

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**  
**October 3, 2021**  
**World Communion Sunday**



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 Sacred Story is all about crossings from where we've been and are to God's intended blessing. These stories are sometimes unexpected, fantastical and miraculous, typically hair raising scary, but always require our trust in God's steadfast love*

**Prelude** *O Bread of Life from Heaven* Jan Bender  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

**Greetings and Announcements of the Church** Steve Mayhew, Liturgist

**Invocation** Steve Mayhew, Liturgist

One: As prophets catch fire, as disciples get scared, as apostles then walk in the Spirit, O Holy One, Holy Three, come to us and transform our fear and uncertainties into boldness to live now and forever in your kingdom.

**All: Amen.**

**Call to Worship** Steve Mayhew, Liturgist

One: In the day of trouble God's people seek the Lord;

**All: In the night of our fears our hands stretch out to be comforted.**

One: The God we gather to worship works wonders;

**All: We will call to mind the deeds of the Lord and remember God's wonders of old.**

One: God's way is holy, God way was through the sea.

**All: The path to freedom and wholeness was through the mighty waters.**

One: Let us worship God who leads us to life.

*adapted from Psalm 77:2, 11, 14, 19*

**Prayer of Confession** Steve Mayhew, Liturgist

One: Clothed with the mantle of baptism and protected by God's promise of forgiveness,  
Let us confess our sins to God and to one another.

**All: O God, we're a little unsure of what you want us to do. You told Abraham and Sarah they would be parents of a great nation when they didn't have any children. You called Moses to lead your people, but you didn't give him a map. You anointed David to be king over Israel while Saul was still sitting on the throne. We'd like more clarity than that. If you're calling us to something new, we'd like to**

**know your plans ahead of time. We're not very good at heading out into uncharted wilderness without a map. Frankly, we're afraid of being in the wilderness. We're afraid of what we might find there; of whom we might meet; of what might have to change in us. Be with us in our uncertainty and fear.**  
*(Silent prayers of confession)*

### **Promise of the Gospel**

Steve Mayhew, Liturgist

One: Hear and take heart in the promises of God:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you. When you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.  
*(Isaiah 43:12, 19-21)*

### **Hymn #30**

O God, in a Mysterious Way, vs. 1-4  
[Dundee]  
PCO Chancel Choir  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

### **Children's Sermon**

Ewen & Zora Todd

### **Minute for Mission**

CROP Walk

Alex Juarez, PCO Youth Group

### **Prayer of Illumination**

Rev. John Best

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. **Amen.**

### **First Scripture Reading**

2 Kings 2: 1-14

Steve Mayhew, Liturgist

### **Second Scripture Readings**

Mark 4:35-41

Rev. John Best

### **Sermon**

"Crossings"

Rev. John Best

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Steve Mayhew, Liturgist

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the**

right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

*The Apostle's Creed*

**Special Music**

*All Are Welcome*  
PCO Chancel Choir  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Marty Haugen

**Offering**

Steve Mayhew, Liturgist

**Offertory Music**

*Break Thou the Bread of Life*  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

William Sherwin

**Holy Communion**

Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts,

**All: We lift them up to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to God.

**All: It is right to give both thanks and praise.**

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion

Prayer

**Hymn #317**

*In Christ There Is No East or West*, vs. 1-4

[McKee]

PCO Chancel Choir

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

**Benediction**

Rev. John Best

**Postlude**

Fughetta on *I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table*

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Thomas Canning

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