

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Lent



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.

Preparation: “Choosing to act on “what matters“ is the choice to live a passionate existence, which is anything but controlled and predictable.” Author Peter Block in *The Answer to How is Yes*, 2003, p7

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prelude

Prelude on *Slane*
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

John G. Barr
Irish Folk Melody

Choral Introit

We Come to You for Healing, Lord
PCO Chancel Choir
Shelby Laird, director

American Folk Melody
Arr. Annabel Morris Buchanan

*** Call to Worship** (adapted from Ephesian 5)

Emma Roya, Liturgist

One: Early each morning, God waits to greet us with joy and wonder.

All: We awake to find ourselves surrounded by grace.

One: During the day, Jesus comes to invite us to serve.

All: We rise from our school, our work and our leisure to bring healing and hope to others.

One: In the shadowed evenings of our fears and worries, the Spirit is with us.

All: The Light of life shines on us in every moment of every day.

One: It is God who sends us on journeys and waits for us at the final destination.

All: Let us worship God with hearts full of light and praise.

*** Hymn #450**

Be Thou My Vision, vs. 1-4
[Slane]

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: God longs for us to sit by the still waters of love, but we are often too busy and preoccupied with our cares to sit and listen and simply be God's children. Let us bring our prayers to the One who will restore us with goodness and mercy, as we pray together, saying,

All: Loving God, we sit in the ashes of our hopes, but you see us as your beloved children. We pay strict attention to all who break the rules, but ignore the grace which is poured out upon us. We try to box you in with boundaries we can manage, but you continue to burst forth to bring newness into the world. Forgive us when we fail to recognize your unexpected call in our lives, as well as the lives of others. Have mercy on us, God of

forgiveness, and open our eyes to your presence among us. As you look at our hearts, may we see others in a different way, not as enemies or strangers, but as siblings, kin to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. *Time of silence. Amen.*

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: The Spirit of the Lord has come upon us, bringing hope, life, and forgiveness for each person. Through this grace, we can live fully as God's children, sent to bring the good news to everyone we meet.

All: **Thanks be to God for the new creation we are in Christ.**

One: Friends, now that God has forgiven us, let us forgive one another with the peace of Christ. 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 #447

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. The lyrics are: "We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God." The chords indicated above the notes are: G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, Dsus, D, G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, D, G.

The Word

Prayer of Illumination

Emma Roya, liturgist

God of new beginnings, open us to hear your Word so that we can take the love of God into the world. We recognize that sometimes God calls us when we may not feel prepared to lead and when others may not feel we are ready. Yet, just as God called Samuel to anoint David as a king, God calls us into community and to the work of repair and restoration. Amen.

Children's Sermon & Time of Wonder

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Special Music

Let There Be Peace

arr. Rollo Dilworth

Youth Instrumental Quartet

adapted by Sarah Mayhew

Sarah Mayhew, director

Lizzie Conroy-Krutz, violin

Ava Meluch, flute

Emma Roya, viola

Nina Roya, cello

Scripture Reading 1 Samuel 16:1-13 Pastor Lisa Schrott
One: The Word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon *The Path to Repair and Restoration: Discernment In Decision Making*
Pastor Lisa Schrott

Responding to the Word

Anthem *The Lord is My Shepherd* John Rutter
From *Requiem*
PCO Chancel Choir
Shelby Laird, director

Minute for Mission *One Great Hour of Sharing* Kent Workman

Offering Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Steps on the Path to Repair and Restoration: Action Items for the Fourth Week of Lent
Returning to God a Portion of What God Has Given Us

Offertory *Andante Espressivo* Hedwige Chrétien

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People Emma Roya, 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 #725** *O Jesus, I Have Promised*, vs. 1-4
[Nyland]

*** Charge and Benediction** Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude *Postlude in f minor* Louise Adolpha Le Beau
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

* Please rise in body or spirit

Ushers: Brett & Lynette Cone, Deb & Joel Major

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Parish Life for supplying our birthday cake as we celebrate our March birthdays, to Mitch Marcus for making the coffee and to Wayne Scott for washing the dishes.

The liturgy this morning is adapted from words by the Rev. Thom Shuman. Online at <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2023/03/liturgy-wcommunion-for-march-19-2023.html>

Education this Morning:

Elementary Education in Room 116

Middle School Education with Kathi Cook in Room 107

Adult Ed: Christian Nationalism: What is it? Why is it a concern? How might we respond? Presenter: Nancy Janisch, M Div. Volunteer local organizer for Christians Against Christian Nationalism. Retired campus minister, United Campus Christian Fellowship.

Next Week: March 22, 2026; Fifth Sunday of Lent; Ordination and Installation of New Officers

Scripture: Psalm 130 & John 11: 38-45

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Shelby Laird, Chancel Choir Director
Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director
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