

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**  
**February 18, 2024**  
**First Sunday of Lent**



**Preparation:** “If we’re going to understand what Luke is trying to tell us about God, about Jesus, about the world and this home into which the many meals of Luke’s Gospel invite us, first, we need to get ‘bread’ right.” -- Matt Croasmun & Miroslav Volf in *The Hunger for Home: Food & Meals in the Gospel of Luke*. 2022.

**Gathering As a People of God**

**Prelude**

*Fugue in C Major*

George Frederic Handel

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

**Choral Introit**

PCO Chancel Choir

**Invitation to Our Shared Ministry**

Rebecca Mattern

\* **Call to Worship** (Adapted from Isaiah 55)

Barbara Given, Liturgist

One: Only the hungry search for bread. Only the thirsty look for water.

**All: This is a place for those who are hungry and thirsty in spirit.**

One: Only those who ache for meaning will pursue it. Only those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it.

**All: This is a place for those who ache and yearn for something more.**

One: So let us come here today with our hunger and thirst, our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings,

**All: and let the God of life satisfy our souls.**

\* **Hymn #498**

*Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken*, vs. 1-4

[Beach Spring]

**Prayer of Confession**

Rebecca Mattern

One: With our hearts and minds secure with the knowledge of God’s grace and love for us, let us raise our voices together sharing our individual and communal truths.

**All: God of abundance, you have promised to provide us with more than mere survival; in seeking to satisfy our deepest hungers, we shall find an even more profound sustenance than human imagination could envision. But too often, we spend on superficial needs. We throw away our plenty on little hungers and petty desires. We chase after happiness while neglecting joy; we skim the surface while fearing the depths. Forgive us, we pray, for our fearfulness, as we rely upon our own human illusions of control and satisfaction. Forgive us for not trusting in your grace, in your abundance, in the covenant promises that you have renewed with every generation. In Christ, may we learn to love you more. Silent prayer. Amen.**

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

Rebecca Mattern

One: Come, all you who are thirsty. If you take the first step, if you are willing to plunge once again into the waters and to emerge into new life, you will receive a love beyond all you can envision.

**All: We turn our hearts to God, and by grace our hungers are satisfied, our thirsts are sated; through Christ we are made whole; by the Spirit we are led forth as God's people. Amen.**

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, breathe your love into our lives, shaking loose the cobwebs that can stifle our imagination. Open us to hear your Word. Speak into our hearts so that we might be your ambassadors of abundance. Amen.

**Children's Message**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 55:1-5

Rebecca Mattern

**Handbell Anthem**

*I Am Thine, O Lord*  
PCO Handbell Choir  
Irene Shutt, Director

arr: Sandra Eithun

**New Testament Scripture**

Luke 9:1-6, 10-17

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Sermon**

*Not By Bread Alone*  
Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Affirmation of Faith** Heidelberg Catechism Questions 118 and 125

Question: What did God command us to pray for?

**Answer: Everything we need, spiritually and physically, as embraced in the prayer Christ our Lord himself taught us.**

Question: What does the fourth petition mean?

**Answer: "Give us this day our daily bread" means: Do take care of all our physical needs so that we come to know that you are the only source of everything good and that neither our work and worry, nor your gifts can do us any good without your blessing. And so help us to give up our trust in creatures and trust in you alone.**

## Responding to the Word

Minute for Mission

Souper Sunday and Bowl Auction

Lucas Meland

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

\*Doxology #606

\*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Barbara Given, 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 #529

*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*, vs. 1-3

[Union Seminary]

\* Benediction

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

*Allegro Maestoso* from *Water Music, Part IX*

Handel

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

\* *Please rise in body or spirit*

**Ushers:** Ron & Barbara Dorr, Gary & Trudy Sturk

**This Morning's Fellowship Team:** Birthday Cake Sunday! Celebrate our February birthdays with a piece of cake in Fellowship Hall after the service. Thank you to Parish Life for supplying the cake and to Edward Ennen and Gary VanKempen for taking care of the coffee.

**Adult Education:** Meeting Your Neighbor, part 2. Gender and Sexuality 101: defining sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, and gender expression and examining our own identities and identities of others.

**Next Week February 25, 2024**

**Scripture:** Luke 6:1-5

**Education Hour:** Spiritual practices for Lent. All are welcome!

The Call to Worship is from Ann Siddall and can be found online at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2019/03/call-to-worship-hunger-and-thirst.html> . The Prayer of Confession is adapted from words written by Rev. Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy and can be found online at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/02/prayer-of-confession-isaiah-55-1-5.html> The Affirmation of Faith is from the Heidelberg Catechism (4.118 and 4.125) in the *PC(USA) Book of Confessions* Westminster John Knox Press, 2016.

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Rebecca Mattern, Interim Director of Faith Formation  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist  
Westin Sorrel, Chancel Choir Director  
Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director  
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