

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**  
**August 15, 2021**  
**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**



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.

**Prelude**

*Cantilena*

Josef Rheinberger

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

**Greetings and Announcements of the Church**

Richard Norton, Liturgist

**Call to Worship**

Richard Norton, Liturgist

One: I waited patiently upon the Lord, who stooped to me and heard my cry.

All: **The Lord lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay,  
And set my feet upon a high cliff making my footing sure.**

One: The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;  
Many shall see, and stand in awe, and they shall trust the Lord.

All: **Happy are they who put their trust in the Lord?  
They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.**

One: Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God!  
In your plans for us, none can be compared with you.

All: **And so I said, "Here I am; I come."**

**Prayer of Confession**

Richard Norton, Liturgist

**Lord God of the Ages, call our church universal into repentance. Amid the swelling tide of relief needed through the world, our silence is deafening to your still small voice, which attempts to speak through us as a vessel of human transformation. We fail to address the dominance, power, control, and structural flaws that lead to racial alienation, gender discrimination, and economic deprivation. Lord, have mercy on us and restore us as your hope for our world. Help us possess a soul of righteousness within us, so that justice may be proclaimed throughout the earth. To this end, may your continued faithfulness heal the wounded and restore the misunderstood. In your mercy, help us to be doers of your word!**

*By J. Herbert Nelson II*

**Assurance of Pardon**

Richard Norton, Liturgist

God hears our cries and forgives all who are penitent and believing.

God provides the resources for our rescue and redemption.

Whoever trusts God will not be disappointed.

Whoever reaches out to others in the Spirit of Christ will know the joy of God's love.

You are forgiven. You are accepted. You are loved. Share these gifts.

*from Flames of the Spirit, ed. by Ruth Duck*

**Hymn # 401***Gather Us In*, vs. 1 -4

Colleen Chester, vocalist

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

**Children's Sermon**

Ewen &amp; Zora Todd

**Prayer of Illumination**

Rev. John Best

O God Almighty, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Grant us, we pray to be grounded and settled in your truth by the coming down of the Holy Spirit into our hearts. That which we know not reveal; that which is wanting in us, fill up; that which we know, confirm; and keep us blameless in your service; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

*Clement of Rome (First Century)*

**Scripture Lesson**

Mark 5: 1 - 20

Rev. John Best

**Sermon**

Jesus Talks to the Demons

Rev. John Best

**Affirmation of Faith**

Richard Norton, Liturgist

**The Spirit brings God's forgiveness to humanity, moves them to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ. The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace. The new life does not release a person from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, fear. We still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties, and problems. Nevertheless, as we mature in love and faithfulness in our lives in Christ, we live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.**

*The New Life in Christ, from the Confession of 1967, Book of Confessions, 9:22 - 23*

**Minute for Mission**

Adult Education

Michelle Nessa

**Special Music**

*Blessed Assurance*

Cynthai Dobrinski

PCO Handbell Choir director by Irene Shutt

Bell Ringers: David Cook, Linda & Lou Cravotta, Barb Fretwell-Cooke

Betty Grzesiak, Beth Layhe, Sarah Mayhew, Mike Moore,

Carolyn Sherrill, Helen Taylor, Ewen Todd

**Offering**

Richard Norton, Liturgist

**Prayers of the People**

Richard Norton, Liturgist

**Refrain: One: Let us pray to the Lord**

All: Hear our prayer

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

**Hymn #301**

*Let Us Build a House*, vs. 1, 2, 4, 5

Colleen Chester, Vocalist

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

**Benediction**

Rev. John Best

**Postlude**

*Processional in D*

David Johnson

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker

Ushers: *Gary & Trudy Sturk*

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*Rev. Peggy Casteel-Huston*, Interim Minister  
*Dr. Marlene Brewbaker*, Organist  
*Irene Shutt*, Handbell Choir Director  
*Colleen Chester*, Choir Director  
*Edward Ennen*, Sexton  
*Anna Thiel*, Office Manager  
*Yusuf Sultani*, Technology Coordinator