

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
September 29, 2024
Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost



Preparation: “One of the things I liked about him was that he didn’t pretend to be a great powerful know-it-all. I remember him discussing openly his gloom, depression, his fears, admitting that he didn’t know what the next step was. He would then say: ‘Take the first step in faith. You don’t have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.’” - Marion Wright Edelman, 1991, as she recalled hearing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr speak at Spelman College when she was a college student.

Gathering As a People of God

Prelude

Claire de lune
Gail Lytle Lira, pianist

Claude Debussy

Lighting the Candles

Choral Introit *Blessed Are Those Who Walk In The Law Of The Lord*
PCO Chancel Choir

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Rebecca Mattern

*** Opening Sentences**

Siri Rainone, liturgist

One: It takes courage to change, to break out of whatever narrow paths we might find ourselves. Like Peter, if we are going to change, we have to take the first uncertain steps out of the boat onto the water and into the unknown. Like Peter, we too have Jesus’ redeeming help and support, his hand reaching out, if we start to sink or lose our way.

All: **Encouraging God, we hear your invitation into the future and we look to you for courage. Open us to know your presence as we embark together on new adventures. Calm our fears, and animate our spirits for ongoing discovery. Amen.**

*** Hymn #307**

God of Grace and God of Glory, vs. 1-4
[CWM Rhonda]

Prayer of Confession

Rebecca Mattern

One: Like the disciples, we do not always recognize Jesus. Like Peter, even in our confidence and eagerness to follow, we become distracted by fear and start to sink. Confident in God’s grace in the hand of Christ that reaches out and catches us, let us confess our sin.

All: **God of Next Steps, when we just can’t muster our courage and shut ourselves off from those who encourage us, forgive us and remind us that we are forgiven.**
(Silent prayer)

When we choose comfort over needed confrontation that could move the world closer to justice, forgive us and remind us that we are forgiven.

(Silent prayer)

When we stand in the way of other's forward motion, and forget to be the encouragers you would have us be, forgive us and remind us that we are forgiven.

(Silent prayer) Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Rebecca Mattern

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

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

Matthew 14: 22-33 (The Message)

Rebecca Mattern

Sermon

Be En-Couraged

Anthem

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis

PCO Chancel Choir

If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father,
and he shall give you another comforter,
that he may 'bide with you forever; E'en the sp'rit of truth.

Responding to the Word

Minute for Service

Thanksgiving Baskets

Becky Gillespie

Offering

Invitation

Rebecca Mattern

Offertory

Morning Has Broken

arr: Larry Shackley

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Siri Rainone, 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 #320

The Church of God in Every Age, vs. 1, 2, 3, 5

[Wareham]

* **Benediction**

Rebecca Mattern

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

Prelude (Suite Bergamasque)

Claude Debussy

Gail Lytle Lira, piano

* *Please rise in body or spirit*

Ushers: Sally Belloli, Sue Cobbett, David Horner

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Shirley Rumminger for supplying our snacks and to Tom Schaberg and Gary VanKempen for taking care of the coffee.

Education Hour:

Children through 4th grade: Room 116

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

Senior High Youth and Adults: Healthy Boundaries in Caring Relationships. How do we care for one another while respecting our own and other's needs? Share and explore how are we freed to love one another more fully by setting and honoring healthy boundaries in relationships. Led by Rebecca Mattern.

Next Week October 6, 2024: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

Education Hour: Intergenerational, all ages

Hope: As we begin a worship series on hope, come and explore stories of hope in the bible through scripture and art. Wonder with children, youth, and adults about what brings us hope as individuals and as a community.

This morning's liturgy is 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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