

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**  
**February 23, 2025**  
**Seventh Sunday After Epiphany**  
**Youth Sunday**



**Preparation:** “To forgive is to condemn the fault but to spare the doer.  
That’s what the forgiving God does.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**Gathering As a People of God**

**Invitation to Our Shared Ministry**

**Prelude**

*Voluntary*  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

John Stanley

**Introit**

*Siyahamba*  
Alex Juarez, trumpet  
Spencer Locke, tuba

Zulu song  
edited by Doreen Rao

**\* Call to Worship**

One: When we do not trust in the Lord,  
we wither away like a plant without nourishment.

**All: But when we do put our faith in the Lord,  
we are secured by God’s hand, and he nurtures us.**

One: We are safe from the harsh reality of our world,  
and can enjoy the gifts of her creation when we trust in God.

**All: We worship the Lord that gives us salvation and righteousness,  
The One In Whom We Take Refuge, who rescues us from the wicked.**

**\* Hymn #401**

*Here in this Place*

**Prayer of Confession**

One: In order to live in the image of God we must be honest. Let us confess to God that we do not always follow their teachings.

**All: Forgiving God, we confess that we hold grudges, making enemies of those who hurt us. We expect a reward from giving to others. Please help us to forgive each other and live in peace, creating a just and loving world. Help us welcome each other and our differences, and to recognize that without them we would not be whole.**

*Silent prayer. Amen.*

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

One: There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea. Through Jesus Christ we have received grace in good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over.

**All: In Christ's forgiveness we open ourselves to freedom and move forward in faith.**

One: As a forgiven people, let us greet each other, sharing the peace of Christ.  
The peace of Christ 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**

Loving God, quiet in us any voice but your own. Open our hearts and minds to hear your word for us today and give us courage to follow your teachings.

#### **Children's Message**

#### **Old Testament Scripture**

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

#### **Sermon**

Spencer Locke

#### **New Testament Scripture**

Luke 6:27-38

#### **Sermon**

Alex Juarez

#### **Sermon**

Lucas Meland

#### **Special Music**

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

by Mary McDonald

Youth Ensemble:

adapted by Sarah Mayhew

Lizzie Conroy-Krutz, violin

Evan Haskel and Emma Roy, viola

Connor Haskel and Nina Roy, cello

Spencer Locke, tuba

### **Responding to the Word**

**Affirmation of Faith** (from the Confession of Belhar, 10.3)

**We believe that unity is both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain; that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways;**

**\* in that we love one another;**

- \* that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another;
- \* that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another
- \* that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind;
- \* have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope;
- \* together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ;
- \* together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity;
- \* together know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ;
- \* that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another;
- \* that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity.

### Minute for Gratitude

#### Offering

Invitation

Offertory

*Andante*

G.F. Handel

\*Doxology #606

\*Prayer of Dedication

#### Prayers of the People

One: Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

#### The Lord's Prayer

in unison

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 #727

*Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

\* Benediction

Postlude

*Trumpet Duet*

John Stanley

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

*\* Please rise in body or spirit*

Thank you to the youth for writing the liturgy, choosing hymns, and leading worship today: Alex Juarez, Spencer Locke, Lucas Meland, Becca Boldrey, Lizzie Conroy-Krutz, Connor Haskel, Zach Nawyn-Hellinga, Evan Haskel, Claire Mayhew, Emma Roy, and Nina Roy

**Education Time:**

Children through 4th grade: (Room 116)

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

Education Hour: Guest Speaker: Arlene McDaniel - The Musical History of Mardi Gras

**Ushers:** David & Kathi Cook, Ron & Barbara Dorr

**This Morning's Fellowship Team:** Thank you to Edward Ennen for preparing the coffee and washing the dishes and to Anne Uitvlugt for supplying our snacks.

**Next Week March 2, 2025 – Jazz Sunday with Celebration of the Lord's Supper**

**Scripture:** Exodus 34:29-35; Luke 9:28-36

**Education Time:** The Parish Life Committee is hosting a pancake breakfast following the worship service. Everyone is welcome.

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Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott (she/her/hers), Pastor/Head of Staff  
Rebecca Mattern (she/her/hers), Coordinator of Pastoral Care and Youth Ministry  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist  
Westin Sorrel, Chancel Choir Director  
Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director  
Edward Ennen, Sexton  
Anna Thiel, Office Manager  
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