

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent



Preparation: “To eat this particular meal together is to meet at the level of our most basic humanness, which involves our need not just for food but for each other. I need you to help fill my emptiness just as you need me to help fill yours. As for the emptiness that's still left over, well, we're in it together, or it in us. Maybe it's most of what makes us human and makes us brothers and sisters.” -- Presbyterian pastor, writer and theologian Frederick Buechner

Gathering As a People of God

Prelude

Prelude on *Slane*
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Irish Folk Melody
arr: Dale Wood

Choral Introit

Remember Not, O God
PCO Chancel Choir

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Recognition of Edward Ennen's Five Years of Ministry with PCO

Personnel Committee

*** Call to Worship**

Ellen Hoekstra, Liturgist

One: Welcome to a time of community,

All: prayer and music that calls us home.

One: Welcome to a moment to hear God's words that inspire and challenge

All: and to reminders that we are offered holy hospitality.

One: Hospitality that teaches us how to open our lives to others

All: leading us to fully live with open minds, open hearts, and open doors.

*** Hymn #504**

We Come as Guests Invited, vs. 1-3
[Wie Lieblich Ist Der Maien]

Prayer of Confession

Rebecca Mattern

One: God has called us all children of God so we take time in silence to consider the ways we have failed to live into that call.

All: We confess those moments where we have failed to love our siblings throughout the world. (silence)

One: Have mercy on us, O God.

All: According to your steadfast love, create in us a clean heart and put a new and right spirit within us.

One: In Jesus Christ we have been invited into the family of God which is a gift so great we could never keep it for ourselves.

All: Let us consider and confess the ways we have failed to extend that same invitation to others. (silence)

One: Have mercy on us, O God.

All: According to your steadfast love, create in us a clean heart, and put a new and right spirit within us.

One: As the family of God we are called to respect, encourage, love, and support each other. While we seek to live out this call faithfully,

All: we also recognize there are times where we fall short. We ask the Holy Spirit to guide us as we aspire once again to be the family of God. (silence)

One: Have mercy on us, O God.

All: According to your steadfast love, create in us a clean heart, and put a new and right spirit within us.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Rebecca Mattern

One: God extends to us mercy beyond our deserving, grace beyond our ability to earn it. Through the waters of baptism our sins are washed away.

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, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Make us hungry for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

Children's Message

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Old Testament Passage

1 Kings 17:7-16

Rebecca Mattern

New Testament Passage

Luke 22:14-30

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

Dining with Friends

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Affirmation of Faith adapted from the Confession of Belhar 10.2 – 10.3 (selected passages)

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

We believe

- that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another;
- that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways;
- that together we know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ;

- that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another;
- that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity.

Anthem *What Shall I Render to the Lord* arr: Karen Thompson
PCO Handbell Choir
Irene Shutt, Director

Minute for Mission **Responding to the Word**
One Great Hour of Sharing Kent Workman

Offering Rebecca Mattern

Invitation

Offertory *O Love* Elaine Hagenberg

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thy ocean depths its flow, may richer, fuller be.
O Joy that seeks me through the pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People Ellen Hoekstra, 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 #754 *Help Us Accept Each Other*, vs. 1-4
[Baronita]

* **Benediction** Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude *Postlude on St. Flavian* Healey Willan
[Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days]

* *Please rise in body or spirit*

Ushers: Ron & Barbara Dorr, Bill & Barbara Given

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to the Parish Life Committee for supplying our birthday cake and to Edward Ennen and David Rumminger for taking care of the coffee.

Music Notes- Elaine Hagenberg's "O Love"

Modern day composer, Elaine Hagenberg, has been hailed for writing music that "soars with eloquence and ingenuity". As a current full time composer, her award winning music is frequently performed worldwide and featured at American Choral Directors Association conferences, All-State festivals, Carnegie Hall, and other distinguished international concert halls. Her piece "O Love" was inspired by the words of Scottish minister George Matheson in 1882. When he was blinded at the age of nineteen, his fiancée called off their engagement and his sister cared for him as he endured new challenges. Years later, on the eve of his sister's wedding, he faced the painful reminder of his own heartache and loss as he penned the words to this hymn. Though lingering dissonances in this piece remind us of past heartache, the beautiful promise remains: "morn shall tearless be."

Adult Education: Today and next week 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 24, 2024 Palm Sunday

Scripture: Luke 22 - Luke 24 (selected verses)

Education Hour: Lenten Prayer Stations

The Call to Worship is adapted from: Cynthia Langston Kirk and is available online at: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/07/call-to-worship-prayer-radical.html>. The Prayer of Illumination is from <https://www.caldwellpresby.org/docs/resources/Prayers%20for%20Illumination.pdf>. The Affirmation of Faith is from the Confession of Belhar in the *PC(USA) Book of Confessions*. Office of the General Assembly, PC(USA); 2016.

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