

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
July 4, 2021
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost/Independence Day



If you are attending the service in-person,

- Please seat yourself in every other row social distancing from your fellow parishioners.
- Children under 12 must remain with parents or guardians with masks on.
- 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 “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord” Psalm 33:12

Prelude *God of Our Fathers* Emma Lou Diemer
[National Hymn]
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Greetings and Announcements of the Church Rev. Peggy Huston

Call to Worship Ewen Todd, Liturgist

One: The prophets of old spoke of God’s justice,
even when it was unwelcome.
Who will hear their message?

All: We will listen and we will hear!

One: Responding to God’s call, Jesus traveled,
preaching and teaching all who would listen.
Who will hear his message?

All: We will listen and we will hear!

One: Christ sent out disciples two by two,
to spread the good news in any place
that would welcome them.
Who will hear their message?

All: We will listen and we will hear!

One: God’s prophets are among us still,
around the world and in these pews.
Who will hear their message?

All: We will listen and we will hear!

Prayer of Confession Ewen Todd, Liturgist

Merciful God, forgive us when we are paralyzed by confusion and doubt.
Strengthen our faith, that we may not only believe, but may be filled with the power to help and heal.
When others reject or refuse our ministry, help us to be forgiving and grace-filled.

Grant us the courage to accept those things that cannot be changed,
that we may be freed from anger and resentment.
Forgive us when our disappointment clouds our wisdom and confuses our actions.
Guide us on this path of ministry, that we may be filled with the joy of our ministry. Amen.
(time for silent confession)

Promise of the Gospel

Ewen Todd, Liturgist

One: God's grace is sufficient for all our needs.
God's power is made perfect in our weakness,
as Christ redeems our lives
and reconciles us fully and completely to God.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen

Hymn #341

O God, Show Mercy To Us
David & Kathi Cook, vocals
Irene Shutt, piano

Children's Sermon

Rev. Peggy Huston

Scripture Lesson

Deuteronomy 28: 1-11

Rev. Peggy Huston

Sermon

"Christianity versus Patriotism"

Rev. Peggy Huston

Affirmation of Faith

Ewen Todd, Liturgist

God's reconciliation in Jesus Christ is the ground of the peace, justice, and freedom among nations which all powers of government are called to serve and defend. The church, in its own life, is called to practice the forgiveness of enemies and to commend to the nations as practical politics the search for cooperation and peace. This search requires that the nations pursue fresh and responsible relations across every line of conflict, even at risk to national security, to reduce areas of strife and to broaden international understanding. Reconciliation among nations becomes peculiarly urgent as countries develop nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, diverting their manpower and resources from constructive uses and risking the annihilation of (humanity). Although nations may serve God's purposes in history, the church which identifies the sovereignty of any one nation or any one way of life with the cause of God denies the Lordship of Christ and betrays its calling.

The Confession of 1967 9.45

Special Music

Peace in the Valley
David & Kathi Cook, vocals
Irene Shutt, piano

comp: Thomas Dorsey
arr: Larry Shackley

Offering

Ewen Todd, Liturgist

Prayers of the People

Ewen Todd, Liturgist

Refrain: One

All:

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

Hymn #340

This Is My Song

David & Kathi Cook, vocals

Irene Shutt, piano

Benediction

Rev. Peggy Huston

Postlude

Rejoicing

G.F. Handel

[Music for the Royal Fireworks]

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker

Ushers: *Gary and Trudy Sturk*

Altar Plants: *From Ewen and Zora Todd in honor of their 54th wedding anniversary on Monday, July 5.*

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Rev. Peggy Casteel-Huston, Interim Minister

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist

Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director

Edward Ennen, Sexton

Anna Thiel, Office Manager

Yusuf Sultani, Technology Coordinator