

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
April 27, 2025
Second Sunday of Easter
Creation Care Sunday



Gathering As a People of God

Preparation: “Cultivating and caring for creation is an instruction of God which he gave not only at the beginning of history, but has also given to each one of us.” Pope Francis

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Rebecca Mattern

Prelude

Partita on *Dix*
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Dennis Janzer

Lighting the Candle

Choral Introit

Touch the Earth Lightly
PCO Chancel Choir
Westin Sorrel, director

Land Acknowledgement

Kent Workman

We recognize our need to pray for right relationships with the native peoples on whose land we reside. We collectively acknowledge that PCO occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary Lands of the Anishinaabeg – Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples. In particular, the Okemos resides on Land ceded in the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw. We recognize, support, and advocate for the sovereignty of Michigan’s twelve federally-recognized Indian nations, for historic Indigenous communities in Michigan, for Indigenous individuals and communities who live here now, and for those who were forcibly removed from their Homelands.

*** Call to Worship** (adapted from Psalm 65)

Kent Workman

One: By awesome deeds God answers us with deliverance and salvation;

All: God is the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

One: By God’s strength the mountains were established

All: and the roaring of the seas quieted.

One: Those who live at earth’s farthest bounds are awed by God’s signs;

All: God makes the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

One: God waters the furrows of the earth abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

All: The pastures of the wilderness overflow; the hills gird themselves with joy.

One: The meadows clothe themselves with flocks; the valleys deck themselves with grain;

All: they shout and sing together for joy.

* Hymn #14

For the Beauty of the Earth, vs. 1-4

[Dix]

Prayer of Confession

Jeff Conroy-Krutz

One: Confident in the assurance of forgiveness when we come with open and honest hearts before God, let us raise our voices together for a communal prayer of confession followed by a time of personal confession.

All: Forgive us, God, that we have taken your creation for granted. You have given us the run of the land, the pick of the crop and we have squandered these resources; distributed these unfairly, vandalized their beauty, and violated their purity. Thank you, God, that you are stronger than our destructiveness and greater than our stinginess. You give us a fresh start, a second chance. Overwhelm us with the power of your resurrected love. Compel us with the challenge you issue for change. Drive us towards a new life of peace, justice and integrity. *Silent prayer. Amen*

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Jeff Conroy-Krutz

One: The God who creates in love has the power to heal, restore, renew and resurrect. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and renewed.

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

Jeff Arbour

God of Glory, we cannot hear the heavens proclaim your handiwork, though the speech of the skies must be magnificent. We cannot hear what day and night are singing about you, though their song must be both bright and deep. It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit. that your Word can be heard in our words. Open our ears to what you are saying to us today, we pray; and perhaps we may also hear echoes of your glory in the broad firmament above. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Jennifer Gordon

Scripture Reading Genesis Chapters 6-9 (selected verses)

Dorinda VanKempen

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Litany of Sending

Pastor Lisa Schrott & Rebecca Mattern

One: Let us give thanks for our journey together in this place: For friendships made, for joys celebrated and for times of nurture and growth,

All: **Thanks be to God.**

One: For wounds healed, expectations met, gifts given and promises kept,

All: **Thanks be to God.**

One: For our fellowship in Jesus Christ, and for the love of God, which has sustained us, thanks be to God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Dissolution of Service

Pastor Lisa Schrott & Kelly Locke

One: Do we, the members and friends of the Presbyterian Church of Okemos, release Rebecca from service as our Coordinator for Pastoral Care and Youth Ministry?

All: **We do with thanks to God.**

One: Do you Rebecca, recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with this congregation?

Rebecca: I do with thanks to God.

One: Loving God, Alpha and Omega, you are both beginning and end. Our endings and our beginnings are rooted in your love. Whether near or far, we are held close by your love, and kept safe from any lasting loss. Let our time together end with your blessing.

Blessing

Pastor Lisa Schrott

*** Benediction**

Rebecca Mattern

Postlude

Postlude on *Azmon*
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Robert A. Hobby

* Please rise in body or spirit

Ushers: Jeff Arbour, Bill Givens, Scott Locke

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to the Personnel Committee for providing refreshments for the celebration of Rebecca Mattern's ministry with us. Thank you to Mitch Marcus for making coffee and to Edward Ennen for washing dishes.

Education Hour: A celebration of the ministry of Rebecca Mattern as we wish her Godspeed on her journey ahead.

Next Week: May 4, 2025 Music Recognition Sunday and Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Scripture: Psalm 1 & Colossians 2:6 -7

Education Hour: Creation Care Intergenerational Celebration! Join the Green Team as they lead us in Earth Care activities. Opportunities for all ages!

The Prayer of Confession is adapted from words by Janet Orchard, Methodist Relief and Development Agency. Online at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/09/prayer-of-confession-creation.html>

The Prayer of Illumination is from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B*, Volume 1; Westminster John Knox Press; 2014

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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