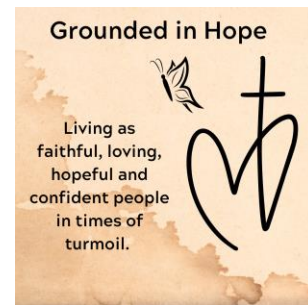


The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
October 20, 2024
Twenty Second Sunday After Pentecost



Preparation: “Faith is better understood as a verb than as a noun, as a process than as a possession. It is on-again-off-again rather than once-and-for-all. Faith is not being sure where you’re going, but going anyway. A journey without maps. Tillich said that doubt isn’t the opposite of faith; it is an element of faith.” Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking, a Seeker’s ABC*.

Gathering As a People of God

Prelude

Cantilena

Josef Rheinberger

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker

Lighting the Candles

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

*** Call to Worship** (from Psalm 33:20-22, CEB)

Rev. Kristin Stroble

One: We put our hope in the Lord.

All: God is our help and our shield.

One: Our heart rejoices in God

All: Because we trust in God’s holy name.

One: Lord, let your faithful love surround us

All: Because we wait for you.

*** Hymn #817**

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight, vs. 1-4
[Dunlap’s Creek]

Prayer of Confession

Rebecca Mattern

One: Even in our faithlessness, God loves us still and waits in mercy to forgive. Trusting in the promises given at our baptism, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

All: We must admit, Loving God, that if faith is a trust which cannot be confirmed, it is easier not to trust. Or if faith is the gut feeling that hope is just around the corner, we prefer to keep our eyes closed. And surely, if faith is to be lived out in difficult moments, we often leave it behind at home.

Call us into your backyard, God of wonder, to point up to the stars and remind us that we cannot begin to imagine, or count, how many times you will forgive us.

Give us the trust to have faith in you, the faith to hope in you, and the assurance you will surround us with the grace, hope, and wonder shared with us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. (Silent confession).

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace Rebecca Mattern

One: Hear the good news! By faith we have been saved, our guilty hearts washed clean.

All: We are refreshed, revived, renewed, and empowered by the Holy Spirit!

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

All: Let us live as ones who are forgiven and freed! Amen.

One: Having received God's grace, let us extend grace to others through the passing of the peace. 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 #582** *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

*World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

The Word

Prayer of Illumination Rebecca Mattern

God of possibility, you have spoken hope to us through the gift of your Son. You know the words we need to hear to be grounded in this hope. Open our eyes to see the new light of this day and open our hearts to believe the Good News. Amen.

Children's Message Neil Myer

Youth String Trio arr. Robert S. Frost

Two Hymns
Connor Haskel, cello
Emma Roy, viola
Nina Roy, cello
Sarah Mayhew, director

Old Testament Reading Pastor Lisa Schrott

Genesis 15:1-6

New Testament Reading Rebecca Mattern

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Sermon Rebecca Mattern

Grounded in Hope: Faith and Faithfulness

Anthem Carl Wiltse

Psalm Nine
PCO Handbell Choir
Irene Shutt, director

Responding to the Word

Minute for Stewardship: Impact of Hope

Faith Formation

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

Salve Regina

Giacomo Puccini
Ancient Latin Hymn

[Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy]

Amira Coleman, mezzo-soprano

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Rev. Kristin Stroble

One: Lord in your mercy

All: **Hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer (ecumenical version). We invite you to recite the version of the Lord's Prayer that is closest to your heart.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Sent Out As a People of God

* Hymn #684

Faith Begins by Letting Go, vs. 1-3

[Lux Prima]

* **Benediction**

Rebecca Mattern

Postlude

Go Forth in Faith

Franklin Ritter

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker

* *Please rise in body or spirit*

Welcome to worship at PCO. We are glad you are here! This morning we especially welcome the congregation of Eastminster Presbyterian Church, with Pastor Kristin Stroble and Director of Christian Education Neil Myer leading worship. Please be in prayer for them as they navigate what it means to be the church while their building is closed for repair.

Ushers: Ron & Barbara Dorr, Morrie & Barbara Hoewel

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to the Parish Life committee for supplying birthday cake to celebrate our members and friends born in October. Thank you to Jennifer Gordon, Mickey Martin and Shirley Rumminger for supplying additional refreshments.

Education Hour:

Children through 4th grade: Room 116
Middle School Youth 5th-8th grade: Middle School Room (107)
Intergenerational Bible Study for Youth and Adults: Board Room
Digging Deeper into Hebrews: Fellowship Hall
Eastminster Families with Children: Chapel

**Next Week October 27, 2024: Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost
Reformation Sunday and Roll Call of the Saints**

Scripture: Hebrews 12: 1-3

Education Hour:

Children through 4th grade: Room 116
Middle School Youth 5th-8th grade: Middle School Room (107)
Intergenerational Bible Study for Youth and Adults: Board Room
Digging Deeper into Hebrews: Fellowship Hall

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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
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