

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
November 16, 2025
Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost
Dedication of our Gifts



Gathering As a People of God

Preparation: “As members of The Presbyterian Church of Okemos, we believe that in life, in death, and life beyond death, we belong to God. The Church exists to invite everyone to join the lifelong journey of faith that is life in Jesus Christ through worship that glorifies God, study that seeks to understand God, service to a world that needs God. We desire to build a network of caring relationships between families, friends, and strangers by offering welcome, healing, justice and peace to all in the name of Jesus Christ.” PCO Mission Statement

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Lighting the Candles

Prelude

Fugue in d minor
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Pachelbel

Choral Introit

O Worship the Lord
PCO Chancel Choir
Calvin Aupperlee, director

Anonymous

*** Call to Worship** (adapted from Romans 12)

Dorinda VanKempen, Liturgist

One: Scripture tells us to let love be genuine; hate what is evil and hold fast to what is good.

All: Love one another with mutual affection and outdo one another in showing honor.

One: Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit and serve the Lord.

All: Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction and persevere in prayer.

One: Contribute to the needs of the saints and pursue hospitality to strangers.

All: Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.

One: Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant but associate with the lowly.

All: If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

*** Hymn #712**

As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought, vs. 1-3
[Forest Green]

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: God offers wisdom as a gift and God's promises are true. God's love is constant. Let us come to the One who offers the Bread of Life, the promise of redemption, and the grace of forgiveness.

Let us pray:

All: You must shake your head in wonder at our ways, Keeper of the Covenant. How can we say we want wisdom, when we foolishly squander the knowledge we have of your ways? How can we claim to follow you, when we walk the slippery roads of the world not caring where they lead us? How can you have mercy on such unwise and unfaithful people, Perfect Wisdom? Yet, that is exactly what you do: and our greed turns to gratitude, our pettiness to praise, our tantrums to thanksgiving, as hope and joy become our blessing through the One we call our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Silent prayer. Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: In Christ, God sent redemption for all. We are forgiven and made a new creation. Thanks be to God.

All: We give thanks to God for everything: forgiveness, hope, new 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.*

*** Act of Praise #581**

Gloria Patri

The Word

Prayer of Illumination

Dorinda VanKempen, Liturgist

God whose giving knows no ending, may the Spirit open us your words of love and faithfulness. Open our eyes and our ears, open our minds and hearts so we may be filled with your goodness. May we respond in gratitude for all your acts of mercy, kindness, and grace. We ask this in the name of the living word, Jesus. Amen.

Children's Sermon & Time of Wonder

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Special Music

God Whose Giving Knows No Ending

arranged by Adam Waite

Claire Mayhew, French horn

adapted by Sarah Mayhew

Nina Roy, cello

Sarah Mayhew, director

Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Pastor Lisa Schrott
& Dorinda Vankempen

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

We Belong to God: We Respond in Gratitude

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Affirmation of Faith Brief Statement of Faith (11.1), *PC(USA) Book of Confessions*

in unison

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

Anthem

Come, Ye Thankful People Come
PCO Chancel Choir
Calvin Aupperlee, director

arr. Sjolund,
Bock & Nichols

Dedication of Our Commitments

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Please come forward and place your Pledge Cards and Every Member in Ministry Time and Talent Sheets in the basket at the front of the chancel.

Prayer of Dedication

Patty Wilson, Chair of Stewardship Committee

Response of Praise

Hymn #708 -*We Give Thee but Thine Own, vs. 1*

Responding to the Word

Minute for Mission

Catholic Charities - Christmas Giving Tree

Trudy Sturk

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

For the Fruit of All Creation

Paul Karvonen

[Ar Hyd Y Nos]

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People

Dorinda VanKempen, 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 #711**

Lord of All Good, vs. 1-3

[Toulon]

*** Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

Sing to the Lord of Harvest
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Dennis Eliot

* Please rise in body or spirit

Ushers: Brett & Lynette Cone, Deb & Joel Major

Flowers: The flowers beautifying our sanctuary today are from Barbara Fretwell-Cooke with thanks for the PCO family.

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to the Parish Life Committee for supplying our birthday cake for November birthdays, to Edward Ennen for making coffee and to Gary VanKempen for washing the dishes.

Education Hour:

Elementary Education in Room 116

Middle School Education in Room 107

Intergenerational Bible Study (High School and Adults): Collaborate New Testament Series with Roy Meland in the Board Room

Adult Ed: *Dialogues in Faith & Science* - Pastor Lisa will lead a short discussion on how the brain perceives God and Ewen Todd will present a book review of Francis Collins' *The Language of God*.

Next Week: November 23, 2025 Reign of Christ Sunday followed by the Agape Meal in Fellowship Hall; bring a snack to share around the table and food item to share with our neighbors.

Scripture: Joel 2: 21-27 & Colossians 1:11-20

Our Prayer of Confession and Promise of the Gospel are adapted from words by Thom Shuman, and posted on *Lectionary Liturgies*, <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>.

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Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist
Shelby Laird, Chancel Choir Director
Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director
Edward Ennen, Sexton
Anna Thiel, Office Manager
Jacob Meland, Media Specialist