

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
March 26, 2023
Fifth 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: “Best not to give up too quickly on a neighbor. Best not to judge a stone too heavy to roll. Only by endeavoring to help in the face of so much suffering can we bear witness to the miracle of raising Lazarus.” — Beth Macy, *Raising Lazarus: Hope, Justice, and the Future of America's Overdose Crisis*

Prelude *Prelude in g minor* Clara Schumann
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist (1819-1896)

Choral Introit *Just As I Am* Dwight Gustafson

Invitation to our Shared Ministry Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Call to Worship Jennifer Gordon, Liturgist

One: We believe that God loves us—

All: God loves us enough to weep when we are gone.

One: We believe that God does not give up on us—

All: breathing new life into tired bones.

One: We believe that God returns to us—

All: always seeking us when we are lost.

One: We believe that God holds hope for us—

All: so we hold onto hope as well. Let us worship our Holy God.

* **Hymn #727** *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*, vs. 1-5
[The Servant Song]

Prayer of Confession Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Friends, there is nothing that we have to keep hidden from God—not our anger, our grief, or the ways in which we have fallen short. In confession, we speak honestly and are met with grace. So let us not hold back. Let us bring our full selves to this prayer, knowing that God is already running to meet us. Let us pray:

All: Jesus of Nazareth, I confess: I forget that you know this feeling. I forget that you, too, have wept. I forget that you, too, have lost. I forget that you, too, have gathered at the tomb, have grieved for a friend, have felt the sting of humanity. Forgive me for all the times I place blame on you. Forgive me for all the times I create distance, imagining that you could

never feel what I feel. Forgive me for allowing a valley to be a sea of space between us. Pour yourself into the cracks in my heart. Bring these bones back to life. Bring me closer to you. With gratitude I pray, amen.

Promise of the Gospel

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Friends, you could spend your whole life ignoring God, pushing God away, or trying to solve the world's problems all on your own, and God would still love you all the same. Even in our shortcomings, we are God's beloved. So hear and believe this good news:

All: **We are saved by grace through faith. We belong to God. We are not alone. 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

Pastors Lisa Schrott and 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

Creator God, today we bring our raw selves into this space asking that once more you would rush through this room like a mighty wind. Speak to us in your still, small voice and let it be loud enough to speak to the sorrow of the day. With open hearts we pray, amen.

Scripture

John 11:1-4, 32-44

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

Unbound

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Anthem

When Jesus Wept

William Billings

When Jesus wept, the falling tear in mercy flowed beyond all bound;

arr. Gilbert M. Martin

When Jesus groaned, a trembling fear seized all the guilty world around.

Minute for Gratitude

Advent House

Susan Cancro

Offering Pastor Rebekah Anderson
Invitation
Offertory

Sicilienne
Dr. Barbara Fretwell-Cooke, cello
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Maria Theresia von Paradis
(1759-1824)

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People Jennifer Gordon, Liturgist
One: Lord in your mercy
All: Hear our prayer.

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

Installation of Elder Siri Rainone

Statement on Ordination & Installation

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Call to Installation

Clerk of Session, Dorinda VanKempen

Constitutional Questions

Pastors Lisa Schrott & Rebekah Anderson

Questions to the Congregation

Clerk of Session, Dorinda VanKempen

One: Do we, members of the church—the body of Christ—accept Siri Rainone as an elder, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation, to help lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

All: We do.

One: Do we agree to pray for her, to encourage her, to respect her decisions and to follow her as she helps guide us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church?

All: We do.

Prayer of Installation & Laying on of Hands

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

All who have been ordained as Elders, Deacons or Ministers are invited to come forward to lay hands on those to be ordained and/or installed.

Declaration of Installation

Pastor Lisa Schrott

*** Hymn #175**

Seek Ye First, vs. 1-3

[Lafferty]

*** 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

Introduction and Fugue
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Adela Douglas-Pennant
(1858-1955)

** Please rise in body or spirit*

Music Notes: In recognition of Women's History Month, the instrumental selections for this morning's worship service represent women composers from Germany, Austria and England. This week's choral anthem is based on a canon for 4 voices written by William Billings and published in 1770. This anthem, although arranged in the 20th century, maintains the integrity and haunting beauty of the original canon and serves as a meditation for the Lenten season.

Education Time: The Journey Inward: Embracing the Divine in Our Truest Selves. Led by Pastor Rebekah. Part 3.

Ushers: *Jeff Arbour & Tom Schaberg*

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

Next Week's Scripture: Mark 11: 1-11

Next Week's Education Time: Education Time: The Journey Inward: Embracing the Divine in Our Truest Selves. Led by Pastor Rebekah. Part 4.

Our liturgy is adapted from the work of the Rev. Sarah A. Speed, A *Sanctified Art LLC*. sanctifiedart.org.

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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