

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
March 23, 2025
Third Sunday in Lent



Gathering As a People of God

Preparation: Jesus was a “wholemaker,” bringing together those who were divided, separated, or left out of the whole. He initiated a new way of “catholicity,” a gathering together of persons in love. ... He gathered together what was divided and confronted systems that diminished, marginalized, or excluded human persons. ... Faith in Christ should move us to be loving and free, to create new wholes, and in doing so, to create a new future for the human person, for society, and for the whole earthly community.” -- Ilia Delio, from *The Unbearable Wholeness of Being: God, Evolution and the Power of Love*, 2013.

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prelude

Sicilienne

Maria-Theresa V. Paradis

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Lighting the Candle

Choral Introit

Lead Me, O Lord

Eleanor Daley

PCO Chancel Choir

Westin Sorrel, director

*** Call to Worship (adapted from Isaiah 40)**

Keith Camann, Liturgist

One: The Lord God will feed his flock like a shepherd; and will gather the lambs in his arms

All: and carry them in her bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

One: Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

All: The Lord does not faint or grow weary; the Lord’s understanding is unsearchable. The Lord gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless.

One: Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted, but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles;

All: they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

*** Hymn #796**

We Come to You for Healing, Lord, vs. 1, 2, 4, 5

[Land of Rest]

Prayer of Confession

Keith Camann, Liturgist

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: Gracious God, we are people who too often wear masks of self assurance rather than revealing ourselves completely to you. We keep secret those things we are not proud of and flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless, and pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable - those who need healing in body, mind and spirit. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly. Bring us into your light that we may know ourselves and others as loved. *Silent prayer.* Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Keith Camann, Liturgist

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

The Word

Children's Sermon

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prayer of Illumination #288

Spirit of the Living God

sung together

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 23 (King James Version)

in unison

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; he maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside the still waters, he restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Scripture

John 9:1-11 (The Message Version)

Pastor Lisa Schrott

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Faith In the Wilderness: Seeking Healing
Pastor Lisa Schrott

Responding to the Word

Anthem

God So Loved The World
MSU Choral Scholars

John Stainer

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whoso believeth, believeth in him.
Should not perish, should not perish but have everlasting life,
For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world,
But that the world through him might be saved.

Minute for Mission

One Great Hour of Sharing

Kent Workman

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
[St. Columba, Psalm 23]

Dale Wood

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: God who sees us and heals us,

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 #797

We Cannot Measure How You Heal, vs. 1-3
[Ye Banks and Braes]

* **Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

Marche Royale
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Jean-Baptiste Lully

* Please rise in body or spirit

Ushers: David & Kathi Cook, Ron & Barbara Dorr

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Mickey Martin, Shirley Rumminger and Barbara Scott for supplying snacks and to Edward Ennen taking care of all things coffee.

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: Sermon Talk Back on Healing with Pastor Lisa (Room 108)

Next Week: March 30, 2025 Ordination and Installation of New Officers (wear your red!)

Scripture: Psalm 32 & 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

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: Music in a Church Setting with Choir Director Westin Sorrel

The Prayer of Confession is adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1*, Westminster John Knox Press, 2013.

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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), 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