

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
April 6, 2025
Fifth Sunday in Lent



Gathering As a People of God

Preparation: “..life is built, and then it stops, and then Christ reaches in and brings it forward again...What was it like for Lazarus when his blood warmed again, when his lungs filled with oxygen, when strength entered his pale, cold body, to have life come into him from the voice of Jesus?” – Interview of artist Ross Wilson by Jessica Hooten. Wilson created a series of 60 portraits of Lazarus, *The Calling of Lazarus*, for the Windgate Art Gallery at John Brown University.

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Rebecca Mattern

Prelude

Prelude on *St. Flavian*
[Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days]
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Healey Willan

Setting the Table

Choral Introit

PCO Chancel Choir
Westin Sorrel, director

*** Call to Worship**

Jim Boyer, Liturgist

One: The Spirit of God has brought us here.

All: The Lord has set us down here, though our bones are tired.

One: Can these dry bones live?

All: Yes! The Breath of God will revive us! The Word of God will awaken us!

One: Today, we come together to experience new life.

All: Let us give thanks to the Wild, Life-Giving Spirit of God!

*** Hymn #286**

Breathe on Me, Breath of God, vs. 1-4
[Trentham]

Prayer of Confession

Rebecca Mattern

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 are set free by your saving grace, Generous God, yet we must confess how we are still bound by our pride and arrogance. We seem unable to throw off the grave clothes of our habitual sin, finding them too comfortable to wear. We cling to our fears, for they are so

familiar and make such good companions. Yet, there in every corner of our lives, in every shadow we fear, into our dry bones and the cold embrace of death itself, you come, Steadfast Love. You break the bonds of sin, giving us new strength and hope for the journey, and calling us to new life through the love and sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. *Silent prayer. Amen*

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Rebecca Mattern

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

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Jim Boyer, Liturgist

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

All: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Scripture

John 11: 1-45

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Dialogue from the CEB

Rebecca Mattern & Jim Boyer

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Faith In the Wilderness: Stuck and Withered

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Responding to the Word

Anthem

PCO Chancel Choir

Offering

Rebecca Mattern

Invitation

Offertory

Bourrée n F Major

Georg Philipp Telemann

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Holy Communion

Invitation

Pastor Lisa Schrott

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rebecca Mattern

One: May the God of tears be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Offer your hearts to the One who calls us out of death into life.

All: Unbound, we bring our hearts to our God of new mornings.

One: People of God, sing songs to the One in whom we hope.

All: We rejoice in God, who dwells in our souls.

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

Pastor Lisa Schrott

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

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sent Out As a People of God

* **Hymn #506**

Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table, vs. 1-4
[Copeland]

* **Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Living Bread
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Johann Pachelbel

* Please rise in body or spirit

Ushers: Jane Paterson, Jill Tribell, Tom Schaberg, Keith Camann

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to the Haskel family for supplying snacks, to Edward Ennen for making coffee and to Wayne Scott for washing dishes.

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 Deeper Meaning of the Parables Using Haggadic Midrash, a type of Jewish Biblical interpretation, Part 2. Led by Ewen Todd (Room 108)

Next Week: April 13, 2025; Palm Sunday

Scripture: Isaiah 50:4-9a & Luke 19:28-40

Education Hour: All Ages Journey Through Holy Week

The Call to Worship was written by Amy Loving, and posted on The Worship Closet website.

<http://worshipcloset.com/> The Prayer of Confession (adapted) and Great Prayer of Thanksgiving are from Thom M. Shuman, published in Lectionary Liturgies. Online at

<https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2023/03/liturgy-wcommunion-for-march-26-2023.html>

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Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist

Westin Sorrel (he/him), Chancel Choir Director

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