

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
February 15, 2026
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Transfiguration of the Lord



Gathering As a People of God

At PCO we strive to be a faithful, open, and inclusive community. We welcome the full participation of all people of any age, ability, gender identity, race, ethnicity and sexual orientation.

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prelude

I'm Beginning to See the Light

Duke Ellington

Arlene McDaniel with the Ladies of Straight Ahead
with guest vocalist Lauren Gewirtz
Arlene McDaniel, piano and band leader
Marion Hayden, bass
Gayelynn McKinney, drums
Ingrid Racine, trumpet
Lauren Gewirtz, vocalist

*** Call to Worship (Exodus 24:12-18)**

Judi Harris, Liturgist

One: The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction."

All: So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God.

One: To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

All: Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud.

One: Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites.

All: Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

*** Hymn**

This Little Light of Mine

Harry Dixon Loes

1. *This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

2. *Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

3. *All around the world, I'm gonna let it shine.
All around the world, I'm gonna let it shine.
All around the world, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

Jazz interlude

4. *This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

Prayer of Confession

Judi Harris, Liturgist

One: We wait for God to show up, and while waiting, do not notice the words we might have spoken, the good we could have done. Let us confess to our God, who waits to surround us with grace and hope, as we pray together, saying,

All: Our judgment often becomes clouded by our foolishness, Sheltering God, and so we often make wrong choices. Too often we build grand edifices crafted out of our opinions of how you should act and be. And yet you call us to gather up all the broken dreams of the most vulnerable to build a more just world. Our fears can convince us that we must always be achieving more, attempting to climb to the top, sometimes at the expense of others. Forgive us. Instead, we ask to hear your songs of reconciliation and hope so that we might be a lamp shining in the dark places. Speak to us, O God, so we can listen to your dreams of an earthly realm where each person understands that they are your beloved child. *Silent Prayer. Amen.*

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Judi Harris, Liturgist

One: On mountaintops and in valleys, in moments when our lives are shrouded and as well as when we reflect Christ's light, God is with us, declaring we are the beloved!

All: In this moment, in every moment, may we glimpse the grace of God which comes and transfigures our lives. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! 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.*

*** Jazz Response**

Peace

Horace Silver

The Word

Prayer of Illumination

Judi Harris, Liturgist

God of light, may the Spirit make us attentive to your Word so that it is truly a lamp shining in the dark places of our lives and the world. May your Word be infused throughout our very being that we are able to respond as faithful disciples full of trust in your glory. Amen.

Children's Sermon & Time of Wonder

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Jazz Anthem

Hallelujah

Leonard Cohen
Arranged by Arlene McDaniel

First Scripture Reading

Matthew 17:1-8

Judi Harris, Liturgist

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Scripture Reading

2 Peter 1:16-21

Pastor Lisa Schrott

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

A Lamp Shining in a Dark Place

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Jazz Reflection

The Gift of Love

Hal H. Hopson

Responding to the Word

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

Wade in the Water

African American Spiritual

***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 Music

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Traditional Gospel Song

Communion Prayer

Sent Out As a People of God

* Hymn #853

We Are Marching in the Light of God

Traditional Freedom Song

[Siyahamba]

We are marching...

We are dancing...

Jazz Interlude

We are praying...

We are singing...

* Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Second Line

Joseph “Kid” Avery

[Joe Avery’s Blues]

* Please rise in body or spirit

Ushers: Brett & Lynette Cone, Deb & Joel Major

Special Thanks to: Russell-Ashmun Audio Productions for providing audio support for this morning’s Jazz service.

All-Ages Pancake Breakfast following worship! Pancakes with all the toppings, bacon and sausage! All welcome!

This Morning’s Fellowship Team: Thank you to Parish Life for the Pancake Breakfast in celebration of Jazz Sunday, to Edward Ennen for making coffee and to Gary VanKempen for washing the dishes.

JAZZ NOTES

PRELUDE

“I’m Beginning to See the Light” is a popular 1944 jazz standard by Duke Ellington. While often interpreted as a love song, the reference to light can also refer to a spiritual journey, the transition from darkness to enlightenment. It signifies a moment of clarity, self-discovery, and hope when confusion is replaced by “light”.

HYMN

“This Little Light of Mine” is an American gospel song from the 1920s originally written for children. The lyrics’ biblical roots are from Matthew 5: 14-16 where Jesus calls his followers “the light of the world”. In the 1950s and 60s the song was transformed into a powerful Civil Rights anthem reflecting the struggles for justice and equality. Even today, the lyrics remind us to let our own light shine for kindness and goodness.

JAZZ RESPONSE

Horace Silver was an American jazz pianist, composer, and arranger. As a composer he led a return to an emphasis on melody foreshadowing a gradual return to melodic creativity among jazz composers. One of his most popular compositions, “Peace”, was first recorded in 1959. According to Silver, “I was doodlin’ around on the piano and it just came to me, but I also had the feeling that there was an angel standing over me impressing my mind with this beautiful melody and harmony.”

JAZZ ANTHEM

“Hallelujah” was written by Canadian singer Leonard Cohen in 1984. When Cohen first recorded the song he described it as “rather joyous” and that it came from “a desire to affirm my faith in life, not in some formal religious way but with enthusiasm, with emotion. When one looks at the world there is only one thing to say, and it’s hallelujah.”

JAZZ REFLECTION

“The Gift of Love” was written and arranged by the beloved composer and Presbyterian Church musician Hal Hopson. The lyrics based on 1 Corinthians: 13 were adapted to the traditional English/Scottish folk melody “Waly, Waly”.

OFFERTORY

“Wade in the Water” is a 19th century African American spiritual. The lyrics blend Biblical references of baptism, rebirth, and deliverance with a coded guide for the Underground Railroad. The escaping slaves were told to wade in the water to hide their scent from tracking dogs.

COMMUNION

The origin of the gospel hymn “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” is unknown, but it is believed to have emerged from the 19th century African American spiritual tradition predating the Civil War. Although originally sung by slaves as they worked the fields, it has since become a jazz classic often associated with New Orleans funeral processions.

HYMN

“We are Marching in the Light of God” (Siyahamba) is a joyful Zulu freedom song originating in a Methodist young men’s group in South Africa. The hymn became popular in North America in the 1990s and is sung in many languages around the world.

POSTLUDE

“Second Line” (Joe Avery’s Blues) is a staple New Orleans jazz tune frequently associated with brass band parades and funeral processions. The second line refers to the followers who dance, strut, and wave handkerchiefs or umbrellas behind the main parade band.

This Week:

February 18: Ash Wednesday service 7 pm in the Sanctuary with imposition of ashes.

Scriptures: Psalm 51, Isaiah 58:1-2, 9-12 & 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2

If you are unable to attend the service, there will be a drive-through imposition of ashes from Noon - 1 pm in the Circle Drive.

Next Week:

February 22, 2026, First Sunday of Lent

Scripture: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 & Romans 5:12-19

Following Worship: Education for all ages. Pastor Lisa will be leading an Adult Education session on our Lenten theme: The Path to Repair & Restoration, with a focus on repentance.

The Prayer of Confession was inspired and adapted words by the Rev. Thom Shuman - Liturgy w/communion for February 19, 2023 (Transfiguration - A). Online at <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2023/02/liturgy-wcommunion-for-february-19-2023.html>

You are in an active recording environment, and your likeness may be captured in photographs and videos. By entering, you acknowledge giving consent to The Presbyterian Church of Okemos to take, own and use images containing your likeness at its sole discretion in perpetuity. If you do not wish to convey this consent, please contact a staff member immediately.

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
2258 Bennett Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864
(517) 349-9536
Website: <https://okemospres.org>
Email: office@okemospres.org
<https://www.instagram.com/okemospres/>
<https://facebook.com/OkemosPresbyterian>

Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott (she/her), Pastor/Head of Staff
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