

God of conversation, we come to you today thirsty—thirsty for hope, thirsty for good news, thirsty for a glimpse of you. So today we pray, move in these words like a current. Give us the courage to wade into your story with open eyes and open hearts. Give us the courage to drink this moment in. We are listening. We are grateful. Amen.

Scripture

John 4:5-30, 39-42

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

Questioning

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Affirmation of Faith

From: The Confession of 1967 9.21-9.23

Pastor Lisa Schrott

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

The new life does not release people from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, and fear. They still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as they mature in

love and faithfulness in their life with Christ, they live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.

Anthem *Prelude on Herzliebster Jesu* arr. Fred Gramann
PCO Handbell Choir
Irene Shutt, Director

Minute for Gratitude PCO Endowment Barbara Given

Offering Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

Breathe

arr. Derek Hakes

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People Judi Harris, Liturgist

One: Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

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

* Hymn #182

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say, vs. 1-3
[Kingsfold]

* **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

Processional in A Flat Major
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

David N. Johnson

* *Please rise in body or spirit*

Education Time: Kent Workman leading a reflection on our Lent devotionals.

Ushers: Gary & Trudy Sturk, Jeff & Michele Arbour

Flowers: *The flowers beautifying the sanctuary today are from Dora & Edward Ennen.*

This Morning's Fellowship Team: *Thank you to Edward Ennen for preparing the coffee and to the Locke family and Jennifer Gordon for supplying the snacks.*

Next Week's Education Time: Legacy Giving. Led by Steve Keizer from the Presbyterian Foundation. Lunch provided at no cost. Reservations required. Please sign up on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall or contact the church office by Sunday, March 12 to reserve your spot.

Our liturgy is adapted from the work of the Rev. Sarah A. Speed, *A Sanctified Art LLC*. sanctifiedart.org. The Affirmation of Faith is 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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Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott, Pastor/Head of Staff
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