

# The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

August 23, 2020

12th Sunday after Pentecost



## Preparation

“The way to save the world is not through more rules to live by, but through right relationships to live for.” Leonard Sweet

## Prelude

*Air for the G String*  
[Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D Major]

J.S. Bach

## Greeting and Announcements of the Church

### Call to Worship:

One: They went to Jesus, and he asked them, “Who do you say I am?” They answered,

All: “You are the eschatological manifestation of the ground of our being,  
the kerygma of which we find meaning in our interpersonal relationships.”

One: And Jesus said, “What?!”

Faith doesn’t have to be that hard.

Life doesn’t have to be that difficult.

All: Sometimes, we just have to live God’s love.

Sometimes, we just have to live what we believe.

And so, we are here, simply to sing, to celebrate, to worship God!

### Prayer of Confession:

One: While we may yearn to be like Jesus,

we know that in our hotheaded choices, our frantic lives, our impetuous words,  
we are too often like Peter.

But like him, we can confess Christ as our Lord,  
speaking of our need for God’s saving presence in our lives.

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: We look for you in all the wrong places, God of the lost,  
and wonder why we cannot find you.

We wander the corridors of power,  
while you are on the sidewalks, beside the homeless.

We sit at the head tables of the world,  
while you are handing out soup to the hungry at the kitchen’s backdoor.

We applaud those who win the race,  
while you are cheering on those in last place.

In forgiving us, God of new life,  
you transform our cold hearts  
into warm hearts melted in service to others.

In granting us mercy,  
you challenge us to think of all those we have ignored.  
In gifting us with grace,

you enable us to proclaim Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,  
as the hope, the joy, the peace the world seeks. Amen

*(Silent prayers of confession)*

**Promise of the Gospel**

One: It's not money, but our generosity with it;  
it is not power, but our willingness to humble ourselves;  
it is not our efforts, but Christ's gift,  
which transforms us into God's children.

**Hymn #320** *The Church of Christ in Every Age, vs. 1-3, 5* [Wareham]

**Children's Lesson** Sue Schnackenberg

**Scripture Lesson** Matthew 16: 13-20

**Sermon** "Who Do YOU Say Jesus Is?"  
Rev. Peggy Huston

**Special Music** *Allemande from Cello Suite 1* J.S. Bach  
Barbara Fretwell-Cooke, Cello

**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 #310** *I Love Thy Kingdom, vs. 1-4* [St. Thomas]

**Benediction**

**Postlude** Prelude and Fugue in C Major J.S. Bach

**Liturgist: Barbara Givens**

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*Rev. Peggy Casteel-Huston*, Interim Minister  
*Rev. Alice Fleming Townley*, Assistant Pastor  
*Dr. Marlene Brewbaker*, Organist  
*Connor Koppin*, Choir Director  
*Irene Shutt*, Handbell Choir Director  
*Sue Schnackenberg*, CE Director for Youth & Children  
*Edward Ennen*, Sexton  
*Anna Thiel*, Office Manager  
*Adam Zipple*, Video Consultant