

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
March 30, 2025
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Ordination & Installation of Officers



Gathering As a People of God

Preparation: “What is of interest about human nature is its plasticity, its susceptibility to being shaped or molded by outside influences generally.... Humans seem to have an exaggerated capacity for this that opens them to a radical reformation from without in the divine image. ... Because humans are like soft wax, we have “reflexive capacities of self-formation (which) means humans can try to reshape in a self-critical fashion even desires they cannot help having by nature.” — Theologian Dr. Kathryn Tanner, from *Christ the Key*, 2009

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prelude

Voluntary and Fughetta on *Stuttgart*
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Charles Callahan

Lighting the Candle

Choral Introit

Enter His Presence
PCO Chancel Choir
Westin Sorrel, director

* **Call to Worship** (based on 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 27)

Siri Rainone, Liturgist

One: There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

All: There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

One: God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God’s purpose that is accomplished.

All: To each is given gifts of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

One: Together we are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

* **Hymn #774**

There is Now a New Creation, vs. 1-4
[Stuttgart]

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: God, in your goodness and mercy, you forgive us and instruct us how to live with your will rather than our own in the center of our lives. So it is in this space and at this time, that we are able to come and bear the wilderness of our sin before you. We pray:

All: We come, God of unfailing love, to confess to you in humility and deep remorse,

our sin. In the stubbornness we cling to, we think we always know what is best. We come, God of our security and peace, to confess to you with deep regret, our wilful defiance of the way of peace and joy that we know from experience, is found only in you. Forgive us when we try to convince ourselves that there is no urgency in seeking a restored relationship with you and with others. We come this morning seeking from you the renewal of our faith and trust in you; that rebirth and new creation that you gift to us. In your mercy, Loving Lord, hear our prayers and grant to us the joy of new life as we learn to rest in you. *Silent prayer.* Amen

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: By the mercy of our loving God, we have been forgiven. As we move from the wilderness of sin to the garden of grace, Christ calls us to live in peace and community with one another.

All: **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.*

* Response #447

We Are Forgiven

The Word

Children's Sermon

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prayer of Illumination #288

Spirit of the Living God

sung together

Old Testament Reading Psalm 32:1-5, 10-11 (Common English Bible)

Siri Rainone, Liturgist

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Scripture 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (Common English Bible)

Pastor Lisa Schrott

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Faith In the Wilderness: The Mystery and Ministry of Reconciliation

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Responding to the Word

Anthem

Carol of the Hill

Stephen Paulus

PCO Chancel Choir

On my ground with a crown of thorn, he died for us who for us was born.

The tree that flowered is cold and bare; No song, no singing anywhere;

O Bethlehem, Ah Jerusalem, Ah Jerusalem.

Second Adam, Son of Man, Into my earth your life's blood ran.

Now from this earth new trees will grow, With fruits, with flowers I swear it so

O Bethlehem, Ah Jerusalem, Ah Jerusalem.
For you I shall wear a crown of trees, and birds will sing from among their leaves,
O Bethlehem, Ah Jerusalem, Ah Jerusalem.

Offering Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory *Andante Espressivo* Hedwige Chrétien
[Sonatine]

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People Siri Rainone, Liturgist

One: Lord, in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

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.

Service of Ordination and Installation

(Please see pages 5 & 6)

Sent Out As a People of God

* **Hymn #298** *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*, vs. 1, 2, 4, 5
[Abbot's Leigh]

* **Benediction** Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude *March in D Major* Elizabeth Turner
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

* Please rise in body or spirit

Ushers: Sally Belloli, Sue Cobbett, David Horner

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Dorinda VanKempen and Vickie Marcus for supplying snacks and to Mitch Marcus for making coffee.

Education Hour:

Children through 4th grade: (Room 116)

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

Adult & High School Youth: Intergenerational Bible Study (Board Room)

Adult Education: “Pulling Back the Curtain: Choral Leadership in Worship Settings” with Chancel Choir Director Westin Sorrel (Room 108)

Next Week: April 6, 2025 Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14 & John 11: 1-45 (selected verses)

Education Hour:

Children through 4th grade: (Room 116)

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

Confirmation Class: High School Youth Room

Adult & High School Youth: Intergenerational Bible Study (Board Room)

Adult Education:

The Prayer of Confession is adapted from words by Joan Stott. *The Timeless Psalms. Prayers and Meditations*. Online at http://www.thetimelesspsalms.net/w_resources/lent1a_2017.htm
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Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott (she/her), Pastor/Head of Staff

Rebecca Mattern (she/her), Coordinator of Pastoral Care & Youth Education

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist

Westin Sorrel (he/him), Chancel Choir Director

Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director

Edward Ennen, Sexton

Anna Thiel, Office Manager

Gabrielle Shelton (she/her), Media Specialist

Service of Ordination and Installation

Statement on Ordination and Installation

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Ordination of Deacon: Rich Martin

Ordination of Elder: Jack Harkema

Installation of Deacons: Christine Meland, Jill Tribell and Gary VanKempen

Installation of Elders: Vickie Marcus, Tanya Stokes and Patty Wilson

Call to Ordination and Installation

Clerk of Session, Dorinda VanKempen

Constitutional Questions

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Do you trust in the Lord Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our Confessions?

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

For Deacons: Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

For Ruling Elders: Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

Questions to the Congregation

Clerk of Session, Dorinda VanKempen

One: Do we, members of the church—the body of Christ—accept Christine, Rich, Jill and Gary as Deacons and Jack, Vickie, Tanya, and Patty as Elders chosen by God through the voice of this congregation, to help lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

All: We do.

One: Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions and to follow them as they help guide us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church?

All: We do.

Prayer of Ordination & Laying on of Hands

Pastor Lisa Schrott

All who have been ordained as Elders, Deacons or Ministers are invited to come forward to lay hands on those to be ordained and/or installed.

Declaration of Ordination and Installation

Pastor Lisa Schrott