

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

January 17, 2021

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Race Relations Sunday



Preparation There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28

Prelude

Spiritual Medley
The Earl Nelson Singers

arr: J. Hairston

Greeting and Announcements of the Church

Choral Introit

Siyahamba
[We are Marching in the Light of God]
The Earl Nelson Singers

African Freedom Song

Call to Worship:

One: Sisters and brothers, rejoice.
we live sustained by God's presence and love.
All: Thanks be to God.
One: As we mourn the wounds of God's children,
All: God weeps with us.
One: As we give thanks for brothers and sisters who have lived in faith,
All: God give thanks with us.
One: As we struggle for justice,
All: God struggles with us.
One: As we strive for peace,
All: God strives with us.
One: As we work to build the beloved community,
All: God works with us.
One: As we offer our gifts to all,
All: God blesses us.
One: Sisters and brothers, rejoice.
All: Sustained by God's presence and love we worship God.

Prayer of Confession:

One: When we come together and confess, we recognize our humanity and pray for peace over our brokenness. Together, let us pray the prayer of confession:

All: God of justice, we confess that in the pursuit of our own dreams and desires, we have not always been civil, not always humane, not always right.
Guided by your Spirit, what we would like to do is change the world – make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves

as You intended them to do.
Help us to be your witnesses, by fighting for better conditions,
by crying out unceasingly for the rights of the workers,
the poor, of the destitute – the rights of the worthy and the unworthy poor,
so that we can, with your help, change the world.
Enlarge our hearts to love each other, to love our neighbor,
and to love our enemy as our friend.
We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen
(*Silent prayers of confession*)

Promise of the Gospel

One: The love of God is always offered to us, freely, joyfully, for all eternity.
Rejoice, dear friends, this is the Good News of our Lord.
All: Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

Hymn #749 *Come! Live in the Light!*, vs. 1-3
[We Are Called]

Children's Sermon: Rev. Alice Fleming Townley

Scripture Lesson 1 Samuel 3: 1-20 and Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18

Sermon *"Speaking About the Things That Matter"*
Rev. Anthony Patrick, Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FROM THE BOOK OF ORDER F-1.0302

a. The Unity of the Church is God's gift to the Church in Jesus Christ. Just as God is one God and Jesus Christ is our one Savior, so the Church is one because it belongs to its one Lord, Jesus Christ. The Church seeks to include all people and is never content to enjoy the benefits of Christian community for itself alone. . . . To be thus joined with one another is to become priests for one another, praying for the world and for one another and sharing the various gifts God has given to each Christian for the benefit of the whole community.

Special Music *Give Me Jesus* Fernando Ortega
Wesley Reynoso, pianist

The Offering

Prayers of the People Kent Workman

Refrain: One: Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

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

Minute for Mission Information on COVID Vaccines Keith Camann

Hymn #69 *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*, vs. 1-3
[Here I Am, Lord]

Benediction

Rev. Peggy Huston

Postlude

Lift Every Voice and Sing
The Earl Nelson Singers

James Weldon Johnson
arr: Roland Carter

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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
Ben Baldwin, Video Editor