

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
March 16, 2025
Second Sunday in Lent



Gathering As a People of God

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prelude

Prelude on *Slane*
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Irish Folk Melody
arr: Dale Wood

Lighting the Candle

Choral Introit

I will extol Thee, my God
PCO Chancel Choir
Westin Sorrel, director

*** Call to Worship**

Emily Conroy-Krutz, Liturgist

One: In the beginning, God's spirit swept over the waters, creating the heavens and the earth and all that was in them. The Living Waters of Creation. On the fifth day of creation God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the sky."

All: **Jesus said, "Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I give is the Living Water."**

One: For Moses, the waters that sheltered his basket as a baby were the Living Waters. When death prevailed over the births of Hebrew boys, the mother of Moses turned to the Living Waters. When she could hide her baby no more, she placed him in a papyrus basket, plastered it with bitumen and pitch and put the basket among the reeds on the bank of the river.

All: **Jesus said, "Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I give is the Living Water."**

One: When Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed Jesus.

All: **Jesus said, "Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I give is the Living Water."**

*** Hymn # 450**

Be Thou My Vision, vs. 1-4
[Slane]

Prayer of Confession

Rebecca Mattern

One: God, in your goodness and mercy, you forgive us and instruct us how to live with your will rather than our own in the center of our lives. So it is in this space and at this time, that we are able to come and bear the wilderness of our sin before you. We pray:

All: Merciful God, we have been lost in the wilderness of disconnection. Show us how to break down the barriers separating us from each other. Forgive us for the times we have abandoned those who hunger and thirst, the less abled, and the unhoused. May we respond to needs with outstretched arms, rather than backs turned. Forgive us for the ways we exclude people who seem different than we are. Remind us that we are all created in the *imago dei*, the image of God. Guide us that we may understand the importance of community, especially with those whom we do not always see and recognize as our siblings. Lead us out of the wilderness sin has created and help us to find new life.
Silent prayer. Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Rebecca Mattern

One: By the mercy of our loving God, we have been forgiven. As we move from the wilderness of sin to the garden of grace, Christ calls us to live in peace and community with one another.

All: Thanks be to God. 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 insert)

The Word

Children's Sermon

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prayer of Illumination #288

Spirit of the Living God

sung together

(see insert)

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 17:1-7

Emily Conroy-Krutz, Liturgist

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

All: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Scripture

John 4:5-30, 39

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Dialogue adapted from *The Message*

Rebecca Mattern

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Faith In the Wilderness: Thirsting to Be Seen

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Responding to the Word

Anthem

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
PCO Handbell Choir
Irene Shutt, Director

arr. Arnold B. Sherman

Minute for Engagement

Family Camp

Christine Meland

Offering

Rebecca Mattern

Invitation

Offertory

In Bright Mansions Above
PCO Chancel Choir

Roland Carter

Lord, I want to live up yonder, in bright mansions above. My mothers' gone to glory,
I want to go there too. Lord, I want to live up yonder, in bright mansions above.

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People

Emily Conroy-Krutz, 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 #182**

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say, vs. 1-3
[Kingsfold]

*** Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

Postlude in G
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Henry Kihlken

* Please rise in body or spirit

Ushers: Brett & Lynette Cone, Deb & Joel. Major

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to the Parish Life Committee for supplying birthday cake and to Tom Schaberg for preparing our coffee, to Gary VanKempen for washing dishes.

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 Deeper Meaning of the Parables Using Haggadic Midrash, a type of Jewish Biblical interpretation, led by Ewen Todd

Next Week: March 23, 2025

Scripture: Psalm 23 & John 9:1-41

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

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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

Anna Thiel, Office Manager

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