

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
February 14, 2024
Ash Wednesday



Preparation: We begin our journey to the cross and to the empty tomb with the sign of ashes. Ashes convey the uncertainty of our lives. We are mortal. And we live in the promise of life eternal. May we be reminded that in life, in death, and in life beyond death we belong to God.

Prelude *Herzliebster Jesu* Johannes Brahms
[Ah, Holy Jesus]
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Welcome Rebecca Mattern

Opening Sentences (adapted from Joel 2) Rebecca Mattern

One: “Even now, declares the Lord, return to me with all your heart.”

All: Roll up your sleeves.

One: Let down your guard.

All: Come in from the storm.

One: Make yourself at home.

All: Take a deep breath.

One: Return to God with all your heart.

All: May it be so.

* **Hymn #434** *Restore in Us, O God*, vs. 1-4
[Baylor]

Litany of Confession (adapted from Psalm 51) Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: In the softness of evening, in the solace of silence we come to you, O Lord. We come for acceptance. We come for community. We come to lament. We come to remember. In the fullness of worship, we come to you, O Lord. We come for respite. We come for healing. We come for your forgiveness and love.

All: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

(Silent Prayer)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Amen.

Promise of the Gospel

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Friends, God sees you. God hears you. God loves you. You are forgiven and claimed with all that you are. Rest in that good news.

All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*** Act of Praise #581***Gloria Patri***Prayer of Illumination**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Loving Creator, we are here, telling stories of dust. We are here, trying to shake the dust out of our ears so that we might hear you clearly. We are here, hoping that showing up is the first step in returning to you. Scoop us up in your embrace. Clear the smog that makes it hard to see. Clear the dust that makes it hard to hear. We are listening for you. Amen.

Scripture

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Meditation*Seeing With God's Eyes*

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Special Music*Create in Me A Clean Heart*

PCO Chancel Choir

Johannes Brahms

Prayers of the People

Rebecca Mattern

One: We are all broken. You love us all.

All: **Help us live into your love.**

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.

*** Hymn #787***God Weeps with Us Who Weep and Mourn*, vs. 1-3

[Moshier]

Imposition of Ashes

Imposition of ashes is a way to express our need for God. It is not a sacrament or a requirement. If you so choose to have ashes imposed, please come forward. You may indicate whether you wish the ashes placed on the back of your hand or your forehead.

Benediction

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Please depart in silence.

** Please rise in body or spirit*

The Call to Worship and Prayer of Illumination are by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | *A Sanctified Art LLC*
sanctifiedart.org.

You are in an active recording environment, and your likeness may be captured in photographs and videos. By entering, you acknowledge giving consent to The Presbyterian Church of Okemos to take, own and use images containing your likeness at its sole discretion in perpetuity. If you do not wish to convey this consent, please contact a staff member immediately.

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
2258 Bennett Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864
(517) 349-9536
Website: <https://okemospres.org>
Email: office@okemospres.org
<https://twitter.com/okemospres>
<https://facebook.com/OkemosPresbyterian>



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