

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
June 23, 2024
Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
World Refugee Awareness Week



Preparation: “To me, a home is where you feel loved, safe, and cherished.”- Malala Yousafzai

Gathering As a People of God

Prelude

Cantilena

Charity Boyles

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Acolyte

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

*** Opening Sentences**

Ellen Hoekstra, liturgist

One: As we bring our series on *Quest* to a close, we contemplate what it means to return home. After stretching our spirits and our love to include more of the glorious creation and its peoples, we return to a home that will never be the same to us. And we also recognize that for many of our neighbors, a journey across the miles is the quest for a new home.

All: **We are all strangers before God and sojourners like our ancestors. God is our rock and our refuge, a strong and mighty fortress. We give thanks to the Lord, whose steadfast love endures forever.**

One: God’s Spirit exists everywhere, on every path, inviting us to move with curiosity and compassion toward each other. With renewed compassion, may we open our hearts for hospitality, so that in our welcoming, we will grow together in peace.

All: **God welcomes us all, whoever we are, wherever we are, however we are. God welcomes us all.**

*** Hymn #297**

In Christ Called to Baptize, vs. 1-4

[St. Denio]

Prayer of Confession

Rebecca Mattern

One: God said “I am making everything new.” As we heard last week, even now, God is creating a new heaven and new earth. God is making a home here, among God’s people – to live here, to call us God’s own. It is with confidence in God’s assurance that we are made new that we confess our sins before God and each other. Let us pray:

All: God of Grace, we confess that we are too concerned with our own peace. We seek the comfort of silence, and ignore the cries of the oppressed. We are inwardly focused, missing your call to serve the world in justice and love. Forgive us, O God. Forgive us for the times we only recognized your image in those who look, think, and act like us. Forgive us for the times we've hoarded your blessings and acted as if the poor, the hungry, and the forcibly displaced have somehow brought their reality upon themselves. Equip us to fulfill your will for a world in which we all know dignity and all are treated with equity as your beloved children. *(silence)* Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

One: Hear the Good News. God said "I am making everything new." Each of us, collectively and individually, is washed clean in God's spring of living water, refreshed and ready to live for God and God's children, here and everywhere.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

One: It is as a forgiven people that we share the peace of Christ. The peace of the 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

The Word

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Speak to us, living God, as you have spoken to our ancestors: through the voices of your prophets, the breath of your Spirit, and the life of your Son, so that we may live according to your word; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Children's Message

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 137:1-6

Ellen Hoekstra, liturgist

New Testament Reading

Acts 8:26-40

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

Home

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Special Music

Adagio from Concerto No. 2 in D Major

J.B. Bréval

Dr. Barbara Fretwell-Cooke, cello

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, piano

Responding to the Word

Offering		Pastor Lisa Schrott
Invitation		
Offertory	<i>Farewell, Dear Country Home</i> Ukrainian folk song	Vidas Pinkevicius
*Doxology #606		
*Prayer of Dedication		

Prayers of the People		Rebecca Mattern
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.

Sent Out As a People of God

* Hymn (see last page)	<i>Gentle Jesus</i> , vs. 1-3 [Refuge]	Text & Music: Philip Rice & Richelle Wilson
* Benediction		Pastor Lisa Schrott
Postlude	Postlude on <i>St. Denio</i>	Michael Burkhardt

** Please rise in body or spirit*

Education Time: Pastor Lisa will discuss issues coming before the 2024 PC(USA) General Assembly

Ushers: Bill & Barbara Given, Gary & Trudy Sturk

Flowers: The flowers beautifying our sanctuary today are from Bob and Mary Benko in celebration of their 59th anniversary.

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Jane Bobay for providing snacks and to Edward Ennen for taking care of the coffee.

Next Week June 30, 2024: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Matthew 13: 31-32 and Ezekiel 31: 1-7

Education Time: Laurie Hereza will share information about our mission partner, Michigan Refugee Hope.

The graphic is from *Quest* by Dr. Marcia McFee at Worship Design Studio www.worshipdesignstudio.com/quest. The Opening Sentences, Prayer of Confession and Promise of the Gospel are combined material from *Quest* and World Refugee Worship & Prayer Resources from the PC(USA). They are online at above link and https://pda.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/pda/pdfs/world_refugee_day_worship_resources_2023.pdf.

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Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott (she/her), Pastor/Head of Staff
Rebecca Mattern (she/her), Interim Director of Faith Formation
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

GENTLE JESUS

1. Gen - tle Je - sus, low - ly son, long the road to reach thee,
2. Gen - tle Je - sus, wan-d'ring one, far I've come to hear thee,
3. Gen - tle Je - sus, lo - ving friend, re - fuge we im - plore thee,

Ho - ly star, sweet shi - ning one, hum - bly I be - seech thee.
Rab - bi, teach - er, bles - sed son, bring your gar - ment near me.
Sa - vior, heal - er; hea - ven send, wrap us in thy glo - ry.

(1.,2.) Lead me, e - ver lead me, though the night be dark and cold,
(3.) Lead us, e - ver lead us, though the night be dark and cold,

Stay here, ne - ver leave me, lone - ly pil - grim safe - ly hold.
Stay here, ne - ver leave us, we thy pil - grims safe - ly bold.