

# The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

January 21, 2024

Third Sunday After Epiphany



**Preparation:** “What man sees depends both upon what he looks at and also upon what his previous visual-conception experience has taught him to see.” —

Thomas S. Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*

## Gathering As a People of God

### Prelude

*Allegro* from *Symphony No. 4*  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

William Boyce  
(1710-1779)

### Choral Introit

*For the Beauty of the Earth*  
PCO Chancel Choir

### Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Rebecca Mattern

**\* Call to Worship** (Adapted from Isaiah 43:16-21)

Judi Harris, Liturgist

One: Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior;

**All: Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old.**

One: I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?

**All: I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.**

One: For I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people,

**All: the people whom I formed for myself, so that they might declare my praise.**

**\* Hymn #401**

*Here In This Place*, vs. 1-4  
(Gather Us In)

### Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: We trust in the love of God to make all things new. It is with this trust and the assurance of God's love that we come in confidence to confess our sin to God and our neighbor.

**All: Merciful God, we too easily think we can see from your point of view. We exclude, hold grudges and nurse contempt, all the while hiding ourselves for fear we too would be found wanting. We think we are justified because we are made holy by your love, and we assume holiness means more like us. We forget, or never really knew, that all you touch is holy, and that you created all that is. So when we exclude, we exclude you. When we show contempt, we are contemptuous of those you love. Forgive us. May we be made holy in truth, loving as you love. Silent prayer. Amen.**

**Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: God's promises are trustworthy and true. God's love is sure and steadfast, always providing a way out, a way through, a way back to God. Through the waters of baptism, we have died with Christ and are raised with him.

**All: With gratitude, in faith, we will walk the way of Christ.**

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*

**The Word**

**Prayer of Illumination**

Rebecca Mattern

O God of promise, your word made flesh in Jesus Christ is trustworthy and true. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may it rise up in us this day like a gift from the spring of the water of life to refresh our thirsty souls. Amen.

**Children's Message**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Anthem**

*The Lord is My Shepherd*

John Rutter

**New Testament Scripture**

Acts 15:1-11

Rebecca Mattern  
Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Sermon**

*We Make Room: A Litmus Test or Paradigm Shift?*

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Responding to the Word**

**Offering**

Rebecca Mattern

**Invitation**

**Offertory**

*Larghetto*

William Boyce

**\*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**

in unison

**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.

### **Sent Out As a People of God**

\* **Hymn** #394

*Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*, vs. 1-4  
(Westminster Abbey)

\* **Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Postlude**

*Gavotte*  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

William Boyce

\* *Please rise in body or spirit*

**Education Time:** Cabin Fever. Look for the location of your class of interest on the signs in Fellowship Hall. Enjoy lunch between the two sessions.

**This Morning's Fellowship Team:** Please grab a cup of coffee and proceed to your Cabin Fever session. Thank you to Edward Ennen and Gary VanKempen for taking care of the coffee.

**Next Week January 21, 2024**

**Scripture:** Acts 16: 6-15

**Education Hour:** Meeting Your Neighbor Part 1: What does it mean to be an ally, advocate, or activist countering anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

The Prayer of Confession was adapted by words of the Rev. Doug Hagler, Calvary Presbyterian Church of Wyncote, PA, and posted on LiturgyLink. <https://www.liturgylink.net/>

The Promise of the Gospel and the Prayer of Illumination are adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume I*; 2012 Westminster John Knox Press; 2012.

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