

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

July 26, 2020

8th Sunday after Pentecost



Preparation

Teacher and Healer

You brought the gift of yourself

To those who benefited from your work.

You touched them with wellsprings of love.

Remind me each day to do the same.

Consecrate all I do today

So my service to others brings a blessing. –Joyce Ruppⁱ

Prelude

How Firm a Foundation

David Schelat

Call to Worship:

One: Among the poor, among the proud,
Among the persecuted, among the privileged.
Christ is coming to make all things new.

All: **In the private house, in the public place,
In the wedding feast, in the judgement hall,
Christ is coming to make all things new.**

One: With a gentle touch, with an angry word,
With a clear conscience, with burning love,
Christ is coming to make all things new.

All: **That the kingdom might come, that the world might believe
That the powerful might stumble, that the hidden might be seen
Christ is coming to make all things new.**

One: Within us, without us,
Behind us, before us,

All: **In this place, in every place,
For this time, for all time,
Christ is coming to make all things new. Amen.ⁱⁱ**

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 desire to be channels of your love, hope, and reconciliation in the world,
but we also hesitate. Take our fears and use us, anyway. Take our failures and use us
anyway. Take our arrogance and greed and use us, anyway. Take our guilt and confusion
and regret, and use us, anyway. We offer all of ourselves to you. Use us to serve many or
few. In pain or in joy. Use us as you will.**

(Silent prayers of confession)

One: May we continue opening the doors of our hearts to you, O God. Amen.ⁱⁱⁱ

Promise of the Gospel

Hymn #401 *Here In This Place*, vs. 1-4 [Gather Us In]

Children's Lesson Alex Juarez, Andrew Mayhew, Lucas Meland, & Omar Qurashi

Scripture Lesson Colossians 3: 12-17

Sermon *Beyond the Door*
Rev. Alice Fleming Townley

Special Music *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*
Natalie Sweeney, vocalist
Connor Koppin, accompanist
Thomas Dorsey

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..."

Communion

Please have bread and juice, or some grain and liquid, prepared so that we can partake of communion together.

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer

Hymn #463 *How Firm a Foundation*, vs. 1-3, 5 [Foundation]

Benediction

Postlude *Toccata in F Major* Dietrich Buxtehude

Liturgist: Barbara Given

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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
Adam Zipple, Worship Video Consultant

ⁱ 149, *Open the Door* by Joyce Rupp copyright © 2008. Used with the permission of the publisher, Sorin Books®, an imprint of Ave Maria Press®, Inc., Notre Dame, Indiana 46556. www.avemariapress.com.

ⁱⁱ 19-20, "Liturgy for Holy Communion A," *A Wee Worship Book*, Wild Goose Worship Group, Fourth Incarnation. GIA Publications, Chicago.

ⁱⁱⁱ 148, Based on a prayer by Carol Orsborn in *Open the Door* by Joyce Rupp copyright © 2008. Used with the permission of the publisher, Sorin Books®, an imprint of Ave Maria Press®, Inc., Notre Dame, Indiana 46556. www.avemariapress.com.