

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
January 25, 2026
Third Sunday after Epiphany



Gathering As a People of God

Preparation: "Stability is not about standing still. It is about remaining faithful when everything else is in motion." — adapted from the Rule of St. Benedict, circa 530.

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prelude

Adagio from Organ Sonata No. 1

Mendelssohn

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Choral Introit

Come Unto Us

Karen Marrolli

PCO Chancel Choir

Shelby Laird, director

*** Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 27)**

Steve Mayhew, Liturgist

One: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

All: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One: One thing I asked of the Lord; this I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

All: to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

One: For the Lord will shelter me in the day of trouble;

All: The Lord will protect me under a cover, the Lord will set me high on a rock.

One: Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me,

All: and I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy and I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

*** Hymn #754**

Help Us Accept Each Other, vs. 1-4

[Baronita]

Litany of Trust and Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: God calls us to come in worship and praise. And when we feel on top of things in our life and feel invincible, with all the world at our feet, this is an easy task.

All: It is much harder when reality overshadows us and we are suddenly fragile, weak and vulnerable. It is then that we rediscover that your generous favor, grace and mercy is still readily available to us, and the world's so-called security means very little to us.

One: Generous God, in your gracious compassion, hear our sincere prayers, and have mercy.

All: We come to you confessing our doubts and fears, our anxieties and our insecurity. Help us to understand that, even in our weaknesses and brokenness, we are not lost to you. Forgive us, when we are sure "our" way is the only way to be successful. In our ambitious pride, we have often ignored the people whom you have sent to us to enliven and challenge us - the

people who have different insights about love and life, and who could enrich us spiritually and even socially.

One: Trustworthy God, in your gracious compassion, hear our earnest prayers, and have mercy. Turn our sorrow into joy, and our pain into singing!

All: **Help us to accept our own and other's weaknesses and to accept that our broken lives can be mended and healed by God's gracious mercy. Awaken within us a new awareness of our dependency on our God, and on other people. Free us from our insecurities and doubts. Help us to learn from those things that divide us, and what it really is that unites us into an accepting community. Turn our fears into confidence and insecurity into trust. *Silent prayer. Amen.***

Musical Response

I Will Sing of Thy Great Mercies
[St. Paul Oratorio]
Calvin Auperlee, soloist
Dr. Marleen Brewbaker, organ

Mendelssohn

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: God is gracious, merciful and compassionate. God's forgiveness is higher, deeper, wider, and longer than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ our sins have been forgiven and we have been made a new creation. This is indeed Good News!

All: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.**

One: It is as a forgiven people that we emerge from the shadow of sin and into the light of forgiveness. 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

Steve Mayhew, Liturgist

Faithful God, your Word illuminates the dark places and shadows in our lives. Open us to the Spirit's work of transformation through the Word proclaimed and the actions we are called to take in Christ's name. May it be your Word which speaks into our hearts this morning. Amen.

Children's Sermon & Time of Wonder

Pastor Lisa Schrott

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:1-4

Steve Mayhew, Liturgist

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 4:12-17

Pastor Lisa Schrott

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon	<i>Light and Shadows</i> Pastor Lisa Schrott	
Anthem	<i>All That I Am</i> PCO Chancel Choir Shelby Laird, director	William Himes
Minute for Engagement	Chancel Choir	Shelby Laird
Offering		Pastor Lisa Schrott
Invitation		
Offertory	<i>Our Father in Heaven</i> from <i>Organ Sonata No. 6</i> Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ	Mendelssohn
*Doxology #606		
*Prayer of Dedication		

Prayers of the People Steve Mayhew, 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 #687** *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*, vs. 1-6
 [St. Anne]

*** Charge and Benediction**

Congregational Meeting

The Session has called the Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation and the meeting of the PCO Corporation following worship. We encourage all to remain for this brief meeting; however, only members are eligible to vote. For those joining us via Zoom, the link is
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84065852997>

The purposes of the meeting are to hear:

- a report from the nominating committee to elect the at-large members of the nominating committee for 2026,
- the clerk's statistical report,

- the treasurer's report, including a statement of income and expenditures as compared to the preceding year's budget, and a statement of the endowments, trusts, memorial and other special funds, and a presentation of the current year's budget,
- a report from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) and other church committees
- to approve Pastor Lisa Schrott's Terms of Call.

Postlude

Postlude on St. Anne
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Wilbur Held

* Please rise in body or spirit

Ushers: Dave & Kathi Cook, Barbara & Ron Dorr

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Deb Major for supplying snacks and to Edward Ennen for taking care of the coffee and washing the dishes.

Education Hour:

Elementary Education in Room 116

Middle & High School Youth with Kathi Cook in Middle School Room

There is no Adult Ed this week. Please remain for the Congregational Meeting

Next Week: February 1, 2026 Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany; Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Scripture: Micah 6:1-8 & Matthew 4:18-22

The Litany of Trust and the Prayer of Confession are adapted words by Joan Stott – 'The Timeless Psalms' RCL Psalms Year C. Used with permission. Online at

http://www.thetimelesspsalms.net/w_resources/easter3c_2013.htm

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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