

# The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

May 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter – Mother’s Day



**Preparation** ‘Christians seem to have forgotten what Christian theology has always claimed – that no language about God can adequately describe God’s being.’ Sallie McFague

## Prelude

*Partita on “Dix”*

Dennis Janzer

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist

## Greeting and Announcements of the Church

Rev. Peggy Huston

## Introit

*Mothing God, You Gave Me Birth*

Dr. Connor Koppin, Soloist

## Call to Worship:

Tom Schaberg, Liturgist

One: Come, God gathers us for worship,  
like a mother hen gathers her brood under her wings.

All: **Our God, loving, nurturing.**

One: In love, God saves and supports us,  
teaching us the way we should go.

All: **Trusting in God, we continually offer our praise!**

## Prayer of Confession:

Tom Schaberg, Liturgist

One: O Divine One,  
Your life pulses in each of our hearts,  
and your love permeates each of our lives.

All: **We, your daughters and sons, praise you.**

One: Your care sustains us in each moment,  
and your compassion guides us in each situation.

All: **We, your daughters and sons, praise you.**

One: When we fall, you lift us,  
when we fail you restore us,  
When we are wounded, you nurse us,  
when we grieve, you weep with us.

All: **We, your daughters and sons, praise you.**

One: But, we have failed to love as you do,

All: **we have abused our bodies and those of others,  
we have filled our minds with selfish dreams,  
and violent plans,  
we have made our hearts cold and empty of compassion,  
we have forgotten our spirits,  
and distorted your image within us.**

One: As a mother teaches her children,  
we ask you to teach us;  
As a mother forgives the sons and daughters who hurt her,  
we ask you to forgive us;  
As a mother calls her children to be reconciled with their siblings,  
we ask you to lead us to reconciliation with one another.  
In Christ's Name.

**All: Amen.**

*(silent time of confession)*

### **Promise of the Gospel**

Tom Schaberg, Liturgist

**One:** We trust in Your power to transform our lives.  
Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, Lord Jesus,  
So that our lives may bring joy to Your world  
And praise to Your Name.

### **Hymn #14**

*For the Beauty of the Earth, vs. 1-4*

[Dix]

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist

### **Children's Sermon**

Peggy Huston

### **Scripture Lesson**

Proverbs 8: 22-36

Rev. Peggy Huston

### **Sermon**

“Scripture from the Feminist Perspective”

Rev. Peggy Huston

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Tom Schaberg, 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**

O God of Mercy  
Dr. Connor Koppin, Soloist

Simon Lole

**Offering**

Peggy Huston

**Prayers of the People**

Tom Schaberg, 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**

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

Kent Workman

**Hymn**

Faith of Our Mothers, vs. 1-4  
[St. Catherine]  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist

**Benediction**

Rev. Peggy Huston

**Response**

O Beauty Ever Ancient  
Dr. Connor Koppin, Soloist

**Postlude**

Trumpet Voluntary  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist

Jeremiah Clarke

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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  
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