

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
January 11, 2026
First Sunday after Epiphany
Baptism of the Lord



Gathering As a People of God

Preparation: "Through baptism, the Holy Spirit gives the Church its identity and commissions the Church for service in the world. Baptism is the bond of unity in Jesus Christ. When we are baptized, we are made one with Christ, with one another, and with the Church of every time and place. In Christ, barriers of race, status, and gender are overcome; we are called to seek reconciliation in the Church and world, in Jesus' name (Gal. 3:28)." *PC(USA) Book of Common Worship*, 2018, p 404.

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prelude

Trumpet Tune on *Rustington*
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Rick Deasley

Choral Introit

I've Got Peace Like a River
PCO Chancel Choir
Shelby Laird, director

*** Call to Worship**

Bill Given, Liturgist

One: In the beginning, at creation, the Spirit hovered over the waters of the deep.

All: **In the waters of the flood, God cleansed the earth and humankind.**

One: God caused the waters to part so that Israel could cross from slavery to liberation.

All: **Jesus taught us how to live by washing his disciples' feet in water.**

One: Jesus met a Samaritan woman at a well and offered her, and all of us, Living Water.

All: **Creating, liberating, cleansing, renewing waters are poured out on us at baptism.**

Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, the Christ, and reaffirm our own baptism.

*** Hymn #484**

Out of Deep, Unordered Water, vs. 1-3
[Rustington]

Thanksgiving for the Waters of Baptism

Bill Given, Liturgist & Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Let us draw near to God with sincerity of heart and full assurance of faith, our guilty hearts washed clean. Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

All: **Sovereign God, in baptism you called us to turn from sin and to turn to Jesus Christ, but we stray from his ways and do not heed your call. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.**

In baptism you joined us to Christ in his death that we might be raised with Christ in new life; but we cherish old ways and fail to embrace the risen life of righteousness, justice, and love. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

In baptism you call us to nurture the ways of peace. Instead we allow enmity and hatred to grow among us, putting neighbor against neighbor, and nation against nation. We abuse the earth you entrust to our care and live in discord with all you made. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Remember the promises you made to us in our baptism, forgive our sinful ways and heal our brokenness. Set us free from all that enslaves us, and raise us to new life in Jesus Christ, that we may be your faithful servants, showing forth your healing love to the world, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Beloved people of God, our baptism is the sign and seal of our cleansing from sin, and of our being grafted into Christ. Through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ, the power of sin was broken and God's kingdom entered our world. Through our baptism we were made citizens of God's kingdom, and freed from the bondage of sin.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

One: It is as a forgiven people that we extend forgiveness and the peace of Christ to our fellow travelers on this journey of life. May 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

Bill Given, Liturgist

Glorious God, when Jesus was baptized for your healing mission, the heavens opened in a flash of glory as vision and voice blazed upon the waters. May your Spirit so burn in us that we hear your word translated into deed and follow Jesus in paths of justice, right relationship, and peace. Amen.

Children's Sermon & Time of Wonder Matthew 3:13-17

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Second Scripture Reading

Acts 10: 34-48

Pastor Lisa Schrott

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Baptismal Water For All People

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Special Music

The River

arr. by Anna Laura Page

A medley of *Shall We Gather at the River* and *Peace Like a River*

PCO Handbell Choir

Irene Shutt, director

Responding to the Word

Our Call to Baptism

Bill Given, Liturgist

One: Baptism marks the beginning of new life in Christ. The new way of life to which God calls us is one of deep commitment, disciplined discernment, and growth in faith. The gifts of the Holy Spirit, given with and through baptism, equip and strengthen us for the challenges of Christian faith and life.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: Baptism enacts and seals what the word proclaims: God's redeeming grace offered to all people. Baptism is at once God's gift of grace, God's means of grace, and God's call to respond to that grace. Through baptism, Jesus Christ calls us to repentance, faithfulness, and discipleship.

All: Thanks be to God.

Reaffirmation of Baptism

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Let us celebrate that freedom and redemption through the renewal of the promises made at our baptism. I ask you, therefore, once again to reject sin, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, and to confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we were baptized.

One: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

All: I do.

One: Who is your Lord and Savior?

All: Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

One: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

All: I will, with God's help.

One: Remember your baptism and be thankful. In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

* Affirmation of Faith

Hymn #481

I Believe in God the Father

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

At the River

Adapted by Aaron Copland

PCO Chancel Choir

Arr. R. Wilding-White

Shelby Laird, director

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Bill Given, Liturgist

One: Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayers.

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 #482**

Baptized in Water, vs. 1-3

[Bunessan]

* Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Let All Together Praise Our God

Setting by Paul Manz

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

* Please rise in body or spirit

Ushers: Gary & Trudy Sturk, Jeff & Michele Arbour

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Mickey Martin for supplying snacks, to Edward Ennen for taking care of the coffee and to Dave Rumminger for washing the dishes.

Education Hour:

Elementary Education in Room 116

Middle & High School Youth going to Art Unlimited.

Adult Ed. *Embracing What Matters in the End.* Five Wishes. Advanced Directives and End of Life Planning. Facilitated by Pastor Lisa in Room 108.

Next Week: January 18, 2025 Second Sunday After the Epiphany

Scripture: John 1: 35-42 & Isaiah 49:1-7

The liturgy for today's Reaffirmation of Baptism is adapted from the *Book of Common Worship, PC(USA)*, Westminster John Knox Press, 2018. The Call to Worship is adapted from *Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion Liturgies for Year A*, Westminster John Knox Press, 2013 and the Prayer of Illumination from *Feasting on the Word. Worship Companion Year C*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2012.

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Shelby Laird, Chancel Choir Director

Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director

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