

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**  
**June 13, 2021**  
**Third Sunday after Pentecost/Church Picnic**



If you are attending the service in-person,

- Please seat yourself, remaining as socially distanced as possible from your fellow parishioners.
- Children under 12 must remain with parents or guardians.
- If you are using the hearing loop system, please alert staff at the audio/visual table in the back of the sanctuary if levels need adjusting.

**Preparation** “As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it”. Isaiah 55: 10-11

**Prelude** *Sing to His Name* Gilbert Martin  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

**Greetings and Announcements of the Church** Rev. Peggy Huston

**Celebrating our time with Connor** Kathy Richardson

**Call to Worship** Richard Norton, Liturgist

One: Come, let us sing to Yahweh;  
**All: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.**  
One: Let us come into the Divine presence with thanksgiving;  
**All: Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!**  
One: It is good to give you thanks, O Yahweh;  
**All: To sing praises to your name, O Most High;**  
One: to declare your steadfast love in the morning,  
**All: and your faithfulness by night,**  
One: to the music of the lute and harp,  
**All: to the melody of the lyre.**  
One: For you, O God, have made us glad by your work;  
**All: At the works of your hands we sing for joy.**

**Prayer of Confession** Richard Norton, Liturgist

One: Lord Jesus Christ,  
we remember with gratitude those people  
who generously sowed the seeds of faith in our lives.

*(Pause for a time of reflection)*

One: Above all, we recognize how you have blessed our lives  
with the gift of the Holy Spirit  
so that our faith has miraculously and mysteriously grown.

**All: We confess the times we fail to involve ourselves  
in planting any seeds of faith in the lives of others;  
the times when our personal agendas become more important than yours;  
the times when we have denied others the opportunity to expand their faith  
through our lack of interest or involvement;  
the times when our lives become so entangled with the values of the world  
that we forget what you have said and done and promised.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, we know that when we become disconnected from you,  
our lives become parched and unfruitful, and our faith becomes stunted and dry.  
Bless and renew our lives, we pray,  
so that we remain connected to you at all times and in all places,  
strengthening our faith to expand and, growing strongly and vigorously,  
to bear the fruit of your mercy, your love, your undying life. Amen.**

### **Promise of the Gospel**

Richard Norton, Liturgist

One: In Christ Jesus we are a radically renewed community.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

One: Old things are done away with, all things become new.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

One: We are agents of grace and reconciliation.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

One: With every step or stumble, Christ will be with us.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### **Hymn #645**

*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above, vs.1, 3, 4*

[Mit Freuden Zart]

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

### **Children's Sermon**

Telling Stories

Rev. Peggy Huston

### **First Scripture Lesson**

Isaiah 55: 10-11

Richard Norton, Liturgist

### **Second Scripture Lesson**

Mark 4: 26-34

Rev. Peggy Huston

### **Sermon**

"The Power of Storytelling"

Rev. Peggy Huston

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Richard Norton, Liturgist

**Do we believe?**

**Yes, in spite of ourselves, we do believe!**

While some follow fad and fashion,  
changing with the seasons in Paris, London and New York,  
we follow the man from Nazareth.

While some put their hope in a big lotto win,  
or chase profits at no matter what cost to family,  
we put our hope in loving one another as our Christ has loved us.

While some may give in to a sophisticated cynicism,  
or some fall into apathy or despair,  
we put out faith in the God who has given us his only true son.

While some may boast of their superior education,  
culture, race, or living standard,  
we boast in the self-giving of that Son on a Cross.

While some try to justify themselves by prizing fame or power,  
or by claiming superior morals,  
we allow the grace of our Lord to Jesus to be our best prize.

Because of Jesus,  
yes, we believe in the living God  
by whose Holy Spirit all things are open to change and renewal.  
And that includes us and the church,  
thanks be to God!

*Almost a Creed, Inspired by Psalm 20 by Rev. Bruce Prewer*

**Special Music**

*Prayer*  
*Poetry*  
Dr. Connor Koppin, pianist

Morten Lauridsen  
Dana Gioia

**Minute for Mission**

Update on Children/Youth Ministry

Dave Cook

**Minute for Mission**

World Refugee Day

Judi Harris

**Offering**

Richard Norton, Liturgist

**Prayers of the People**

Richard Norton, Liturgist

Refrain: One

All:

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

**Hymn #462**

*I Love to Tell the Story*, vs. 1-3  
[Hankey]  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

**Benediction**

Rev. Peggy Huston

**Postlude**

*Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker

Emma Lou Diemer

*You are in an active recording environment, and your likeness may be captured in photographs and videos. By entering, you acknowledge giving consent to The Presbyterian Church of Okemos to take, own and use images containing your likeness at its sole discretion in perpetuity. If you do not wish to convey this consent, please contact a staff member immediately.*

**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

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist

Dr. Connor Koppin, Choir Director

Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director

Edward Ennen, Sexton

Anna Thiel, Office Manager

Yusuf Sultani, Technology Coordinator