

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
January 26, 2025
Third Sunday After the Epiphany



Gathering As a People of God

Preparation: “A kairos time is a right or opportune time. It is a decisive moment in history with the potential for far-reaching impact. It is often a chaotic time, a time of crisis. Yet it is a time in which God is fully present, providing an opening, a way to God’s future. ...

“What does it mean to be Christian in this time?” is thus an urgent question. Yet the answer is simple: we have a cross at the center of our faith, and we need to start acting like it. The cross demands that we join in God’s eternal mission to create a loving and just world.” — Theologian. Kelly Brown Douglas

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Rebecca Mattern

Prelude

Psalm 19

Benedetto Marcello

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Lighting the Candle

Choral Introit

I Was Glad

PCO Chancel Choir

Westin Sorrel, director

* **Call to Worship** (Adapted from Psalm 19)

Ron Dorr, Liturgist

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.

All: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

One: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.

All: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes.

One: The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

All: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

One: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

All: Let us worship our God of majesty.

* Hymn #690

God's Glory Fills the Heavens, vs. 1-3
[Psalm 19, St. Patrick]

Prayer of Confession

Rebecca Mattern

One: God shares with us Good News that even though we fall short of God's plans for our lives. So it with confidence in the gift of grace we have received from Jesus Christ, we confess:

All: Merciful God, you share with us words of hope, and yet sometimes we are unable to hear them because the source is too familiar. You call us to share the Good News with those around us. And yet sometimes we are unable to share, because the people know us too well. For the multitude of ways we can and have subverted your message of freedom and healing, forgive us. For all the ways we have kept your grace from being shared with others, forgive us. We call upon you to lead us back to faithfulness and to remind us of the ways you fulfill the promises made to our ancestors. *Silent prayer.* Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Rebecca Mattern

One: This is the time of God's favor, God's grace continues to proclaim release to the captives, sight to the blind, Good News to the poor and freedom to the oppressed.

All: We live as loved, forgiven and free people through the grace of God. Hallelujah! 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

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Loving God, by the breath of your Spirit inspire us. In the hearing of your Word we may be filled with new understanding. May that understanding give us encouragement and desire to serve you in all we do. Amen.

Children's Message

Rebecca Mattern

Old Testament Reading

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Rebecca Mattern

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Scripture

Luke 4:14-21

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Who is Jesus? One Who Fulfills Prophecy

Pastor Lisa Schrott

* **Affirmation of Faith** (from Confession of Belhar, the PC(USA) Book of Confessions, 10.7)

One: With the whole church, let us confess our faith sharing together in a portion of the Confession of Belhar:

All: **We believe**

- **that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;**
- **that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged**
- **that God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;**
- **that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;**
- **that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;**
- **that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;**
- **that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right.**

Anthem

Ain'-a That Good News

Traditional Spiritual

PCO Chancel Choir

arr. William L. Dawson

Westin Sorrel, director

I got a crown up ina the Kingdom, Ain'-a that good news! I'm a-goin' to lay down this worl', Goin'-a shoulder up-uh my cross, Goin'-a take it home-a to my Jesus, Ain'-a that good news!

I got a robe up ina the Kingdom, Ain'-a that good news! I'm a-goin' to lay down this worl', Goin'-a shoulder up-uh my cross, Goin'-a take it home-a to my Jesus, Ain'-a that good news!

I got a Saviour ina the Kingdom, Ain'-a that good news! I'm a-goin' to lay down this worl', Goin'-a shoulder up-uh my cross, Goin'-a take it home-a to my Jesus, Ain'-a that good news, Lawd!

Responding to the Word

Minute for Service

Super Bowl of Caring

Alex Juarez, Claire Mayhew &

Emma Roy

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

Kingsfold for the Cornet

David P. Dahl

***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 #757**

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples, vs. 1-4
[Kingsfold]

* **Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

Procession in D Major
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

David N. Johnson

Congregational Meeting

The Session of PCO has called for the Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation and the meeting of the PCO Corporation to be held following the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

We encourage all to remain for this meeting; however only members are eligible to vote. For those joining us via Zoom, the link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84065852997>

* *Please rise in body or spirit*

The Prayer of Confession and Promise of the Gospel are adapted from words by the Rev. Gord from re:Worship. Online at

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2019/01/prayer-of-confession-sharing-good-news.html>

Ushers: David & Kathi Cook, Ron & Barbara Dorr

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Edward Ennen for making the coffee and washing the dishes.

Music Notes: William L. Dawson is hailed as one of the great spiritual arrangers of the 20th Century. Dawson at a young age began composing and arranging. In his youth, he fled home to study music at The Tuskegee Institute (now University). After his studies at Tuskegee, Dawson

went on to study at the Chicago Musical College and the American Conservatory of Music. After teaching in the Kansas City Public Schools, Dawson would return as a tenured instructor at Tuskegee where he would develop the choir into an internationally renowned ensemble. His spiritual arrangement “Ain’-a That Good News” is widely performed today and is an example of a “religious spiritual”, which focuses on the topics of King Jesus, the devil, judgement day, and heaven. It uses trademark stylistic features of spirituals such as a strophic form, call and response between the voices, and multiple rhythmic ideas happening on top of each other at the same time.

Education Hour:

Children through 4th grade: (Room 116)

Middle School Youth 5th-8th grade: Middle School Room (107)

Adult & High School Youth: Annual Meeting of the Congregation following worship

Next Week: February 2, 2025; Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Luke 4:21-30

Education Hour: All Ages Game Day with Pizza Lunch

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Rebecca Mattern (she/her), Coordinator of Pastoral Care & Youth Education

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist

Westin Sorrel (he/him), Chancel Choir Director

Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director

Edward Ennen, Sexton

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