

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**  
**April 9, 2023**  
**Easter Sunday**



**COVID-19 Safety Recommendations**

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

**Prelude**

*My Spirit Be Joyful*  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist  
Brass Quartet  
Ethan Kaminsky, trumpet  
Jennifer Ornelas, horn  
Calvin Pfund, trumpet  
Nicholas Gonzalez, trombone

J.S. Bach  
arr: Christina Harmon

**Choral Introit**

*Christ Is Risen: Alleluia!*  
PCO Chancel Choir  
Colleen Chester, Director

Ralph L. Grosvenor

**Welcome**

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

**Easter Proclamation (from Luke 24:1 and John 20:1)**

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Early on the first day of the week, the disciples of Jesus went to the tomb where he had been buried only to find that the stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty. Friends, we gather here as Christ's disciples, on the first day of the week, to celebrate the good news of the gospel: Jesus Christ has risen from the dead!

**Call to Worship**

Siri Rainone, Liturgist

One: What are you looking for?

**All: The light before dawn. A reason to hope.**

One: What are you looking for?

**All: Joy after grief. Flowers after winter. A place to belong.**

One: What are you looking for?

**All: We are looking for the Messiah.**

One: Good news! Come in. Love is alive!

**All: Surely God is in this place.**

**\* Hymn #232**

*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today, vs. 1-4*

[Easter Hymn]

PCO Chancel Choir

Colleen Chester, Director

PCO Handbell Choir

Irene Shutt, Director

Brass Quartet

**Prayer of Adoration**

Siri Rainone, Liturgist

One: Gracious God, we praise you for the light of new life made possible through Jesus. When everything was dark and it seemed that the sun would never shine again, your love broke through. Your love was too strong, too wide, too deep for death to hold. The sparks cast by your love dance and spread and burst forth with resurrection light. We praise you for the light of new life that shone on the first witnesses of the resurrection. We praise you for the light of new life that continues to shine in our hearts today.

All: **We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy will live in us each day, and that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others. Amen.**

**Passing of the Peace**

Siri Rainone, Liturgist

One: Let us celebrate this new life by 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*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.*

*As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.*

**Children's Sermon**

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

**Special Music**

*The Day of Resurrection*

arr. Arnold Sherman

PCO Handbell Choir

Irene Shutt Director

**Prayer of Illumination**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

God of new beginnings, we have spent the past six weeks asking questions. We have sought after you. On this Easter morning, bring wisdom to our seeking. Move through this room until the walls echo with the sound of alleluias. Roll back the stones that might prevent us from drawing closer to you. Awaken us to your presence in our midst. We are listening. We are seeking after you. Alleluia. Amen.

**Scripture**

John 20: 1-18

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Sermon**

Seeking and Seeing

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Special Music**

*Easter Festival*  
PCO Chancel Choir  
Colleen Chester, Director  
Brass Quartet

Michael S Bryson

**Offering**

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

**Invitation**

**Offertory**

*Christ Lag In Todesbanden*  
[In Death's Strong Grip the Savior Lay]

J.S. Bach

**\*Doxology #606**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Holy Communion**

**Invitation**

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

**The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

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**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Breaking of the Bread**

Pastors Lisa Schrott and Rebekah Anderson

**Communion Prayer**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**\* Hymn #233**

*The Day of Resurrection!*, vs. 1-3  
[Lancashire]

**\* Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Because the tomb is empty, our lives can be full. So live for Christ. Be graceful in Spirit; faithful in all you do; And let your words be full of hope. For Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia, amen.**

**Benediction Response**

*Hallelujah Chorus*  
[Messiah]

George Frideric Handel

(We invite all who would like to join the choir singing the *Hallelujah Chorus* to come to the musicians' area during the singing of the last hymn. We will give you the music so that you may join your voice in praising God).

**Postlude**

*Toccata from Symphony No. 5 for Organ*  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Charles-Marie Widor

\* *Please rise in body or spirit*

**After worship join us for a light brunch hosted by our Parish Life Committee.  
An egg hunt for children up to age 10 will begin at Noon.**

**Next Week's Education Time:** There will be no scheduled adult education next week. Join us for the dedication of our solar panel array at 2 p.m.

**Next Week's Scripture:** John 20:19-22

**Ushers:** *Jeff Arbour, Keith Camann, Jane Paterson, Tom Schaberg*

Our liturgy this morning is adapted from the work of the Rev. Sarah A. Speed, *A Sanctified Art LLC*.  
[sanctifiedart.org](http://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