

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
March 9, 2025
First Sunday in Lent



Gathering As a People of God

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Rebecca Mattern

Prelude

Arioso

J.S. Bach

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Lighting the Candle

Choral Introit

Love God with All Your Soul and Strength

PCO Chancel Choir

Westin Sorrel, director

*** Call to Worship**

Sean Clark, Liturgist

One: Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

All: As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.

One: In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt, and temptation.

All: As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.

One: Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

All: As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.

*** Hymn #766**

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound, vs. 1-4

[McKee]

Prayer of Confession

Rebecca Mattern

One: God makes no distinction between us. We are all sinners, we are all children of God, we are all precious to God, and we are all saved by God. Because God is so impartial, let us confess our common humanity to the One who is generous to all.

All: We meet you here, God of faithfulness, our hands and lives full of all our foolish ways. Your people, we treat the strangers who walk among us with fear and doubt. We afflict our anger on those who care about us the most. We impose hard words on those who need to hear hope and grace in their lives. So now we bring our hearts to you, Generous God, setting them down before you in hopes that you will mend them. As you hear our faltering words, we pray you would answer us with your forgiving love. And as you forgive us, may we go forth to be generous with our lives towards others, even as the one who is Lord of all, Jesus Christ, has been so generous to us. *Silent prayer.* Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Rebecca Mattern

One: As you have confessed, do you so believe? The good news is that there is nothing we do that can conquer us, for we are sheltered in God's gracious mercy and hope.

All: This is the truth we believe. The Word is in our hearts, and on our lips, as we give thanks to God who is our shelter and our life. 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.

*** Response #447**

We Are Forgiven

(see page 5)

The Word

Children's Sermon

Rev. Dr. Chip Hardwick

Prayer of Illumination #288

Spirit of the Living God

sung together

(see page 6)

New Testament Reading

Matthew 23:23-24

Rebecca Mattern

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Old Testament Scripture

Isaiah 58:1-12

Rev. Dr. Chip Hardwick

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Practicing Faithfulness

Rev. Dr. Chip Hardwick

Responding to the Word

Anthem

Go Forth into the World In Peace

John Rutter

Go forth into the world in peace, be of good courage.

Hold fast, that which is good; render to no one evil for evil.

Strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak. Help the afflicted, honor all people

Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost be upon you,

And remain with you forever, Amen

Minute for Service

Loaves & Fishes

Barbara Dorr

Offering

Rebecca Mattern

Invitation

Offertory

Ever Faithful, Ever Near

Franklin Ritter

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Sean Clark, 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 #684

Faith Begins by Letting Go, vs. 1-3

[Lux Prima]

* **Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Chip Hardwick

Postlude

Fugue in G Minor

J.S. Bach

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

* Please rise in body or spirit

Our guest preacher this morning: Rev. Charles (Chip) B. Hardwick, Ph.D.

The Rev. Dr. Charles B. Hardwick began serving as the Executive for the Synod of the Covenant in spring, 2020. Before joining the Synod, Chip served the denomination as Director of Theology, Formation, and Evangelism. He has also served churches in Lake Forest, IL, Bloomington, IL, and Atlanta, GA. His education includes a B.A. from Alma College, an M.B.A. from Northwestern University, a Th.M. from Emory University, and an M.Div. and Ph.D. (preaching and worship) from Princeton Theological Seminary. Before seminary he worked at strategy consultancy Bain and Company in Dallas and Madrid, and at Dow Corning Corporation in Kentucky and Michigan.

Ushers: Gary & Trudy Sturk, Jeff & Michele Arbour

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Tom Schaberg for preparing our coffee, to Dave Rumminger for washing dishes, and to Marlene Brewbaker and Shirley Rumminger for supplying our snacks.

Education Hour:

Children through 4th grade: (Room 116)

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

Adult & High School Youth: Intergenerational Bible Study (Board Room)

Adult Education: Rev. Dr. Chip Hardwick: What's a Synod of the Covenant and What Does it Have to Do with Us?

Next Week: March 16, 2025

Scripture: Exodus 17:1-7 & John 4:5-42

Education Hour:

Children through 4th grade: (Room 116)

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

Adult & High School Youth: Intergenerational Bible Study (Board Room)

Adult Education

The Prayer of Confession and Promise of the Gospel are adapted from words by the Rev. Thom Shuman in *Liturgy with communion for March 10, 2019 (Lent 1 - C)*. Online at <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2019/03/liturgy-with-communion-for-march-10.html>

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Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott (she/her), Pastor/Head of Staff

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

Anna Thiel, Office Manager

Gabrielle Shelton (she/her), Media Specialist

Response

447

We Are Forgiven

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of three systems of music, each with a line of lyrics underneath. Chord symbols are placed above the notes.

System 1: G Am D7 Gsus G C
We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to

System 2: G Am7 Dsus D G Am
God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.

System 3: D7 Gsus G C G Am7 D G
We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Illumination

Spirit of the Living God 288

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

This system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains the vocal melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff contains the piano accompaniment. The music is in 4/4 time and the key signature has one flat (B-flat). The first system ends with a double bar line.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

This system continues the music from the first system. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are the same as in the first system. The second system ends with a double bar line.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

This system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are different from the previous systems. The music continues in the same 4/4 time and B-flat key signature. The third system ends with a double bar line.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

This system concludes the piece. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The lyrics return to the first line of the piece. The music ends with a double bar line.