

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
February 8, 2026
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



Gathering As a People of God

Preparation: "...in a broken world, we will stand out as expressing our faith through love. That we will be repairers of the breach, true peacemakers. And that we will "shine as stars in the world." The world would be better for it, and so would we." Peter Wehner.

We draw people to Christ not by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it. How lovely is the light you are showing?" Madeleine L'Engle

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Ewen Todd

Prelude *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* Michael Burkhardt
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ based on *Houston*

Choral Introit *Alleluia! Laud and Blessing* Tochter Sion
PCO Chancel Choir
Shelby Laird, director

*** Call to Worship** (adapted from Psalm 112) Beth Layhe, Liturgist

One: People of God, praise the Lord!

All: **Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord, those who greatly delight in his commandments.**

One: Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

All: **They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.**

One: It is well with those who deal generously and lend freely, those who conduct their affairs with justice.

All: **For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever.**

One: They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.

All: **Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.**

One: They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.

All: **Let us worship the Lord.**

*** Hymn #79**

Light Dawns on a Weary World, vs. 1-3

[Temple of Peace]

Prayer of Confession

Ewen Todd

One: The more we know God's holiness, the more we sense our separation from our creator. The more we seek justice and faithful living, the more we understand our complicity in systems that oppress. With humble hearts, let us confess our brokenness, our selfishness and our sin. Help us, Lord, repair the breach in our lives from you. In you we have our confidence and trust.

All: **Gracious God, we confess that it is harder to do than we expected, this life of faith. You call us to be salt of the earth and to live lives of justice and righteousness and love. But our lives become busy. Following what others do is just easier. And sometimes the cost of doing what is right seems too high. One day, perhaps, we will commit more fully, but the status quo works better for us right now. Forgive us, we pray. Startle our senses and disrupt our routines. Renew in us the passion for doing what is right in your eyes, and inspire us to be sources of your light in the world, like a lighthouse shining far into the deepest darkness of sin. May we, like the prophets and the saints, act by faith no matter how high the cost.**

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Ewen Todd

One: "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?"

All: **Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?**

One: Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

All: **Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, 'Here I am.'**

One: We are blessed to know that very light which breaks forth. We know God's love and grace through Jesus Christ.

All: **Through Christ, our sins are forgiven, and we know new life. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

One: We are blessed to know the light that breaks forth in the dawn. Through Jesus Christ, we know God's love and grace. In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, and we are given new life.

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

One: It is as forgiven people we no longer dwell in darkness but in the light of your healing presence. Let us share this peace with one another. 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

Beth Layhe, Liturgist

God of light, as we hear your Word, shine in our hearts. Guide us to seek justice, show mercy, and walk in the way of Christ, that we may reflect your love in all we do.

Children's Sermon & Time of Wonder

Ewen Todd

First Scripture Reading	Matthew 5:13-16	Beth Layhe, Liturgist
One: The Word of God for the people of God.		
All: Thanks be to God.		
Second Scripture Reading	Isaiah 58:1-9a, 12	Ewen Todd
One: The Word of God for the people of God.		
All: Thanks be to God.		
Sermon	<i>Repairer of the Breach to Become Light to the World</i>	
	Ewen Todd	
Minute for Engagement	Responding to the Word	
	Green Team: LINCS Project	Kent Workman
Special Music	<i>Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land</i>	arr. Mark S. Arnold
	PCO Handbell Choir	
	Irene Shutt, director	
Offering		Kent Workman
Invitation		
Offertory	<i>Walk in the Light</i>	Traditional
	PCO Chancel Choir	Arr. André Thomas
	Shelby Laird, director	
	<i>Walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.</i>	
	<i>Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the light of the world;</i>	
	<i>Walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.</i>	
	<i>Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the light of the world;</i>	
	<i>Lord, our Lord, Thy glorious name Jesus, the light of the world All Thy wondrous works proclaim Jesus the light of the world</i>	
	<i>In the heavens with radiant signs Jesus, the light of the world Evermore Thy glory shines Jesus, the light of the world</i>	
*Doxology #606		
*Prayer of Dedication		
Prayers of the People		Beth Layhe, 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 #377***I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*, vs. 1-3

[Houston]

*** Charge and Benediction****Postlude***Rondeau*

Joseph Mouret

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

*** Please rise in body or spirit****Ushers:** Gary & Trudy Sturk, Michele Arbour

Following Worship this morning: All-Ages Event ... Soup-er Bowl of Caring. Soup bowl auction and soup luncheon with donations benefiting the Greater Lansing Food Bank.

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to the PCO Youth Group, David Cook, and Juan Carlos Roya for preparing the soup for this morning, to Edward Ennen for taking care of the coffee and to Dave Rumminger washing the dishes.

Next Week: February 15, 2026 Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany; Jazz Worship & Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:16-21 & Matthew 17:1-8

The liturgy this morning was written by the Rev. Owen Gray and provided by the *Presbyterian Outlook*. Online at https://pres-outlook.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Outlook-Order-of-Worship-2_8.pdf

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Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist

Shelby Laird, Chancel Choir Director

Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director

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