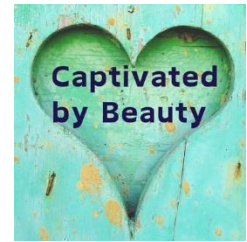


The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
July 21, 2024
Ninth Sunday After Pentecost



Preparation: “Mystery recognizes the provisional nature of our explanations and the inexhaustibility of our investigations. ... Mystery is being grasped by something larger than ourselves, ever compelling us to stretch, rather than limit, the horizons of our awareness. Under the rubric of wonder, mystery has its place alongside understanding.” – Rev. Dr. William Brown, *The Seven Pillars of Creation*, 2010.

Gathering As a People of God

Prelude

Allegretto

George F. Handel

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Centering Our Minds and Candle Lighting

*You are invited to a moment of quiet rest,
a time of slowing the pace of your body and mind so that the spirit can settle.
We invite those at home to light a candle and become centered for worship.*

Opening Prayer

Joel Major, liturgist

One: Holy One, pause us for this moment, bear us up in this time, hold us for eternity. We offer ourselves in connection with you. We allow ourselves this love from you. We release ourselves into your presence.

All: Amen

Engaging Our Bodies

Joel Major, liturgist

One: Our whole bodies were made for perceiving the beauty of the world. All of our senses can experience the wonder of the depth of God’s love. This morning, we engage our sense of smell. Take one of the leaves from the various packets of herbs. Inhale deeply the aroma. Take another and celebrate the diversity of the scents that surround us.

All: We are captivated by the beauty of our world. We are captivated by the aromas of God’s love.

* **Hymn #366**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, vs. 1-4
[Hyfrydol]

Prayer of Confession

Rebecca Mattern

One: God never forgets God’s promises. God’s covenant endures in each new generation. We are free to speak the truth about our lives because God’s faithfulness embraces us as we examine our hearts.

All: God of mystery, you are the power behind all we see and the grace beyond all we know. We cannot comprehend your majesty. We only know your presence in our lives: you, who knew us before we were born; you, who will cradle us after our last breath. We cannot comprehend your glory, instead we marvel at all the works your hand has made.

Silent prayer of gratitude

God of mystery, you call us into the unknown. But we do not always follow willingly. We confess that we do not want to leave behind what is familiar. We prefer looking like those around us. We do not want to change our well-refined beliefs. We prefer to think and believe in the same ways we always have. Forgive us.

Silent prayer of confession

God of mystery, too often we do not want to give up the comfort of our own self-sufficiency. We prefer to stay in control. Forgive us, O Lord, when in our best effort to work for you, we fail to move with your Spirit.

Silent prayer of confession

God of mystery, stir us deep within. Help us recover a sense of your holy wonder and make room within us for the mystery of your Spirit.

Silent prayer of commitment (Amen)

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

One: This is what good news means: There is nothing we can do to make God love us any more and there is nothing we can do to make God love us any less. Beloved of God, know and believe:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. 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

Rebecca Mattern

Enlightening God, the unfolding of your Word gives light and provides wisdom to all who seek your truth. Open our minds and hearts by the presence of your Holy Spirit, that the mystery of your heavenly realm is made evident here on earth. Amen.

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 2:9-11 (CEB)

Rebecca Mattern

Called by God to Serve: Blessing Jonathan Townley

Pastor Lisa Schrott & PCO Session

Jonathan Townley has come under care of the Session of PCO as an Inquirer for Ordination in the PC(USA). We will bless their call as they prepare to begin Seminary studies.

Children's Message

Becca Boldrey, Lucas Meland, Maddie Pearson

Old Testament Reading Psalm 65: 1-4 (CEB) Pastor Lisa Schrott

Reflection *Captivated by Beauty: Wonder & Mystery* Pastor Lisa Schrott

The Practice of Wonder

Seeing the Big Picture: *Psalm 65: 5-6*

Zooming Out: *Psalm 65: 7-8*

Zooming In: *Psalm 65: 9-10*

Appreciating the Details: *Psalm 65:11-13*

Special Music *We Walk in Love* Deanna Witkowski
PCO Pick Up Choir
Westin Sorrel, director

Responding to the Word

Offering Rebecca Mattern

Invitation *Building Our Offering Tree: God Sightings*

On your leaf, we invite you to share a *God sighting* that has filled you with awe and wonder. It might be a mountaintop experience; it might be an everyday experience that pointed you to God, such as a beautiful sunset, an unexpected kindness, or an encounter with a truth in God's Word that struck you in a fresh way. For those worshiping online, you may email your *God sighting* to Pastor Lisa, and we will add it to the tree. You may place your financial offering in the basket next to the tree. Please signal an usher if you need assistance.

Offertory *Flute Solo & Gigue* George F. Handel

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Thanksgiving** Becca Boldrey, Lucas Meland, Maddie Pearson, Jennifer Gordon

Prayers of the People Joel Major, 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.

Bread for the Journey Kjerstin Thorson, Maddie, Will & Matt Pearson

Parting Liturgy Pastor Lisa Schrott

Congregation Response

We feel sorrow in your leaving, yet we rejoice with you in anticipation of this new phase of your life. We will miss your energy, love and support, yet we know you will add much to the lives of those who will be your new church family, as you have added much to our lives. May the seeds that God has planted here continue to be nourished and grow in Colorado and wherever you go.

Prayer of Sending

Rebecca Mattern

Sent Out As a People of God

* **Hymn #542**

God Be with You Till We Meet Again, vs. 1-4

* **Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

The Rejoicing

George F. Handel

* *Please rise in body or spirit*

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Parish Life for providing the birthday cake and cake to bid farewell to the Thorson/Pearson family and to Joel Major for taking care of the coffee.

Flowers: The flowers beautifying our sanctuary today are given by the Pearson/Thorson family to thank the congregation and PCO staff for warmly embracing them during their tenure in East Lansing.

Play and Pray July: No education hour through August 4. Enjoy a time of extended fellowship this morning. Walk the labyrinth. Enjoy the playground. Invite someone to join you for a walk or lunch.

Next Week July 28, 2024: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Psalm 103

Worship Prompt: Beauty and Compassion

Congregational Meeting following worship to elect a member of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

Inspiration for the service, order of worship and some liturgy are adapted from *Beguiled by Beauty* by Dr. Marcia McFee <https://worshipdesignstudio.com/beauty>. The Prayer of Confession is adapted from *Make Room for Mystery* from Leader, Winter 2016-17; MennoMedia. Available online at <https://togetherinworship.net/ResourceView/82/21333>

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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