

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
February 13, 2022
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany



COVID-19 Safety Recommendations

- *Wear a mask at all times while in the sanctuary, fellowship hall, or classrooms.*
- *Seat yourself while being aware to keep 6 feet of distance from the neighbors in your pew.*
- *While seating is now allowed in every row, please stagger your seats so that you are not sitting directly behind or directly in front of anyone in the pews around you.*
- *Remember that young children are not vaccinated.*

Preparation: *"The spiritual, then, is the spirit of the people struggling to be free; it is their religion, their source of strength in a time of trouble. And if one does not know what trouble is, then the spiritual cannot be understood."*— Theologian James Cone

Prelude

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

African-American Spiritual
arr: Lynn L. Petersen

Greetings and Announcements of the Church

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Call to Worship

Christine Beamer, Liturgist

One: O give thanks to the Lord! The Lord hears the cries of the people.

All: Give thanks to the Lord.

One: The works of the Lord are great. Remember what God has done.

All: Give thanks to the Lord.

One: God has done miracles, and the Lord always remembers God's covenant.

All: Give thanks to the Lord. Glory and praise is due to the Lord!

Prayer of Confession

Christine Beamer, Liturgist

One: Because we do not always live our lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, we confess before God and one another our sins and shortcomings. Let us trust the love of God that we might receive grace and find true freedom.

All: Gracious God, too often we have sought after things, but have not sought after you. We expect generosity, but we can fail to show generosity. We are not always gracious or grateful, failing to remember all that you have done. Forgive us and fill our hearts with gratitude, for you are our strength and shield, the one who delivers us from all that binds us. Help us to trust in your gift of forgiveness, which is freedom and life in Christ. Amen.

Promise of the Gospel

Christine Beamer, Liturgist

One: Friends, hear the good news of the gospel: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ. And Christ died for us; Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us.

All: **Let us believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Alleluia. Amen.**

* **Act of Praise #581**

Gloria Patri

* **Hymn #65**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah, vs. 1-3
[Cwm Rhondda]

Children's Sermon

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Awaken our hearts and minds to your Word, O God. Give us understanding so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we are able to do all that you command for love's sake. Gathered in Christ's name around the Word, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Exodus 14:10-23, 30-31

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

Living Stories: Drawn to Freedom
Pastor Lisa Schrott

Anthem

Standin' in the Need of Prayer
PCO Handbell Choir – Monday Mallets
Irene Shutt, director

arr: Valerie Stephenson

Minute for Mission

Souper Bowl of Caring

Lucas Meland & Alex Juarez

Offering

Mary Schuring, Liturgist

Invitation

* **Offertory**

Praeludium in G minor

Johann Krieger

* **Doxology #606**

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Mary Schuring, Liturgist

One: Lord in your mercy

All: **Hear our prayer**

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

* **Hymn #693**

Though I May Speak, vs. 1-3
[The Gift of Love]

Benediction

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

Oh, Freedom
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker

African-American Spiritual
arr: Adolphus Hailstork

* *Please rise in body or spirit*

Ushers: *Gary & Trudy Sturk, Jeff & Michele Arbour*

The Call to Worship and the Prayer of Confession are adapted from *Feasting on the Word. Worship Companion Year A*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2014.

Adult Education Following Worship: Jill Schaberg is scheduled to facilitate discussion after a pre-recorded Ted Talk “Changing Mission for Good” by Shawn Duncan.

Next Week - A Town Hall on the Solar Panel Project is scheduled in the Sanctuary and on Zoom. Zoom #434 304 558

Music Notes

James Cone, African American theologian and prolific author, writes of the nature of spirituals: “The spirituals are historical songs which speak about the rupture of black lives; they tell us about a people in the land of bondage, and what they did to hold themselves together and to fight back. We are told that the people of Israel could not sing the Lord’s song in a strange land. But, for blacks, their being depended upon a song. Through songs they built new structures for existence in an alien land. The spirituals enabled blacks to retain a measure of African identity while living in the midst of American slavery, providing both the substance and the rhythm to cope with human servitude...The spiritual, then, is the spirit of the people struggling to be free; it is their religion, their source of strength in a time of trouble. And if one does not know what trouble is, then the spiritual cannot be understood.”

The prelude for this morning is an arrangement of the spiritual “I Want Jesus to Walk With Me” (Hymnal #775). Frequently sung during Lent and for services of contemplation and healing, it is a statement of assurance that Jesus walks with us through the trials of life’s journey.

The postlude is a spirited arrangement based on “Oh Freedom”. Like many spirituals, it has more than one meaning referring to the freedom in the world to come, but also the new freedom after slavery. In the 1950’s and 1960’s the song became associated with the Civil Right’s Movement.

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