

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
February 4, 2024
Fifth Sunday After Epiphany



Preparation: “For some of us faith is a fortress of certainty we will defend to the death. For others, faith is a prison to leave behind forever. Many of us linger at the threshold... afraid to move ahead but unable to stay where we are. If we dare take a first step, we discover that faith can be a road, a doorway out of the fortress prison of certainty and into the adventure of living.”
Pastor and author Brian D. McClaren, from *Faith After Doubt*, 2021

Gathering As a People of God

Prelude

Classic-Style Variations on *Ellacombe*
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Jon Spong

Choral Introit

O God, in a Mysterious Way
PCO Chancel Choir

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

* **Call to Worship** (Adapted from Proverbs 8) Emily Conroy-Krutz, Liturgist

One: Does not Wisdom call and raise her voice? On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads, Wisdom takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals Wisdom cries out:

All: The Lord created me at the beginning, the first act of long ago.

One: When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water;

All: when the heavens were established, I was there; when God drew a circle on the face of the deep, and assigned to the sea its limit, when the foundations of the earth were marked,

One: then I was beside God, like a master worker. I was daily God’s delight, playing before God always,

All: playing in all the inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

* **Hymn #32**

I Sing the Mighty Power of God, vs. 1-3
[Ellacombe]

Prayer of Confession

Emily Conroy-Krutz, Liturgist

One: With the Spirit of truth let us faithfully return to our God, knowing we are beloved and assured of forgiveness.

All: Merciful God, you have made our hearts open and hungry for you. We search for meaning in our lives and yet we confess that we don’t always look to you. You have given us your Church and your Word, as well as your Son, and the Holy Spirit. But

we too often squander these gifts. We put them away in hidden shrines. We try to limit your love. Forgive us for the sins we are willing to acknowledge. Forgive us from the sins we will not reveal. With the power of the Holy Spirit, may we turn from our sins, live in your love and share your love with all. Silent prayer. Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace Emily Conroy-Krutz, Liturgist

One: The God who made heaven and earth and everything in it, longs to love us. God sent Jesus Christ to reveal himself to us and through him our sins are forgiven.

All: As far as the east is from the west, as far as sunrise is from sunset, that is how far God removes our sin from us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Holy Spirit, the Word of God still speaks into our world today. Open our ears to hear your love revealed. Our eyes to see you at work in our lives. Open our hearts so that we may bear witness to your love in the lives of others. Amen.

Children's Message

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Anthem

Lamb of God
PCO Chancel Choir

F. Melius Christiansen

New Testament Scripture

Acts 17:16-27

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

We Make Room: Open for Questions
Pastor Lisa Schrott

Responding to the Word

Minute for Engagement

Journey to 2030 Survey

Emily Conroy-Krutz

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

Elevation

Dom Paul Benoit

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People

Emily Conroy-Krutz, 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 #12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise, vs. 1-4

[St. Denio]

* **Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

Postlude on *St. Denio*
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Wilbur Held

Congregational Meeting

The Session of PCO has called for the Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation and the meeting of the PCO Corporation to be held following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. We encourage all to remain for this meeting; however only members are eligible to vote. For those joining us via Zoom, the link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/434304558>.

* *Please rise in body or spirit*

Ushers: Jane Paterson, Sue Cobbett, Tom Schaberg & Keith Camann

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to the Schabergs and the Scotts for taking care of the coffee and to Dorinda VanKempen for supplying our snacks.

Next Week February 11, 2024 Transfiguration Sunday with Jazz Worship

The worship service will include music by Diego Rivera and vocalist Tiffany Gridiron
Communion will be served.

Scripture: Mark 9:2-10; Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Rob Carlson

Pancake Breakfast sponsored by Parish Life following worship. All are welcome!

The Prayer of Confession is adapted from words written by Rev. Bill Wessner. Cycle A. Easter 6
Confessions for the Revised Common Lectionary. Found online at
<https://confessionrcl.blogspot.com/2014/05/cycle-easter-6.html>

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Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott, Pastor/Head of Staff
Rebecca Mattern, Interim Director of Faith Formation
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist
Westin Sorrel, Chancel Choir Director
Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director
Edward Ennen, Sexton
Anna Thiel, Office Manager