

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
May 17, 2026
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Ascension Sunday
Graduate & Teacher Recognition Sunday



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: “Engagement with strangers is at the core of our social contract. Most religious faiths instruct us to welcome the strangers we encounter, and there’s good reason for this. If we engaged only with the people we knew, our world would be small. That leap of faith toward the unknown other is what allows us to grow beyond the family unit, tribe or nation. ... Anytime we ignore strangers in our vicinity, whether because of fear, bigotry or the everyday convenience and efficiency of digital technology, we weaken that contract.” Author David Sax, *Why Strangers Are Good for Us*. New York Times, June 12, 2022

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prelude

Fanfare on *Deo Gracias*
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organ

Charles Callahan

Introit

O Come, Let Us Worship
PCO Chancel Choir
Shelby Laird, Director

Anonymous

*** Call to Worship** (adapted from words of Thomas Merton)

Keith Camann, Liturgist

One: O God, we are one with you. You have made us one with you.

All: You have taught us that if we are open to one another, you dwell in us.

One: Help us to preserve this openness and to fight for it with all our hearts.

All: O God, in accepting one another wholeheartedly, fully and completely, we accept you.

One: Our being is in your being, our spirit is rooted in your spirit.

All: Fill us then with love, and let us be bound together with love as we go our diverse ways.

One: We are united in this one spirit which makes you God present in the world, and makes you witness to the ultimate reality that is love.

All: Come, let us worship.

*** Hymn #258**

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!, vs. 1, 2, 4, 5
[Deo Gracias]

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Before he ascended to heaven, Jesus told the disciples that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit and be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. And yet we know that we too often fail to witness to the love and grace of Jesus Christ. So it is with open hearts we come to confess, joining our voices together:

All: **Almighty God, we confess that we have our eyes set in the clouds instead of on the earth you have given us. We desire heavenly treasure but we keep believing that worldly means will help us attain it. Forgive us for our short sightedness. Draw us away from the temptations to seek worldly power and measures of success, and call us to the down-to-earth message of your love, to care for the needs of those around us. You have called us through scripture to care for those who are left out by society and are in need. Help us to break down the dividing walls that we have placed, so that we may truly be one, as You and Christ are one. For it is in Christ's name we pray. *Silent prayer.* Amen.**

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: We were made by God, brought forth from the earth, the earth that was called good when God created it. You are blessed, earth-born, and called forth to care for the earth and all who dwell in it. Know that you are forgiven and loved by the God who made the earth, and made you, and share this Good News.

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

Keith Camann, Liturgist

O Lord our God, your glory shines as far as the east is from the west, from the north to the south, so that all people may see and be radiant, so that every heart might thrill and rejoice. May the Holy Spirit open our minds to see the power of Scripture to give life. Enlighten our hearts that we might see Christ in all whom we meet; in the name of the one, holy, and living God, to whom we give all glory. Amen.

Special Music

Lord of the Dance
Youth Instrumental Trio
Lizzie Conroy-Krutz, violin
Connor Haskel, cello
Evan Haskel, viola
Sarah Mayhew, director

arranged by Neil Harmon
adapted by Sarah Mayhew

Children's Sermon and Time of Wonder

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Scripture Reading

Acts 1:6-14

Pastor Lisa Schrott

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Companions on the Journey

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Anthem

Sing a New Song

PCO Chancel Choir

Shelby Laird, Director

Michael Haydn

arr. Hal Hopson

Minute for Engagement

Graduate and Teacher Recognition

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Teachers and Youth Leaders:

Eunice Cresswell

Barbara Fretwell-Cooke

Kathi Cook

Roy Meland

Christine Meland

High School Seniors:

Zach Nawyn-Hellinga - Okemos High School

Tate Matthews, Jeff & Michele Arbour's grandson – Cherry Creek High School, Greenwood Village, CO

Brady Alexander Cobbett, Sue & Peter Cobbett's grandson – DeWitt High School

Logan Torres, Jean Cymbalski's great-grandson – Haslett High School

College Graduates:

Olivia Meland - Kalamazoo College

Jake Stokes - Michigan State University

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

Elevation

Dom Paul Benoit

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People

Keith Camann, Liturgist

One: Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer

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.

*** Hymn #300**

We Are One in the Spirit, vs. 1-4

[They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love]

*** Charge & Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

Processional in C
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Hal H. Hopson

** Please rise in body or spirit*

Ushers: Brett & Lynette Cone, Dorinda & Gary VanKempen

Liturgy this morning was adapted from Brett Neely. *A Plain Account* at <https://www.aplainaccount.org/post/seventh-sunday-of-easter-23> and the Rev. Mindi and posted on the Rev-o-lution blog <http://rev-o-lution.org/>

This Morning's Fellowship Team: It's Birthday Cake and Graduate Recognition Sunday. This morning we celebrate our May birthdays and our graduates. Thank you to Parish Life for supplying the cakes, to Edward Ennen for making the coffee and to Gary VanKempen for washing the dishes.

Education Hour:

Elementary: Room 106

Middle School: Middle School Room with Kathi Cook

Adult Education: Room 108 Ewen Todd will continue the discussion on the book *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief* by Francis S. Collins. Topics will include Collins' positions on Atheism, Agnosticism, Young Earth Creationism, Intelligent Design, and Theistic Evolution or BioLogos.

New Member Class: Fellowship Hall. Pastor Lisa will lead a session for those interested in learning more about becoming a member at PCO.

Next Week: May 24, 2026 Pentecost Sunday

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

No Education Hour for the Memorial Day Weekend Holiday

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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