

# The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

March 5, 2024

Third Sunday of Lent



**Preparation:** “Often, when we think about who is invited to the table, whom *others* invite, who *always* seems to have a seat at the table, we worry about who is being excluded. We call one another out for who’s left out. It’s the chief sin of our contemporary world: unfair exclusion. Jesus got in trouble for the opposite: he got in trouble for who was welcomed. -- Matt Croasmun & Miroslav Volf in *The Hunger for Home: Food & Meals in the Gospel of Luke*. 2022.

## Gathering As a People of God

**Prelude**

*Antiphon*

Marcel Dupré

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

**Invitation to Our Shared Ministry**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Setting the Table**

Claire Mayhew & Maddie Pearson

**\* Call to Worship**

Keith Camann, Liturgist

One: Jesus Christ summons us to answer God’s call of mercy.

**All: Christ gathers us and gives us power to be healed and to heal,**

One: to be forgiven and to forgive,

**All: to be freed from sin and to set others free,**

One: to tell one another and the world: God’s presence is at hand.

**All: Let us worship God.**

**\* Hymn #517**

*Here, O Our Lord, We See You*, vs. 1-4

[Morecambe]

**Prayer of Confession**

Keith Camann, Liturgist

One: Because we do not always live our lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, we confess before God and one another our sins and shortcomings. In repentance, let us turn toward God’s grace and mercy.

**All: God of abundant goodness, we confess that we want your grace for ourselves but often wish punishment or exclusion on others. We judge the efforts and motives of others while ignoring the faults of our own. Forgive us, we pray, when we let jealousy overtake us. Forgive us, we pray, when we are petty even in the presence of your generosity. Forgive us, we pray, when we feel slighted by you. May we ask once again for your mercy? Will you help us to be more merciful toward one another? Silent prayer. We pray in the name of Christ Jesus, by whose grace we are saved. Amen.**

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

Keith Camann, Liturgist

One: God extends to us mercy beyond our deserving, grace beyond our ability to earn it. God has granted us the privilege of believing in Christ;

**All: therefore we will live as grateful and forgiven people! Thanks be to God!**

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

Gracious God, your Word surprises, challenges, upsets, and overturns our way of seeing and thinking. Come and find us today wherever we are, however, we are. By the power of your Holy Spirit, cause that which is exacting in us to broaden until we see as you see, and thereby glimpse the kingdom you are bringing. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

#### **Children's Message**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

#### **Youth String Choir**

*Largo from Symphony No. 9*

Lizzie Conroy-Krutz - violin

Connor Haskel - cello

Evan Haskel - viola

Emma Roya - viola

Nina Roya - cello

Sarah Mayhew - director

Antonin Dvorak

arr: Kathryn Griesinger

#### **Old Testament Reading**

Genesis 18: 1-8

Rebecca Mattern

#### **New Testament Scripture**

Luke 5:27-32

Pastor Lisa Schrott

#### **Sermon**

*Sinners at the Table*

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**\*Affirmation of Faith** From the PC(USA) Book of Confessions: *Confession of 1967*

**9.12 The reconciling act of God in Jesus Christ exposes the evil in people as sin in the sight of God. In sin, people claim mastery of their own lives, turn against God and each other, and become exploiters and despoilers of the world. They lose their humanity in futile striving and are left in rebellion, despair, and isolation.**

**9.13 Wise and virtuous men and women through the ages have sought the highest good in devotion to freedom, justice, peace, truth, and beauty. Yet all human virtue, when seen in the light of God's love in Jesus Christ, is found to be infected by self-interest and hostility. All people, good and bad alike, are in the wrong before God and helpless without God's forgiveness. Thus everyone falls under God's judgment. No one is more subject to that judgment than those who assume that they are guiltless before God or morally superior to others.**

**Anthem**

*Balm in Gilead*  
Amira Coleman, soloist

H.T. Burleigh

**Responding to the Word**

**Offering**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Invitation**

**Offertory**

*O Bread of Life from Heaven*  
[Innsbruck]

Heinrich Isaak  
arr: David Johnson

**\*Doxology #606**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Holy Communion**

**Invitation**

Rebecca Mattern

**The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Rebecca Mattern

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**

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.**

**Breaking of the Bread**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

The communion bread is soy, nut, dairy, and gluten free so all may partake together.

**Communion Prayer**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

## Sent Out As a People of God

\* **Hymn #769**

*For Everyone Born, vs. 1, 2, 3, 5*

\* **Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Postlude**

*Marche Royale*

Jean Baptiste Lully

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

\* *Please rise in body or spirit*

**Ushers:** Jane Paterson, Jill Tribell, Tom Schaberg, Keith Camann

**This Morning's Fellowship Team:** Thank you to the PCO Youth for supplying the soup lunch, and to Edward Ennen and Wayne Scott for taking care of the coffee.

**Adult Education:** Today through March 17 there are opportunities to intentionally draw closer to God using a variety of spiritual practices. Prayer stations are set up based on the Scripture for each week, with opportunities to reflect and respond with music in the Temple Room, art in the Art Room, labyrinths (body) in the Board Room, and written word in the Kehde Chapel. You are invited to use one room each week and encouraged to spend at least 30 minutes. You are welcome to return to Fellowship Hall if you would like to process your experience in a prayer station with others.

**Next Week: March 10, 2024; Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons**

**Scripture:** Luke 14:1, 7-24

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

The liturgy this morning is from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2*, Westminster John Knox Press; 2014 The Affirmation of Faith is from the *Confession of 1967 Inclusive Language Version*. It can be found online at [https://www.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/theologyandworship/pdfs/confess67.pdf](https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/theologyandworship/pdfs/confess67.pdf)

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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  
Gabrielle Shelton, Media Specialist