

# The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

March 2, 2025

Transfiguration Sunday

Worship with Jazz



## Gathering As a People of God

**Preparation:** “Think of this passage (The Transfiguration) itself as a high “mountain” in the midst of Luke’s Gospel. On one side, we climb up through stories of Jesus’ healing, liberating ministry. And on the other side, we descend down to Jerusalem. Today, we arrive at a clearing on the mountaintop — and from here we can survey both how far we’ve come and the 40-day Lenten journey ahead.” SALT Project Commentary on Luke 9:28-43

**Invitation to Our Shared Ministry**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Prelude**

*Oh, But on the Third Day*

Wynton Marsalis

[Happy Feet Blues]

Arlene McDaniel – piano, co-leader, arranger

James O’Donnell – trumpet, co-leader, vocals

John ‘T-Bone’ Paxton – trombone, vocals

Alvin Paige – saxophone

Trevor Lamb – bass

Djallo Djakate - drums

**\* Call to Worship**

Alex Juarez, Liturgist

One: From a cloud, and in a crowd, God speaks to us.

**All: Calling us to be lovers of justice, to share hope with the broken.**

One: On mountaintops, and in neighborhoods, Christ calls to us.

**All: With a word, and with wonder, molding us into who we are.**

One: On the playground, at school, in our work and in our homes, the Spirit whispers in our hearts;

**All: gathering up our fears, as well as our dreams, and offering them to the God we worship.**

**\* Hymn**

*I’ll Fly Away*

(see insert)

**Prayer of Confession**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Sometimes we wait for God to astound us with whirlwinds of wonders, while God silently offers us grace. God waits to forgive us, so let us hold nothing back, but place our trust in the One who listens to our prayers and answers us with mercy.

**All:** We admit that we are often afraid to come near you, Glorious Creator. For if we do, you might see how our faces darken with anger as we speak hurtful words or whiten with fear of those who are different. We can spend so much time gazing in the mirror of our longings, that we are unable to see the faces etched with loneliness, hollowed by hunger, overshadowed by hopelessness. You reveal the mystery of your grace, Holy One, by pouring out mercy upon us. As you bend down to listen, may we speak your love to all those around us. As you call us into your presence, send us out to do your justice which brings hope to the world. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, our Savior, our Love, our Justice. Silent prayer. Amen.

**Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: On mountaintops and in valleys, in our hopes and in our hearts, God knows us better than we know ourselves, and God forgives us when we cannot forgive ourselves!

**All:** By God's mercy, we are forgiven; by God's mercy, we are made whole; by God's mercy, we are equipped to serve others. Thanks be to God! Amen.

One: As a forgiven people, let us greet each other, sharing 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.*

**The Word**

**Prayer of Illumination**

Alex Juarez, Liturgist

Loving God, by the breath of your Spirit inspire us through these scriptures. Open our minds to fill our vision with your radiance. Give us life to hear your Word today and give us hearts to serve your world. Amen.

**Children's Message**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Jazz Anthem**

*Second Line*  
[Joe Avery's Blues]

Joseph "Kid" Avery

**Old Testament Reading**

Exodus 34:29-35

Alex Juarez, Liturgist

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

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**New Testament Scripture**

Luke 9:28-36

Pastor Lisa Schrott

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

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Sermon**

*Who is Jesus? One Who is Chosen.*

Pastor Lisa Schrott

\* **Affirmation of Faith** (*Brief Statement of Faith*, 11.1, 11.5 & 11.6) Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: With the whole church, let us confess our faith sharing together in a portion of the  
Brief Statement of Faith

**All: In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune  
God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can  
separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### **Responding to the Word**

**Offering**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Invitation**

**Offertory**

*Morning*

Clare Fischer

**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:** *Let Us Break Bread Together*

**Communion Prayer** Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Sent Out As a People of God**

\* Hymn #649

*Amazing Grace*, vs. 1, 2, 3, 5  
[Amazing Grace]  
Jazz interlude between vs. 2 & 3

\* **Benediction** Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Postlude** *When the Saints Go Marching In*

\* *Please rise in body or spirit*

The liturgy this morning is adapted from the Rev. Thom Schuman at Lectionary Liturgies Online at <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2022/02/liturgy-wcommunion-for-february-27-2022.html>

The Affirmation of Faith is from *The PC(USA) Book of Confessions*, The Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); 2016.

**Special thanks** to Chris Ordiway and his staff from Russell-Ashmun Audio Productions for providing audio support for this morning's jazz service.

**Ushers:** Jack Harkema, Trudy Sturk, Tom Schaberg & Jill Tribell

**This Morning's Fellowship:** Thank you to Parish Life for hosting the Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast this morning! All are welcome to join in the celebration. Thank you to Edward Ennen for preparing the coffee.

**Next Week: March 9, 2025**

**Scripture:** Luke 4:1-13

**Preaching:** Rev. Dr. Charles (Chip) Hardwick, Executive, Synod of the Covenant

**Education Hour:**

Children through 4th grade: (Room 116)

Middle School Youth 5th-8th grade: Middle School Room (107)

High School Youth and Adults: Intergenerational Bible Study (Board Room)

Education Hour: Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Charles (Chip) Hardwick

## JAZZ NOTES

The prelude for this morning's service is from "The Majesty of the Blues", an album by the legendary New Orleans trumpeter Wynton Marsalis. The set entitled "New Orleans Function" features musicians in a style influenced by the traditional New Orleans brass band. The music reflects a jazz funeral with a dirge-like movement ("The Death of Jazz"), followed by a spoken word sermon preached at the graveyard, and concluding with the resurrection of jazz ("Oh, But on the Third Day"). "Happy Feet Blues" mirrors the New Orleans second line parades often associated with weddings and funerals.

The jazz anthem "Joe Avery's Blues" simply known as "Second Line" was written by New Orleans trombonist and bandleader Joseph "Kid" Avery. The tune is based on a simple 12-bar blues form and has become a popular music standard at second line parades.

"Chelsea Bridge" is a beautiful ballad written for Duke Ellington by Billy Strayhorn. "Take the A Train" and "Lush Life" may be Strayhorn's best known compositions, but "Chelsea Bridge" easily ranks as one of his greatest. Unlike tune-based jazz and pop, "Chelsea Bridge" is classical in its integration of melody and harmony. It has been described as an impressionist miniature, more like Debussy than Ellington.

The offertory "Morning" is a Latin jazz standard composed by Clare Fischer, an American pianist, composer, bandleader, and arranger. After graduating from Michigan State University, Fischer worked with "The Hi-Lo's" in the late 1950's and went on to collaborate with Donald Byrd and Dizzy Gillespie. He later became known for his Latin and boss's nova recordings in the 1960's. "Morning" made its debut on his 1965 LP Manteca! which was his first recording conceived entirely in the Afro-Cuban idiom.

"When the Saints Go Marching In" was recorded by Louis Armstrong in 1938 and remains jazz band's most requested tune. It has been particularly associated with New Orleans and still often accompanies funeral parades. As the coffin moves to the cemetery, the music is in the style of a dirge. Following the burial, the style abruptly switches to an upbeat rendition reflecting the transcendence from death to life everlasting.

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