

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
August 18, 2024
Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost**



Gathering As a People of God

Prelude

Allegro in D Major
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Anna Bon

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Ewen Todd

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.*

Call to Worship

Ewen Todd, liturgist

One: God of creation, you brought life to all that we see. You set the boundaries of the universe and placed us within its care.

All: Creator God, breathe life into your creation.

One: Holy Spirit, you bind your children together in community. Your bonds transcend borders created by humankind. You kindle the fire within us that stirs our passion for faith, justice, and reconciliation.

All: Spirit God, inspire us to reconciliation.

One: Jesus the Christ, you came to teach and to lead. You showed us the cost of discipleship when you stood up against the powers of the world, and they tried to suppress your truth by sentencing you to death. Your life was more powerful than death and your truth lives on in us.

All: Jesus the Christ, help us reflect your light of truth and peace.

* Hymn #372

O for a World, vs. 1, 2, 3, 5
[Azmon]

Prayer of Confession

Ewen Todd, liturgist

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: Redeeming God, you call us to be one with you. Christ's perfect love casts out our fears and unites us through your Spirit of peace. We give thanks for the new life we have through the power of Christ's redeeming love.

Silent prayer of gratitude

God of forgiveness, we often stray from your path. As soon as we begin the journey we become easily distracted. We flirt with ideologies that distort your reality. We reduce our neighbor to an enemy image when we should honor each other as beloved children of God. We neglect our neighbor's needs and place our own interests as an idol above your commandment to reconciliation. We ignore our neighbors' wounds and claim that, "God only cares about my suffering."

Silent prayer of confession

God of forgiveness, we take steps in the direction you lead us sometimes, but we become tired and lose energy. We lose faith in your ability to carry us on your path when your living water should fill us with all that we need.

Silent prayer of confession

God, please turn us back to your path and fill us with the strength to persist. In your mercy, unite us as one.

Silent prayer of commitment (Amen)

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Ewen Todd, liturgist

One: Friends, believe the good news. In Jesus Christ you are forgiven. Now extend this same grace to your neighbors around you.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

One: God grants us peace not so that we can hide it away in a dark room to keep ourselves comfortable. God grants us peace so that we may share it with all those around us, neighbors near and far. It is a peace more powerful than all machinations of violence. It is a peace that challenges dangerous idolatries. It is a peace that binds us together even across boundaries of conflict. May that peace fill you up until it overflows. May the peace of the Lord be with you.

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

Rev. Timothy Chon

Spirit God, open us to hear your Word for our lives. It is in your Word we trust. By the power of your Spirit, set our hearts and minds on the source of life and peace: Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Children's Message

Rev. Timothy Chon

Scripture Reading

Ezekiel 37:15-23

Rev. Timothy Chon

Sermon

A Place and Time for Making Peace

Rev. Timothy Chon

Special Music

Where Can I Turn For Peace?
Westin Sorrel, soloist

arr. James C. Kasen

Responding to the Word

Offering		Ewen Todd, liturgist
Invitation		
Offertory	<i>A Prayer for Peace</i>	David Maxwell
*Doxology #606		
*Prayer of Dedication		

Prayers of the People		Ewen Todd, 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.

Sent Out As a People of God

* Hymn #340	<i>This is My Song</i> , vs. 1-3 [Finlandia]	
* Benediction		Rev. Timothy Chon
Postlude	Postlude on <i>Azmon</i> Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ	Robert Hobby

** Please rise in body or spirit*

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to the Parish Life Committee for providing birthday cake to celebrate members and friends born in August. Thank you also to Edward Ennen and Wayne Scott for taking care of the coffee.

Education Hour: DMZ Peace Walk. Rev. Timothy Chon will make a presentation on a peace walk he participated in on the demilitarized zone (DMZ) in Korea in 2023.

Next Week August 25, 2024: Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-20 and Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Education Hour: Updated PCO Child Protection Policy

The liturgy this morning is adapted from Sunday Prayer Worship for Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula, prepared by National Council of Churches in Korea Reconciliation and Reunification Committee, as shared by the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/sunday-prayer-worship-peaceful-reunification-korean-peninsula/>

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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