

# The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

**July 19, 2020**

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost



## Preparation

*Jesus withdrew to a deserted place to pray. –Luke 5:16*

## Prelude

*Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier*

Johann Gottfried Walther

## Greeting

### Call to Worship:

One: We gather in your presence, O God, despite the distance from one another,

All: **And we bring to you our need, and the needs of the world.**

One: We come to you, for you come to us in Jesus

All: **And You know by experience what human life is like.**

One: We come with our faith and with our doubts;

All: **We come with our hopes and with our fears.**

One: We come as we are, because you invite us to come;

All: **And you have promised never to turn us away.<sup>i</sup>**

### Prayer of Confession:

One: We gather in Christ's name.

All: **We claim the promises of Christ: grace, and peace, and mercy, and abundant life with God.**

One: So 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:

All: **Oh Holy One, we realize that just as You call us to open new doors, you also invite us to close doors. May we change the way we look at ourselves, others, life, and God, and to move on from false ways of seeing. May we close our ears to the voices telling us we are less than we are meant to be. May we close our mouths in order to keep from speaking words that do not reflect our authentic self. Let us close our inner door to ideas and attitudes, to old memories and hurts, to all that holds us back from growth. We resolve to leave behind whatever keeps us from being persons of loving kindness, to move toward what will benefit not only ourselves but all creation.**

*(Silent prayers of confession)*

One: May we open the door of our hearts to you, O God. Amen

## Promise of the Gospel

**Hymn #395**

*Blessed Jesus, at Your Word, vs.1-3*

[*Liebster Jesu*]

## Children's Lesson

Addison and Isabella Beckhorn

## Scripture Lesson

Matthew 6:6

**Sermon**

*Closing the Door*  
Rev. Alice Fleming Townley

**Special Music**

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness* Cynthia Dobrinski  
Bell Ringers: Jeff Krutz, Kathi Cook, Beth Layhe  
Helen, Taylor, Mike Moore, Linda Cravotta, Lou Cravotta  
Directed by: Irene Shutt

**The Offering**

**Prayers of the People**

Refrain: One: Lord in your mercy

**All: Hear our prayer.**

**The Lord's Prayer** "...forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors..."

**Hymn #465**

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*, vs. 1-3

[Converse]

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Trumpet Tune "Cebell"*

Henry Purcell

Liturgist: Dan Bollman

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Rev. Alice Fleming Townley, Bridge Pastor

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist

Connor Koppin, Choir Director

Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director

Sue Schnackenberg, CE Director for Youth & Children

Edward Ennen, Sexton

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