

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter



Preparation: “The vine branch doesn’t put ‘make grapes’ on its to-do list. It just makes them, because it’s part of the vine. And it never makes pears or avocados or olives—when we are connected to Jesus, we bear the fruit of Jesus.” – Rev. Melissa Early, commentary from the *Christian Century*, 2021.

Gathering As a People of God

Prelude

Voluntary in C

Henry Heron

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Choral Introit

God of Our Life

PCO Chancel Choir

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Rebecca Mattern

*** Call to Worship** (Adapted from 1 John 4:7-19)

Ron Dorr, liturgist

One: Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

All: Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

One: God's love was revealed among us in this way:

All: God sent God's only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

One: Beloved, since God loved us so much,

All: we also ought to love one another.

One: We love because God first loved us.

All: Let us worship the God of Love.

*** Hymn #316**

Where Charity and Love Prevail, vs. 1-5

[Twenty-Fourth]

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: There are many things that can cut us off from the One True Vine. Our sins are like so much dead wood. When we confess the dead places in our lives, God offers us the forgiveness we need to prune them away and allow us to thrive once more. We come now to confess the parts of our lives that do not bear fruit...

All: Gracious God, we confess that we each have places in our lives that could use some pruning. Our words do not always give grace to those who hear, our actions do not always witness to our baptism in your name. We have ignored those who need our help the most and focused on hoarding more for ourselves. Our selfish desires only

serve to wither us and turn us into dying branches. Forgive us, and prune away our dead places so that we may bear fruit generously in your name...(silent prayer)
Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: We are grafted into the Living Vine. The Vinegrower has tended to us and removed our sinful and withered ways. We are given another chance to live and bear fruit.

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

Loving God, may the Spirit open us to abide in your Word and root us in your Love. Through your Word and your Love, help us extend our branches to bear your fruit in this world. Amen.

Children's Message

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Old Testament Readings Deuteronomy 6:10-12; Jeremiah 29:4-7

Rebecca Mattern

New Testament Reading

John 15:1-9

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

Intertwined

Pastor Lisa Schrott

* **Affirmation of Faith** From: Christian Reformed Church *We Belong to God* (39) in unison

**The church is a gathering
of forgiven sinners called to be holy.
Saved by the patient grace of God,
we deal patiently with others
and together confess our need
for grace and forgiveness.
Restored in Christ's presence,
shaped by his life,
this new community lives out
the ongoing story of God's reconciling love,
announces the new creation,
and works for a world of justice and peace.**

Special Music

Seek Ye First
Spencer Locke, tuba
Andrew Mayhew, euphonium
Sarah Mayhew, Director

Karen Lafferty
arr. by Douglas E. Wagner
adapted by Sarah Mayhew

Minute for Gratitude

Responding to the Word
MSU Scholarship Student &
Chancel Choir Appreciation

Westin Sorrel

Offering

Rebecca Mattern

Invitation

Offertory

Abide With Me

William Henry Monk

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

3. I need thy presence every passing hour;
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see.
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

4. I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People

Ron Dorr, 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 #36**

For the Fruit of All Creation, vs. 1-3

[Ar Hyd Y Nos]

*** Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

Fugue in C
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

George Frideric Handel

** Please rise in body or spirit*

Adult Education Time: The Journey to 2030 Visioning Team will report. Using the input from the Town Hall last fall, the survey in February, small group discussions, and the work of the Holy Spirit, the team has crafted a vision for PCO's future. Join us as the team shares this vision!

Ushers: Brett & Lynn Cone, Deb & Joel Major

This Morning's Fellowship Team: It's Birthday Cake Sunday! Thank you to the Parish Life Committee for supplying our birthday cake as we celebrate our April birthdays! Thank you to Edward Ennen and Nancy Kanistanaux for taking care of the coffee.

Next Week May 5, 2024: 60th Anniversary Service

Scripture: John 21:15-19

The Prayer of Confession and Promise of the Gospel are adapted words by the Rev. Rebecca Page Lesley, Suffolk Presbyterian Church, Suffolk, VA. Available online at

<https://www.liturgylink.net/2012/05/01/confession-and-pardon-pruning/> The Affirmation of Faith is from the Christian Reformed Church Confession *We Belong to God*.

<https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/contemporary-testimony/our-world-belongs-god>

You are in an active recording environment, and your likeness may be captured in photographs and videos. By entering, you acknowledge giving consent to The Presbyterian Church of Okemos to take, own and use images containing your likeness at its sole discretion in perpetuity. If you do not wish to convey this consent, please contact a staff member immediately.

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

2258 Bennett Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864

(517) 349-9536

Website: <https://okemospres.org>

Email: office@okemospres.org

<https://www.instagram.com/okemospres/>

<https://facebook.com/OkemosPresbyterian>



Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott (she/her), Pastor/Head of Staff
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
Gabrielle Shelton (she/her), Media Specialist