

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
February 1, 2026
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



Gathering As a People of God

Preparation: “Traditional Onondaga understand a world in which all beings were given a gift, a gift that simultaneously engenders a responsibility to the world. Water’s gift is its role as life sustainer, and its duties are manifold: making plants grow, creating homes for fish and mayflies, and, for me today, offering cool drink.” – Robin Wall Kimmerer, from *Braiding Sweetgrass*, 2013; p310.

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prelude

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Union Seminary
Setting by Charles Ore

Choral Introit

Blest Are They (vs. 1 & 4)
PCO Chancel Choir
Shelby Laird, director

David Haas

* Call to Worship (adapted from Matthew 5:1-9)

Mitch Marcus, Liturgist

One: When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

All: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

One: Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

All: Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

One: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

All: Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

One: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

All: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

* Hymn #297

In Christ Called to Baptize, vs. 1-4
[St. Denio]

Prayer of Confession

Mitch Marcus, Liturgist

One: We come each week as imperfect disciples, seeking healing for the places we are separated from God and each other. Let us confess our sins before God, the source of freedom and forgiveness.

All: God...you call us...and sometimes...we duck under the table...hoping you didn't notice us when you walked into the room. You call us...and sometimes...we grab a stapler and a stack of papers...trying to look too busy to be bothered at the moment. You call us...and sometimes we just say, "No!" We know that we aren't expected to do everything... but we often forget that you call us to be ourselves in the places where our very self is what is most

needed. So give us the grace to say “Yes” to your call... even now...as we offer our silent confessions...*Silent Prayer. Amen.*

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Mitch Marcus, Liturgist

One: God offers forgiveness to those who turn to God. Therefore, trust in God, who breaks the bonds of our oppression, and covers us in mercy. In Jesus Christ our sins have been forgiven and we have been made a new creation.

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

Mitch Marcus, Liturgist

Holy God, your blessings are abundant, and your wisdom exceeds our grasp. Fill us with your Spirit as we hear your Word this day, that we may grow into the disciples you have called us to be. Give us courage to follow in the way of Jesus, that our lives may bear witness to the good news of the reign of Christ. Amen.

Children’s Sermon & Time of Wonder

Pastor Lisa Schrott

First Scripture Reading

Micah 6:1-8

Mitch Marcus, Liturgist

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 4:18-22

Pastor Lisa Schrott

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Called from the Waters

Pastor Lisa Schrott

*** Prayer of Commitment**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Lord Jesus, the one and only Christ, you called many people from many walks of life - to leave their own ways and follow you and to be your disciples.

All: Lord Jesus, the one true leader of every church, we choose to stand as one church – your church – and to lift our focus from our differences and divides. We will leave our own ways and follow you together.

One: We will support each other as we seek to be your disciples and work together to focus on building community once more.

All: For we must act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly together before you – and each other.

Anthem	<i>Here at Thy Table, Lord</i> PCO Chancel Choir Shelby Laird, director	Lani Smith
Minute for Engagement	Responding to the Word Soup-er Bowl of Caring	Youth
Offering		Pastor Lisa Schrott
Invitation		
Offertory	<i>Deep River</i> Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ	Adolphus Hailstork African-American Spiritual
*Doxology #606		
*Prayer of Dedication		

Holy Communion	Pastor Lisa Schrott
Invitation	

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
 One: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to God.
 One: Let us give thanks to God.
All: It is right to give both thanks and praise.

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Communion will be served by intinction. Please take a piece of bread and dip into the cup of juice and partake as you return to your seat. The bread is gluten, soy, nut and dairy free so all may partake together.

Communion Prayer

Sent Out As a People of God

* **Hymn #529**

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether, vs. 1-3

[Union Seminary]

*** Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Trumpet Tune in G

Sam Batt Owens

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

* Please rise in body or spirit

Ushers: Jane Paterson, Jill Tribell, Tom Schaberg, Jayne Zuhlke

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Mickey Martin and Sandy Detrisac for supplying snacks, to Mitch Marcus for making coffee and to Wayne Scott for washing the dishes.

Education Hour:

Elementary Education in Room 116

Special Education Hour Event: Women in Jazz by Jazz pianist Arlene McDaniel

Next Week: February 8, 2026, Ewen Todd preaching

Scripture: Isaiah 58:1-9a & Matthew 5: 13-20

Following Worship: Soup-er Bowl of Caring. Soup luncheon with donations benefitting the Greater Lansing Food Bank.

The Prayer of Confession is adapted words by the Rev. Scott Cervas, online at

<https://www.liturgylink.net/2012/01/10/confession-call/>. The Prayer of Commitment is adapted from from Monthly Prayers page of the Christian Aid website. Online <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/01/prayer-of-commitment-mark-1-14-20.html>

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Shelby Laird, Chancel Choir Director

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