The Presbyterian Church of Okemos August 25, 2024 Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost



Preparation: "We have lived by the assumption that what was good for us would be good for the world. ... We have been wrong. We must change our lives, so that it will be possible to live by the contrary assumption that what is good for the world will be good for us." – author Wendell Berry from the *Long-Legged House*

Gathering As a People of God

Prelude

Aria in F Major from the Twelfth Concerto Grosso
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

G.F. Handel

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.

Call to Worship Nadine Roya, liturgist

One: To abide in you; to find strength in you; to worship you in these moments,

All: we gather, O God.

One: To challenge the evil around us; to bring healing to the hurt; to offer hope to the vulnerable,

All: we follow you, Jesus.

One: To learn how to live; to put away our old gods; to stick with God in every moment,

All: we listen, Holy Spirit.

* **Hymn** #761 *Called as Partners in Christ's Service,* vs. 1-4 [Beecher]

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lisa Schrott

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: Faithful God, you seek to clothe us in garments of hope and grace, so we might continue to walk in the ways of love and peace. We give you thanks that we can bring our lives to you, the one who offers us mercy.

Silent prayer of gratitude

Faithful God, we could put on the comfortable shirt of faith, but prefer fear with its frayed cuffs and stains on the front. We could slip on the loafers of peace, but squeeze into the size-too-small stiff dress shoes of anger. We could wrap truth around our lives, yet continue to punch holes in the belt of falsehood so it always fits. Forgive us.

Silent prayer of confession

Faithful God, we ask you to rescue us from our worst selves. When we are lonely, let us seek your heart as a refuge. When we are broken, let us come to you to knit us back together. When we are afraid, let us seek your embrace. May we continue to follow Jesus the Christ to hear the word of love we need in the midst of the hollow promises of the world.

Silent prayer of commitment (Amen)

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: As God listens to our voices and hearts, our brokenness is gathered up and we are made whole, as mercy and hope fill our lives. We are forgiven. We are transformed into new people. We are clothed with grace and peace, so we may go and serve as God's people.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

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

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Great God of steadfast love, we listen for your voice in the words of scripture. We listen for your call on our lives. We open ourselves to serve you through the power of the Holy Spirit who lights our way in the darkness and transforms our lives. Amen.

Children's Message

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Back to School Blessing

Roy Meland, Barbara Fretwell-Cooke, Eunice Creswell & Pastor Lisa Schrott

New Testament Reading

Ephesians 6:10-20

Nadine Roya, liturgist

Old Testament Reading

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

Clothed in the Joy of Service

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Special Music Hymn #250

Hymn of Promise [In the Bulb There is a Flower]

Natalie Sleeth

arr: Martha Lynn Thompson

PCO Handbell Choir Irene Shutt, Director

Responding to the Word

Minute for Service Blanket Collection for our Refugee Community Kent Workman

Offering Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart arr: Jason W. Krug

Handbell Quintet
David & Kathi Cook,

Linda & Lou Cravotta, Sarah Mayhew

*Doxology #606

Prayers of the People

Nadine Roya, 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** #547 Go, My Children, with My Blessing, vs. 1-3 [Ar Hydy Nos]

* Benediction Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude Hornpipe from Water Music Handel

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Flowers: The flowers beautifying the sanctuary this morning are from Mickey and Rich Martin.

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Mickey Martin and Shirley Rumminger for bringing refreshments. Thank you also to Tom Schaberg and Joel Major for taking care of the coffee.

^{*}Prayer of Dedication

^{*} Please rise in body or spirit

Education Hour: Updated PCO Child, Youth and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy. Learn about our policy and have training about interacting with these populations. Those who work with children, youth, and vulnerable adults are required to have this training.

Next Week September 1, 2024: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost; Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Scripture: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 & James 1:17-27

Education Hour: Enjoy the Labor Day weekend! No education hour for children, youth

and adults.

The liturgy this morning is adapted from words from the Rev. Thom Shuman *Alternate texts liturgy for August 25, 2024 (Pentecost 14/Trinity 13/Proper 16/Ordinary 21 - B).* It can be found at https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/

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The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

2258 Bennett Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864 (517) 349-9536

Website: https://okemospres.org
https://www.instagram.com/okemospres/
https://facebook.com/OkemosPresbyterian



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