

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter
25th Anniversary of the Handbell Choir



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: “There is no continuous movement from an objective inquiry into the life of Jesus to a knowledge of him as the Christ who is our Lord. Only a decision of the self, a leap of faith, a *metanoia* or revolution of the mind can lead from observation to participation and from observed to lived history.” – H. Richard Niebuhr, from *The Meaning of Revelation*, 1941; p 43

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prelude

Prelude on *Engelberg*
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organ

Robert A. Hobby

Introit

Alleluia
PCO Handbell Choir
Irene Shutt, Director

arr. by Fred Gramann

This is a portion of the piece was commissioned to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Handbell Choir.

*** Call to Worship**

Juan Carlos Roya, Liturgist

One: Praise the Lord! Praise God in the sanctuary; praise God in for the mighty firmament!

All: Praise God for mighty deeds and surpassing greatness!

One: Praise God with trumpet sound; praise God with lute and harp!

All: Praise God with tambourine and dance; praise God with strings and pipe!

One: Praise God with clanging cymbals; praise God with loud clashing cymbals!

All: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

*** Hymn #641**

When In Our Music God is Glorified, vs. 1, 2, 3, 5
[Engelberg]

Prayer of Confession

Juan Carlos Roya, Liturgist

One: The proof of God’s amazing love is this: While we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence.

All: Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world.

Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,

of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Juan Carlos Royo, Liturgist

One: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

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

One: It is as a forgiven people that we extend the peace of Christ to each other. May 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

Prayer of Illumination

Juan Carlos Royo, Liturgist

God of mercy, you promised never to break your covenant with us. Amid all the changing words of our generation, speak your eternal word that does not change. Then may we respond to your gracious promises with faithful and obedient lives; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Children's Sermon and Time of Wonder

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Scripture Reading

John 14:1-14

Pastor Lisa Schrott

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Belief

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Special Music

Jubilant Praise

Jantz A. Black

PCO Handbell Choir

Irene Shutt, Director

Minute for Engagement

Handbell Choir Anniversary

Lou Cravotta

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

Breathe

arr. by Derek K. Hakes

PCO Handbell Choir

Irene Shutt, Director

Amira Coleman, vocalist

Breathe is dedicated to bell ringers who have died during the 25-year tenure of the bell choir.

***Doxology #606**

arr. by Fred Gramann

The Handbell Choir will play a section of *Alleluia* containing the Doxology. The congregation is invited to sing along. *Alleluia* was commissioned to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the PCO Handbell Choir.

***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

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

*** Hymn #366**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, vs. 1-4

[Hyfrydol]

*** Charge & Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

Great Things He Hath Done

PCO Handbell Choir

Irene Shutt, Director

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

arr. Sondra K. Tucker

** Please rise in body or spirit*

Flowers: The flowers this morning are given by Irene Shutt in honor and memory of Dwight Schwartz and Paul Shutt. Memorial Funds given in their honor were used to purchase the first gift of handbells. The flowers also honor all the handbell ringers past and present whose gifts of hand and heart have allowed for a thriving PCO Handbell Choir across the years.

Ushers: Tom Schaberg, Trudy Sturk, Jill Tribell, Jayne Zuhlke

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Jane Bobay for supplying snacks for our fellowship time, to Edward Ennen for making the coffee and to Wayne Scott for washing the dishes.

Education Hour:

Elementary Room 106

Adult: *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.

Next Week: May 10

Scripture: Psalm 66:8-20 & Acts 17:22-31

Adult Education: Ewen Todd will expand on the basic arguments presented in the book *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief* by Francis S. Collins. It has long been believed that science and faith cannot mingle but Collins questions that. Does the Anthropic Principal argue for the existence of a Creator God? Why are we driven to spend large sums, energy, and human risk to explore the universe? Is God a Mathematician creating Fractals, Golden Ratio, and Fibonacci Numbers?

The Prayer of Confession, Promise of the Gospel, and Prayer of Illumination are from the Book of Common Worship. Prepared by the Office of Theology and Worship for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Westminster John Knox Press, 2018.

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://twitter.com/okemospres>
<https://facebook.com/OkemosPresbyterian>

Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott (she/her), Pastor/Head of Staff
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist
Shelby Laird (she, her), Chancel Choir Director
Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director
Edward Ennen, Sexton
Anna Thiel, Office Manager
Jacob Meland, Media Specialist