

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
May 11, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Easter



Gathering As a People of God

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prelude

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Lobe Den Herren
Setting by Paul Manz

Lighting the Candles

Choral Introit

Praise God the Lord
PCO Chancel Choir
Westin Sorrel, director

*** Call to Worship** (adapted from Psalm 146)

Catherine Holdway, Liturgist

One: Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

All: I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

One: Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

All: When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,

All: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

One: who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

All: The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

One: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow,

All: The Lord will reign forever. Praise the Lord!

*** Hymn #401**

Here in This Place, vs. 1-4
[Gather Us In]

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: God is present to guide our journey and eager to forgive us when we go astray; therefore, in humility and faith, let us confess our sins against God and neighbor.

All: Merciful God, your call to discipleship is demanding. You call us to reorder our lives by the kingdom you are bringing in Jesus Christ. Yet we still pass by the ones you especially notice: people who are poor and hungry; people who weep. We have not stood with those who are hated, bullied, and excluded. Comfortable with the way things are, we are too

complacent, even complicit with injustice and prejudice. Forgive us, O God, and turn us back to your gospel. We pray this now, for our sake, and for the sake of your world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Silent prayer.* Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Hear the good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. The old life has passed away—and a new life has begun.

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.*

* Act of Praise #581

Gloria Patri

The Word

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Spirit of life, God of love, open our hearts and enter in, that hearing your word of love, we may become your love for others. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Scripture Readings Matthew 22:34-40; Matthew 25: 42-45

Pastor Lisa Schrott

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Do Something

Willye Bryan & Prince Solace

Responding to the Word

Anthem

Gracious Spirit Dwell With Me

arr. K. Lee Scott

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would be gracious be;

Help me now thy grace to see, I would be like thee;

And, with words that help and heal, thy life would mine reveal;

and with actions bold and meek, for Christ my Savior speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me, I would be truthful be; Help me now thy truth to see,

I would be like thee; and with wisdom kind and clear, thy life in mine appear;

and with actions brotherly, Speak Christ's sincerity.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would be holy be; Show thy mercy tenderly, Make me more like thee;

Separate from sin, I would and cherish all things good, and whatever I can be give him who gave me thee.

Mighty Spirit, dwell with me, I would be mighty be; Help me now thy pow'r to see, I would be like thee,

against all weapons hell can wield, be thou my strength and shield;

Let thy word my weapon be, Lord, Thine the victory, gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would be like thee!

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

Andante Espressivo

Hedwige Chrétien

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Catherine Holdway, 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 #320

The Church of Christ in Every Age, vs. 1, 2, 3, 5
[Wareham]

* Benediction

Willye Bryan

Postlude

Finale on *The Gift of Love*
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Janet Linker

* Please rise in body or spirit

Preaching this morning:

Willye Bryan is the founder of the Justice League of Greater Lansing and an Elder at First Presbyterian Church, Lansing. She served as a commissioner to the PC(USA) General Assembly in 2022. A native of Mississippi, Willye began her working life as a public-school history teacher. The majority of her career was spent as a classical biological control entomologist. She worked in this field for 41 years for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), in private industry, and at MSU. Willye also worked at Bethel College in Mishawaka, Indiana for a year as an Adjunct Professor of Multicultural Education and Race & Ethnicity. Willye is married to Michael and has a young adult grandson whom she adores! You can learn more about Willye at <https://www.justiceleagueglm.org/leadership-committee/founder>

Prince Solace Prince is co-founder and president of the Justice League. A Lansing native and a descendant of Mississippi Delta sharecroppers, Prince graduated from Holt High School, attended Lansing Community College and earned a bachelor's in professional communications from Sienna Heights University. His career spans roles in corporate and non-profit institutions where he uses inclusive frameworks to promote equitable and empowering working environments. As president of the Justice League, Prince actively leverages his network within the Greater Lansing region to promote the mission of the Justice League.

Ushers: Gary & Trudy Sturk, Jeff & Michele Arbour

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Dave & Sandy Detrisac and Shirley Rumminger for supplying snacks, to Tom Schaberg for making coffee and to Edward Ennen and Joel Major 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: The Justice League of Greater Lansing

Next Week: May 18, 2025

Scripture: Leviticus 19:33-34; Acts 11:1-18

Education Hour: Children through 4th grade: (Room 116)
Middle School Youth 5th-8th grade: Middle School Room (107)
High School Youth: Navigating College Life with Kent Workman (Board Room)
Adult: "Pulling Back the Curtain: Choral Leadership in Worship Settings. Part 2"
with Chancel Choir Director Westin Sorrel (Room 108)

The Prayer of Confession (adapted) and Prayer of Illumination are from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C*, Volume 1; Westminster John Knox Press. 2012

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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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