

# The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

April 11, 2021

Second Sunday of Easter



**Preparation** “Youth ministry is the church’s ministry, not just that of specialists who can “relate” to young people. The mandate to be there for young people belongs to the Christian community, not to any individual or group of individuals.”

Kenda Dean, Sustainable Youth Ministry

## Prelude

*The Strife is O’er*  
[Based on VICTORY]  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Lisa Shoemaker-Lohmeyer

## Greeting and Announcements of the Church

Rev. Peggy Huston

## Introit

*My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*  
Natalie Sweeney, soloist

## Call to Worship:

Keith Camann, Liturgist

One: As early followers of Jesus gathered for fellowship and worship,  
praying and singing and reading the scriptures,  
so we gather this morning.  
We will read in Acts that the whole group of those who believed  
were of one heart and soul.  
All: **One heart. One soul.**  
One: They shared everything—  
everything they owned, everything they had.  
All: **God’s grace was at work in them,  
powerfully at work within them all.**  
One: There was not a needy person among them.  
All: **May it be so for us as well. Amen.**

## Prayer of Confession:

Keith Camann, Liturgist

All: Creator God, we confess that at times we are skeptics.  
At times we doubt that You exist because of the evil we have seen in the world.  
Oppression, marginalization, and plain hate still plague our world,  
and it is hard to see Your love and light.  
Sometimes, even those who bear Your name do not walk in Your ways.

Help us to see Your goodness in this world.  
Help us to know Your love.  
Fill us with Your love and goodness,  
so that we might love one another,  
and lift up one another in faith. Amen.  
(*silent time of confession*)

**Promise of the Gospel**

Keith Camann, Liturgist

One: The psalmist says,  
"I am sure I shall see the goodness of our God  
in the land of the living.  
Wait for the Lord; be strong,  
and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"  
Know that you do not wait alone.  
God has given us one another for this journey of faith, to help one another.  
Know that you do not wait alone, Christ is with us.

All: **Be encouraged, then be encouraging to one another.  
Go and share the Good News. Amen.**

**Hymn #236**

*The Strife is O'er*, vs. 1-4  
[Victory]  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

**Children's Sermon**

Sue Schnackenburg

**First Scripture Lesson**

Acts 4: 32-37

Keith Camann

**Second Scripture Lesson**

Acts 9: 19b-31

Rev. Peggy Huston

**Special Song**

*Home On The Range*  
Connor Koppin, soloist

**Sermon**

"Encouragement"  
Rev. Peggy Huston

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Keith Camann, Liturgist

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

**Special Music**

"*Ubi Caritas*"  
*Ola Gjeilo*  
Maria Schoon, soloist

**Offering**

Keith Camann, Liturgist

**Prayers of the People**

Keith Camann, Liturgist

Refrain: One: Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

"...forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors..."

**Hymn #239**

*Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!*, vs. 1-4

[Gelobt Sei Gott]

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

**Benediction**

Rev. Peggy Huston

**Response**

*My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

Natalie Sweeney, soloist

**Postlude**

*Gelobt Sei Gott*

Michael Burkhardt, setting

***The Presbyterian Church of Okemos***

2258 Bennett Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864

(517) 349-9536

Website: <https://okemospres.org>

Email: [office@okemospres.org](mailto:office@okemospres.org)

<https://twitter.com/okemospres>

<https://facebook.com/OkemosPresbyterian>

=====



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