

# The Presbyterian Church of Okemos



**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter, April 26, 2020**

## **Preparation**

God, I am sorry that I run from you, am still running from that knowledge, that all-seeing eye, that love from which there is no refuge. For You meant only love, and I felt only fear and pain. Once in Israel, Love came to us incarnate, stood in the doorway between two worlds, and we were all afraid.

--Annie Dillard, *Teaching a Stone to Talk*

## **Prelude**

I Know that My Redeemer Lives

[Michael Burkhardt]

## **Greeting**

**Prayer of Adoration** (based on Psalm 68) Let us sing to God, sing praises to God's name; let us lift up a song to the One who rides upon the clouds. Holy is the name of the LORD—let all the earth praise the great "I Am." God's presence is made known among the people as the Father of orphans, the Protector of widows, the Shelter of the desolate, Provider for the needy. Our God leads the prisoner and the exile to a place of hope. Blessed be the LORD, who daily bears us up—the God of our salvation; the One who raises the dead to life. Amen.

## **Prayer of Confession**

Friends, whenever and however we gather as a church, we gather in the name of Christ. We claim the promises of Christ: grace, and peace, and mercy, and abundant life with God. Let us confess our sin before Almighty God, and then start this day as people who are forgiven and freed to serve God and neighbor. Let us pray together:

**Holy and Loving God, You have kept us safe through the night and offer us now a fresh new day. You have blessed our lives and created a world filled with good things, yet we often know more of what has gone wrong. We see where human life is wasted and the good earth is destroyed; where suspicion, hatred, and greed have overwhelmed compassion and love. Forgive us when we are reluctant to speak and act in the name of justice and mercy. Forgive us when we pass by those in need. Forgive us when we hide or neglect our faith.**

*(silent prayers)*

Lord, in Your mercy, fill our lives with the power of Your Spirit. Renew our commitment to live in ways that declare Your steadfast love for all the world. We pray through Christ. Amen.

## **The Promise of the Gospel**

## **Children's Lesson**

**Sacred Song**

I greet Thee, who my sure Redeemer art,  
My only trust and Savior of my heart,  
Who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;  
I pray Thee from our hearts all cares to take.  
Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,  
Reigning omnipotent in every place:  
So come, O King, and our whole being sway;  
Shine on us with the light of Thy pure day.  
Our hope is in no other save in Thee;  
Our faith is built upon Thy promise free;  
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,  
That in Thy strength we evermore endure.

[Toulon]

**Scripture Lesson**

John 14:1-12

**Sermon***“The Way, the Truth, the Life”*

Rev. Dr. Rob Carlson

**Affirmation of Faith**

This is the good news which we have received,  
In which we stand, and by which we are saved,  
If we hold it fast:  
That Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,  
That he was buried,  
That he was raised on the third day,  
And that he appeared first to the women,  
Then to Peter, and to the Twelve,  
Then to many faithful witnesses,  
Then to James, and to all the Apostles.  
We believe that Jesus is the Christ,  
The Son of the living God.  
Jesus Christ is the first and the last,  
The beginning and the end;  
He is our Lord and our God. Amen.

--I Corinthians 15

**Offering****Musical Offertory** *The Call from Five Mystical Songs*

[R. Vaughan Williams]

**Prayers of the People****The Lord's Prayer***“...forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors...”***Benediction****Postlude***Toccata on “Thaxted”*

[David Lasky]