

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

April 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Creation Care Sunday



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: “Generosity is simultaneously a moral and a material imperative, especially among people who live close to the land and know its waves of plenty and scarcity. Where the well-being of one is linked to the well-being of all.” - Robin Wall Kimmerer, from *Braiding Sweetgrass*, 2013; p381

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prelude

Psalm 19

Benedetto Marcello

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Choral Introit

O Come, Ye Servants of the Lord

Christopher Tye

PCO Chancel Choir

Shelby Laird, director

Land Acknowledgement

Kent Workman

We recognize our need to pray for right relationships with the native peoples on whose land we reside. We collectively acknowledge that PCO occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary Lands of the Anishinaabeg – Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples. In particular, that Okemos resides on Land ceded in the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw. We recognize, support, and advocate for the sovereignty of Michigan’s twelve federally-recognized Indian nations, for historic Indigenous communities in Michigan, for Indigenous individuals and communities who live here now, and for those who were forcibly removed from their Homelands.

* **Call to Worship** (adapted from Psalm 19, First Nations Version)

Kent Workman

One: Father Sky is telling us the story of the shining-greatness of the One Above Us All.

All: The starry tent above us shows the beauty that Creator’s hands have made.

One: Day after day, the story is told, and night after night their wisdom fills the sky.

All: Even though the skies above have no spoken words, all creation has heard their message.

One: The voice of the stars in the night sky has spoken to all the land. Their message has traveled the four directions to the furthest place on earth,

All: Creator has pitched a tent for the sun in the sky above.

One: It rises in the east and makes its way across the circle of the sky to the west.

All: The sun’s warmth reaches out and touches every land.

One: May the words of our mouths and the thoughts of hearts make the Creator sing.

All: You are the rock I stand on and the One Who Sets Me Free.

* Hymn #757

Today We All Are Called to be Disciples, vs. 1-4
[Kingsfold]

Prayer of Confession

Bill Given

One: While despair and fear can be valid parts of the human experience, we too often lose today in the past's despair and fear for our future. God desires for us to find the peace and mercy of Christ right now so that all we imagine going forward can be grounded in grace and its dreams for justice. Let us open our hearts to this mercy in prayer.

All: Creating God, you made the wild spaces of forests and oceans, mountains and plains. You made our own hearts. Creation sings your praise with its every breath. Trees sway to the melody of your breeze. Waves crash and roll in the power of your pull. We are not so faithful. Rather than join creation's praise, we silence it. We lay waste to the work of your hands in hopes that our hands will have too much to hold. Have mercy upon us. By your Spirit, guide our wild hearts back to you that they may become wilderness spaces for rest and delight, not spaces torn apart for false gain. Silent Prayer. Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Bill Given

One: The grace and mercy of Jesus Christ is like a day-blind star, present even when we cannot see it, always waiting with light. Let us declare this good news together:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

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

Jeff Arbour

Dear God, our unbelievable creator, we are surrounded by the awesomeness of all that you have made. You made the light that guides our paths and warms our bodies and spirits out of nothing. How unbelievable is that?! As we explore your presence in the world and in our lives, shine your light that we may understand your Word for us. Show us your power and creativity in fresh ways, so that we may find new hope and live more faithfully for you. Amen.

Children's Sermon & Time of Wonder

Ewen Todd

First Scripture Reading

Genesis 1:9-13

Jeff Arbour

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Scripture Reading

Revelation 21:1-6; 22:1-2

Brian McWilliams

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Tending the Garden

Brian McWilliams

Responding to the Word

Anthem

A Mountain Psalm

Alice Parker

PCO Chancel Choir

Shelby Laird, director

Offering

Ewen Todd

Invitation

Offertory

All Things Bright and Beautiful

John Rutter

PCO Scholars

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People

Dorinda VanKempen

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 #250**

In the Bulb There Is a Flower, vs. 1-3

[Hymn of Promise]

*** Charge and Benediction**

Brian McWilliams

Postlude

Postlude

Harold Rohlig

[Music for a Sunday Morning]

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

* Please rise in body or spirit

Ushers: Jeff Arbour, Jeff Conroy-Krutz, Bill Given, Dorinda VanKempen

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Green Team for supplying healthy snacks for our fellowship time this morning and to Edward Ennen for making the coffee and washing the dishes.

Education Hour:

Elementary Room 106

Adult: Stephen Keizer from the Presbyterian Foundation speaking. Stewardship for the Future Church: How the Church and PCO Manage Investments

Next Week: May 3 25th Anniversary of the Handbell Choir. Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Scripture: Psalm 150 & John 14:1-14

Adult Education: Screening of the documentary *Climate Refugees: A Global Challenge* (54 min long).

Already more than 30 million people flee their villages, regions or countries every year because of climate change. By 2050, it's estimated there will be between 200 million and 1 billion climate refugees. As extreme weather threatens the lives of hundreds of millions of people, how can the world best respond? *Climate Refugees* explores these challenges through the prism of individual human stories and innovative initiatives in Asia, the Pacific and Latin America.

The Prayer of Confession, Promise of the Gospel, and Prayer of Illumination were written by the Revs. Karl Heimback and Shelli Latham and provided by the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation (OPSF). Learn more about OPSF and their mission to support congregational leaders at opsf-omaha.org.

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Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist
Shelby Laird, Chancel Choir Director
Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director
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