

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**  
**September 8, 2024**  
**Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost**



**Gathering As a People of God**

**Prelude** *Après Un Réve* Gabriel Faure  
[After a Dream]  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

**Acolyte**

**Choral Introit** *Lord, Listen to Your Children* Ken Medema

**Invitation to Our Shared Ministry** Pastor Lisa Schrott

**\* Opening Sentences** Kelly Locke, liturgist

**One:** Today's scripture reminds us that God's creative activity is described as an ongoing and active force for good. Rather than fashioning us of something that could not change, the biblical metaphor is that we are fashioned of clay, a malleable substance that can be reshaped again and again. When life requires change of us, let us embrace our ability to roll with it, for we were made for this!

**All:** **God sits at the Potter's Wheel and continues to fashion beautiful things. Let us be open us to your ongoing re-shaping of our lives and help us believe that we are capable of change. Calm our fears, and animate our spirits for this time of discovery.**

**\* Hymn #611** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*, vs. 1-3  
[Hymn to Joy]

**Prayer of Confession** Pastor Lisa Schrott

**One:** We trust in the power of God not only to fashion the world. We trust in the power of God to mend and refashion our hearts.

**All:** **Holy and Living God, when we have hesitated to reach out, when we have stayed rigid, not opening to adjusting our own lives to allow more freedom for others, forgive us and remind us that we are forgiven. When we have refused to make room for the changes of time, and judged others unkindly for their differing ways of thinking and being, forgive us and remind us that we are forgiven. When we have forgotten that we are your creation, fashioned and made for changing the world for the better, forgive us and remind us that we are forgiven. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who came to change our hearts for good. (silent prayer) Amen.**

## **Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace**

**One:** Hear the sound of love poured out. If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. Everything old has passed away. Our story is known, our sin is forgiven, our life is made new.

**All:** **We are a new creation! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**One:** Friends, believe the good news. In Jesus Christ you are forgiven. 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**

Rebecca Mattern

**Hymn #288**

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

*Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.*

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

**Children's Message**

Rebecca Mattern

**Scripture Reading**

Jeremiah 18:1-10 (The Message)

Rebecca Mattern

**Sermon**

*We Were Made for This*

Rebecca Mattern

**Anthem**

*Loving God, Hear Us*

Gabriel Faure

Chancel Choir,

Westin Sorrel, director

Loving God will you hear us in pray'r as we come lowly kneeling?  
Will you always be near us, give us rest in your love, always healing?  
Where quiet waters flow, restore our souls with hope all abiding.  
Help us follow your path, and with your love and joy be us guiding.  
If we wander afar, and darkness and despair are surrounding,  
Your loving arms we seek. May your eternal care be abounding.  
O God of love and mercy, on us now your blessing bestowing.  
Grant us the joy of peace, the goodness of your love o'er flowing.  
May we forgiving be, as God, by you, are we forgiven.  
O may your kingdom come, and on earth your will be done as in heaven.

## **Responding to the Word**

**Minute for Engagement**

Chancel Choir

Westin Sorrel

**Offering**

Rebecca Mattern

**Invitation**

**Offertory**

*Sicilienne*

Maria-Theresa V. Paradis

\*Doxology #606

## **\*Prayer of Dedication**

### **Prayers of the People**

Kelly Locke, 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**

### **Rites of Passage in Times of Change**

#### **Call to Discipleship and Commissioning of Confirmands**

Becca Boldrey, Lizzie Conroy-Krutz, Connor Haskell, Zach Nawyn-Hellinga, and Nina Roya

#### **Call to Discipleship (Matthew 25:24-40)**

One: Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.

All: **Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?"**

One: And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

#### **Commissioning of Confirmands**

##### **Laying on of Hands**

##### **Prayer**

##### **Blessing and Charge**

\* Hymn #309

*Come, Great God of All the Ages, vs. 1-4*

[Abbot's Leigh]

**\* Benediction**

**One:** Go into the world knowing that the Potter God is still shaping and reshaping you as you were made to do; that the Teacher Jesus is inviting you to a change of heart, making it all so very possible; and that the Adventurous Spirit is luring you to more play and curiosity in your precious life.

**All:** **We will go in peace and be encouraged. Amen!**

**Postlude**

Finale on *Hymn to Joy*  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Charles Callahan

*\* Please rise in body or spirit*

**Ushers:** Jeff & Michele Arbour, Gary & Trudy Sturk

**This Morning's Fellowship Team:** Thank you to Barbara Hoevel and Shirley Rumminger for bringing refreshments. Thank you also to Tom Schaberg and Dave Rumminger for taking care of the coffee.

**Education Hour:** Intergenerational; The Rhythms of Prayer. Learn new prayer practices to deepen our faith and take a Prayer Walk around the church. Appropriate for all ages.

**Next Week September 15, 2024: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Scripture:** Mark 1:1-15

**Education Hour:**

Children through 4th grade: Room 116

Youth 5th-8th grade: Middle School Room (107)

Intergenerational Bible Study for Youth and Adults: Room 108

Adults: Pastor Lisa will present a summary of the actions of the PC(USA)

General Assembly: Fellowship Hall

The worship graphic and liturgy are adapted from *Re-Shaped. A worship series about getting animated and embracing change.* Worship Design Studios.

<https://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/>

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*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*  
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