

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

April 14, 2024

Third Sunday of Easter



Preparation: “Jesus did not seem to like answering questions much during his time on earth. ... After the crucifixion and resurrection, when he came back to meet his disciples, he did not explain what had happened or how. Instead, he said things like, “I am risen,” “Don’t be afraid,” “Peace,” and “Do you have anything to eat?” – Rev. Heidi Haverkamp, Episcopal priest and author.

Gathering As a People of God

Prelude

Variations on *Puer Nobis*
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Michael Burkhardt

Choral Introit

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song
PCO Chancel Choir

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Rebecca Mattern

*** Call to Worship**

Laurie Harkema, liturgist

One: Every year it happens: earth shakes her sleepy head, still a bit wintered and dull, and feels new life stirring.

All: Every year cocoons give up their treasures, fresh shoots push through brown leaves, seemingly dead branches shine with green, and singing birds find their way home.

One: Every year we hear the stories: empty tomb, surprised grievers, runners with news and revelation, unexpected encounters, conversations on the road, and meals shared.

All: And every year the dull and dead in us meets our Easter challenge:

One: to be open to the unexpected, to believe beyond our security,

All: to welcome God in every form, and trust in our own greening.

*** Hymn #254**

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright, vs. 1-3
[Puer Nobis Nascitur]

Prayer of Confession

Rebecca Mattern

One: In our scripture this Sunday, Jesus tells his disciples that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations. With bold assurance of this promise, we come before Christ in confession:

All: Merciful God, the resurrected Christ came to us after death, speaking of peace, eating and drinking, embodied and whole. And yet we too often try to break Christ into pieces that are more palatable for our lives. Like the disciples, we can live in a place of fear and doubt, rather than hope and trust. Forgive us when our fears prevent us from seeing the face of Christ in each other. Forgive us when our doubts stand in the way of sharing your love to all people. Enable us to be your agents of

mercy. Empower us to boldly witness to the transformative power of grace. (*silent prayer*) Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Rebecca Mattern

One: The good news of Easter morning is that sin and death do not have the last word. We are forgiven and receive new life.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! 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

Rebecca Mattern

Spirit of God, just as you opened the minds of the disciples to understand the scriptures, open our minds to see you in these words. Open our eyes to new possibilities, open our hearts to bear witness to your love and open our arms to serve you. Amen.

Journeying Back to Jerusalem

Rebecca Mattern

Children's Message

Pastor Lisa Schrott

* **Hymn #684**

Faith Begins By Letting Go, vs. 1-3
[Lux Prima]

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:36-48

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

Embodied

Pastor Lisa Schrott

* **Affirmation of Faith** From: PC(USA) *A Brief Statement of Faith* (9.4)

in unison

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage

to pray without ceasing,

to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,

to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,

to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,

and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks

and to live holy and joyful lives,

even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,

praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Anthem

He Leadeth Me

William B. Bradbury

PCO Chancel Choir

arr. Cecil Harper

He leadeth me! O blessed thought!

O words with heav'nly comfort fraught! Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. He leadeth me! He leadeth me!

By his own hand he leadeth me! His faithful follower I would be,
For by his hand he leadeth me.

Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, Nor ever murmur nor repine;

Content, whatever lot I see, Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

He leadeth me! He leadeth me! By his own hand he leadeth me!

His faithful follower I would be, For by his hand he leadeth me.

And when my task on earth is done, When, by Thy grace, the victory won, E'en death's cold wave I will
not flee, Since God through Jordan leadeth me. He leadeth me! He leadeth me!

By his own hand he leadeth me! His faithful follower I would be,
For by his hand he leadeth me.

Responding to the Word

Offering

Rebecca Mattern

Invitation

Offertory

Christ is Arisen

Johann Fischer

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People

Laurie Harkema, 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 #231**

Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers, vs. 1-3

[Suo Gan]

*** Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

Processional in D

David Johnson

** Please rise in body or spirit*

Adult Education Time: *Equity and Access to Higher Education: the Example of Berea College*
Dr. Lyle D. Roelofs, Emeritus President of Berea College in Kentucky, will discuss his time at the first integrated, co-educational college in the American South. Dr. Roelofs is a graduate of Calvin College and the University of Maryland. In addition to his time at Berea, he also served as provost, dean of faculty, and interim president at Colgate University.

Ushers: Gary & Trudy Sturk, Jeff & Michele Arbour

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Sandy Detrisac for supplying our snacks and to Tom and Jill Schaberg and Wayne Scott for taking care of the coffee.

Next Week April 21, 2024: Earth Care Sunday

The PCO Green Team will lead worship. Guest preacher is Dr. Gretel Van Wieren, MSU Professor of Religious Studies. She will also present during Adult Education.

Scripture: Isaiah 55:12 and Matthew 6:25-29.

The Call to Worship is adapted from *The Easter Challenge* by Joyce Rupp from *Out of the Ordinary: Prayers, Poems, and Reflections for Every Season*. online at <https://genesisspiritualcenter.org/the-easter-challenge/> The Affirmation of Faith is from the *PC(USA) Book of Confessions*, Westminster John Knox Press, 2016.

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Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist
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