

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
April 7, 2024
Second Sunday of Easter



Preparation: See page 5 for information about labyrinth

Gathering As a People of God

Prelude *The Strife is O'er* Lisa Shoemaker-Lohmeyer
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Choral Introit *The Strife is O'er*
PCO Chancel Choir

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry Pastor Lisa Schrott

* **Call to Worship** (from Psalm 30, CEB) Steve Mayhew, liturgist

One: You who are faithful to the Lord, sing praises to God; give thanks to God's holy name!

All: God's anger lasts for only a second, but God's favor lasts a lifetime.

Weeping may stay all night, but by morning, joy!

One: You who are faithful to the Lord, sing praises to God; give thanks to God's holy name!

All: When I was comfortable, I said, "I will never stumble."

But when God's presence was hidden, I was terrified and cried out to the Lord.

One: You who are faithful to the Lord, sing praises to God; give thanks to God's holy name!

All: God changed my mourning into dancing and dressed me up in joy.

My whole being sings praises to God and gives thanks to God's holy name!

* **Hymn #805** *Come Sing to God*, vs. 1-4
Psalm 30 [Ellacombe]

Prayer of Confession Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: The act of confessing our sin is not simply a recitation of our faults and wrongs, but also an opportunity to receive God's mercy and share in that abundant grace. Confident of God's love for us, let us offer our prayers.

All: Holy and merciful God, we come before you as a broken people. Our sinful thoughts and deeds obscure our focus upon your triumphant "yes!" of Easter. Though your grace surrounds us everywhere we go, though you walk with us on our journey, though you take, break, bless, and give, we too often say "no!" to your merciful invitation to live freely for you and one another. O Lord, forgive us our sins.

God of Easter, help us to recognize your risen-ness. Guide us that we might walk with you. Cleanse us that we might no longer be slaves to sin. Come to us in the breaking of the bread. Come to us as we are but leave us not as we were;

In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer. (silent prayer) Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Whether we believe it, or not, Jesus Christ never leaves us nor forsakes us. Let us open our hearts to receive the grace which Christ brings to us in faithfulness.

All: God's anger lasts for only a second, but God's favor lasts a lifetime. We are forgiven! 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

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Loving God, come and speak to our hearts today. May we, like those on the Emmaus Road, find your words burning with hope in our lives. Strengthen us and give us courage for the journey ahead. For we pray in Christ's Name. Amen.

Children's Message

Rebecca Mattern

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:13-35, CEB

Rebecca Mattern

Sermon

Joined on the Journey

Rebecca Mattern

* **Affirmation of Faith** From: Confession of 1967 9.22, 9.23, 9.54, 9.55

Rebecca Mattern

The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. . . . The new life does not release people from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, and fear. They still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as they mature in love and faithfulness in their life with Christ, they live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.

Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ . . . culminate in the image of the kingdom. . .

Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

Anthem

This Joyful Eastertide

Dutch melody

This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow!
My Love, the Crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow.

arr. Charles Wood

Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst his three day prison
Our faith had been in vain; but now Christ is arisen.
Death's flood hath lost its chill, since Jesus crossed the river:
Lord of all life, from ill my passing life deliver.
Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst his three day prison
Our faith had been in vain; but now Christ is arisen.
My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a season slumber,
Till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number.
Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst his three day prison
Our faith had been in vain; but now Christ is arisen.

Responding to the Word

Minute for Engagement

Dinner in My Home

Jerri Gillett

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

O Sons and Daughters Let Us Sing

Jean François Dandrieu

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People

Steve Mayhew, 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 #526**

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ, vs. 1-3

[Linstead]

*** Benediction**

Rebecca Mattern

Postlude

Postlude on *Ellacombe*

Setting by Michael Burkhardt

** Please rise in body or spirit*

Adult Education Time: Gun Safety and Violence Prevention including Guns to Gardens with David Detrisac, MI laws with Ellen Hoekstra, PC(USA) initiatives and Greater Lansing Gun Violence Prevention Summit with Pastor Lisa Schrott.

Ushers: Jayne Zuhlke, Jane Paterson, Tom Schaberg, Brett Cone

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Tom and Jill Schaberg and Dave Rumminger for taking care of the coffee and to Shirley Rumminger for supplying snacks.

Next Week April 14, 2024

Scripture: Luke 24: 36b-48

Education Hour –*Equity and Access to Higher Education: the Example of Berea College* with Dr. Lyle D. Roelofs, Emeritus President of Berea College in Kentucky.

The Prayer of Confession written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission, and [A Prayer of Confession for Luke 24:13-35 | Wild and Precious Life](#)
The Assurance of Pardon is based on: [re:Worship: Prayer of Confession: Emmaus Road](#)
Prayer of Illumination comes from: [Worship Connection: April 26, 2020](#)
Labyrinth original drawing by Jeff Seward, final graphic by Vicki Keiser.

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Rebecca Mattern (she/her), Interim Director of Faith Formation
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist
Westin Sorrel (he/him), Chancel Choir Director
Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director
Edward Ennen, Sexton
Anna Thiel, Office Manager
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Preparation for Worship: Trace the labyrinth.

- As you move inward: imagine you are walking away from Jerusalem - away from Jesus' death and resurrection, away from your fellow disciples.
- At the center, imagine encountering the risen Christ.
- As you move outward, imagine you are walking back to Jerusalem.



What is a labyrinth?

A labyrinth is not a maze, there is only one path to the center with no “dead ends”. It is an ancient figure and was used by Christian cathedrals in medieval Europe as a symbol of the journey of faith, and the journey of life. It was walked by those who could not afford the spiritual practice of going on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It was and is also used by Christians as a prayer tool, a way to focus the mind upon God and reflect upon God’s presence in all the twists and turns of our journey. Labyrinths are designed for walking – and tracing them allows those with mobility issues to engage in the practice, as well as a way to bring the practice to everyday spaces.