

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
September 19, 2021
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost/Rally 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 “*The Peace & Global Witness Offering draws Presbyterians together and provides education and exposure to those who show us how to do peacemaking well. It allows us to create resources for dealing with conflict and provide nurturing reconciliation, and stand in support of our global sisters and brothers, because the peace of Christ belongs to people everywhere.*”

Statement from the PCUSA Peace and Global Witness Leader Guide

Prelude *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me* African-American Spiritual
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist arr: Lynn Petersen

Greetings and Announcements of the Church Rev. Peggy Huston

Call to Worship Debra Major, Liturgist

One: Who among you is seeking the wisdom of God?

All: We long to hear God’s Word spoken to our hearts.

One: Who among you is seeking God’s bright and holy truth?

All: We long to learn the ways of wisdom and righteousness.

One: Who among you is seeking a Spirit-filled life?

All: We long to live lives of holiness and light.

One: God grants God’s wisdom generously to all who ask.

Come near, people of God! Let us worship in wisdom and truth.

Prayer of Confession Debra Major, Liturgist:

One: Lord Jesus Christ, there are times when we all feel tired—
tired of the powerplays which are so much a part of life these days.

We know that in your eyes it is not social status, or wealth or reputation that count,
and we confess how easily our lives can become enmeshed in these values.

You risked personal comfort and security
when you reached out to those on the edge of your society,
lepers and sinners—people whom those in your day considered unclean.

**All: We need at times to be reminded to identify with those
whom our society oftentimes ignores.**

One: You showed us that the journey of discipleship
is a journey into servanthood and powerlessness.

All: We need at times to be reminded not to pursue power

or to favor competition over compassion.

One: You, Lord, saw the good in everyone
and showed us exactly what it means to be the servant of all,

**All: Imprint these words on our hearts
and put your living Spirit within us, we pray,
so that we serve others and you
with wisdom, understanding, love and compassion. Amen.**
(silent prayers of confession)

Promise of the Gospel

One: *“The wisdom from above is first pure,
then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield,
full of mercy and good fruits,
without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy”* (James 3:17).

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are given a new way to live.
Let us accept God’s grace,
and live new lives of faith, obedience, and joy.**

Hymn #417

Lord Jesus, Think on Me, vs. 1-4
PCO Choir
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Children’s Sermon

Rev. Peggy Huston

First Scripture Lesson

I Kings 11: 1-6

Debra Major, Liturgist

Second Scripture Readings

James 3:13 – 4:8

Sermon

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

Rev. Peggy Huston

Affirmation of Faith

Debra Major, Liturgist

One: We believe

• that Christ’s work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another

**All • that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ;
that through the working of God’s Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality
which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must
continually be built up to attain;**

One: • that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted;

All: • that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways; in that we love one another; in that we experience, practice and pursue community

with one another; and in that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another. Amen

The Confession of Belhar 10.3

Minute for Mission Doemel Bequest Doug Paterson

Special Music *There is a Balm in Gilead* African-American Spiritual
PCO Choir arr: Robert Lau
Dr. Malene Brewbaker

Offering Debra Major, Liturgist

Offertory Music *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus* Helen H. Lemmel
Troy Forbush, soloist
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Prayers of the People Debra Major, Liturgist

Refrain: One: Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

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

Hymn #494 Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts, vs. 1, 2, 4, 5
PCO Choir
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Benediction Rev. Peggy Huston

Postlude *Sing to His Name!* Gilbert F. Martin
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Ushers: *Ron & Barbara Dorr, Morrie & Barbara Hoevel*

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Edward Ennen, Sexton

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