

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

May 16, 2021

Seventh Sunday of Easter – Ascension Sunday



Preparation “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13: 34-35

Prelude

Voluntary in E Minor
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

John Stanley

Greeting and Announcements of the Church

Rev. Peggy Huston

Introit

Shall We Gather at the River [#375]
Maria Schoon & Dr. Connor Koppin, soloists

Call to Worship:

Richard Norton, Liturgist

One: Ascended God,

we praise you for the mighty power of your royal reign!

All: **Glorious and Righteous King of all things:**

we come today to worship you.

One: Ascending God,

we give thanks for your continuing reign of truth and love.

All: **“Come, everyone! Clap your hands!**

Shout to God with joyful praise...!”

One: Most High God,

Creating King of all that was and is,

and all that will be:

we sing our praises and offer our thankful prayers for all God’s gifts to us.

All: **Awe-inspiring God,**

the Alpha and the Omega,

we revere your Holy Name,

and yearn for the time when God’s Kingdom of justice and peace is realized. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

Richard Norton, Liturgist

We come, O Lord, on this day of glory to confess our lack of trust.

While we sing of your lordship over all creation,

we have too often acted as though you are powerless in the face of today's events.

Help us to live with confidence in your presence today

and in hope for life with you forever. Amen.

(silent time of confession)

Promise of the Gospel

Richard Norton, Liturgist

One: We have an advocate with the Father,

Jesus Christ the righteous:
who is the atoning sacrifice for our sins,
and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen

Hymn #733

We All Are One in Mission, vs. 1-3
[Es Flog Ein Kleins Waldvögelein]

Children's Sermon

Rev. Peggy Huston

Special Music

"Grazioso"
Handbell Choir
Irene Shutt, directing
Dave & Kathi Cook, Linda & Lou Cravotta, Barbara Fretwell-Cooke,
Beth Layhe, Sarah Mayhew, Mike Moore, Carolyn Sherrill
Helen Taylor, Ewen Todd
Arnold Sherman

Scripture Lesson

John 17: 6-19

Rev. Peggy Huston

Sermon

"The 'U' in Unity"
Rev. Peggy Huston

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Richard Norton, Liturgist

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.

We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.
Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.

Excerpt from The Brief Statement of Faith

Special Music

Come Unto Him from *Messiah*
Maria Schoon, soloist

G.F. Handel

Offering

Richard Norton, Liturgist

Prayers of the People

Richard Norton, Liturgist

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

Loaves and Fishes

Barbara Dorr

Hymn #300

We Are One in the Spirit, vs. 1-4

Benediction

Rev. Peggy Huston

Response

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun
Maria Schoon, soloist

Postlude

Processional in G Major
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist

John Stanley

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- Rev. Peggy Casteel-Huston, Interim Minister
- Rev. Alice Fleming Townley, Assistant Pastor
- Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist
- Dr. 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
- Yusuf Sultani, Technology Coordinator