The Presbyterian Church of Okemos February 27, 2022 Eighth 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: "What we play is life."— Louis Armstrong

from Louis Armstrong, in His Own Words: Selected Writings

Prelude: Oh, But on the Third Day Wynton Marsalis

[Happy Feet Blues]

The Arlene McDaniel Septet

Arlene McDaniel Piano, Bandleader & Arranger

Benjamin HallVocalsRemus C. WebbTrumpetJon GewirtzSaxophoneRob KillipsTrombone

Ed Fedewa Bass **Larry Ochiltree** Drums

Greetings and Announcements of the Church

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Call to Worship (Adapted from Psalm 150) Kent Workman, Liturgist

One: People of God, listen: the Lord has done marvelous things.

All: Give praise for God's mighty deeds!One: Praise God with tambourines and dancing!All: Praise God with a fanfare of trumpets!

One: Praise God with cymbals and drums!

All: Let everything with life and breath praise God!

(Jazz interlude between vs. 2 & 3)

Prayer of Confession

Kent Workman, Liturgist

One: Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus and his righteousness. Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin that we might find forgiveness and new life in Christ.

All: Holy and gracious God, you are all light and wonder and glory. You are our strength and our delight; you give us all we need to live. Yet we can get distracted by all that glitters, continually grasping for more. Rather than trust in your provision, we chase after our own happiness.

(Silent prayers)

All: Forgive us, Lord, and turn us back to you. Overwhelm us with your goodness and cover us with grace, for we know that you are the source of life, the fount of all that is good. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen

Promise of the Gospel

Kent Workman, 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.

Jazz Response: Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen African-American Spiritual
The Arlene McDaniel Septet

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Gracious God, send your Spirit to move in our world. Stir the water of our souls. May your Word instruct us such that it awakens us to the joy of your coming reign. Amen.

Scripture Reading Matthew 25:1-13 Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon Living Stories: Keep Your Lamps Trimmed Pastor Lisa Schrott

AnthemWhat a Wonderful WorldBob ThieleThe Arlene McDaniel SeptetGeorge David Weiss

Offering Kent Workman, Liturgist

Invitation

Offertory West End Blues Joe "King" Oliver

* Prayer of Dedication

Holy Communion

Invitation Pastor Lisa Schrott

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 Precious Lord, Take My Hand Thomas A. Dorsey
George N. Allen

Prayer

* **Hymn** #350 Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning, vs. 1-4

(Jazz interlude between vs. 3 & 4) [Keep Your Lamps]

Benediction Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude When the Saints Go Marching In American Gospel Hymn

The Arlene McDaniel Septet

Ushers: Juarez Family, Deb Major, Lynn Cone

Flowers: Today's flowers are given in loving memory of Chris Doemel, a lover of jazz and a supporter of the PCO music ministry.

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

Please enjoy a time of fellowship following today's service, or on Zoom 434 304 558.

Next Week: Join us for a second Town Hall in the Sanctuary and online about the Solar Panel Project.

^{*} Please rise in body or spirit.

JAZZ NOTES

This Sunday marks the return of Jazz Sunday, LIVE and in person. PCO welcomes back Arlene McDaniel, resident jazz pianist, bandleader, and arranger along with a group of outstanding jazz musicians. The band will feature the unique sounds of New Orleans, the birthplace of jazz, and will highlight the music of the great trumpeter, bandleader, and vocalist Louis Armstrong.

Louis Armstrong (1901-1971) was one of the most influential jazz musicians of the twentieth century. Born into poverty in New Orleans, Armstrong began playing music at age twelve at Waif's Home for Boys. He later took cornet lessons from Joe "King" Oliver and played in his Creole Band. However, the early New Orleans ensemble style allowed few solo opportunities. As his own bandleader, Armstrong was to emerge as the first great jazz soloist. He became a world acclaimed jazz ambassador known for both singing and playing horn, and his works crossed into popular genres while bridging racial divides.

The prelude for this morning's service is from "The Majesty of the Blues", an album by the legendary New Orleans trumpeter Wynton Marsalis. The set entitled "New Orleans Function" features musicians in a style influenced by the traditional New Orleans brass band. The music reflects a jazz funeral with a dirge-like movement ("The Death of Jazz"), followed by a spoken word sermon preached at the graveyard, and concluding with the resurrection of jazz ("Oh, But on the Third Day-Happy Feet Blues"). "Happy Feet Blues" mirrors the New Orleans second line parades often associated with weddings and funerals. The first line includes the brass band along with family members, while the second line refers to the mourners or revelers and those who just join in the parade. Traditionally the participants wave handkerchiefs or twirl a parasol.

The jazz anthem "What a Wonderful World" was recorded by Louis Armstrong in 1968 and became his bestselling recording. In his book "What a Wonderful World: A Lifetime of Recordings" the composer Bob Thiel wrote that this song was intended as a reassuring antidote to the mounting problems facing America in the late 60's; a time defined by what he described as the deepening national traumas of the Kennedy assassination, Vietnam, racial strife, and turmoil everywhere. This is in sharp contrast to the Pollyanna viewpoint attributed to the song over the years.

Decades after its original release, "What a Wonderful World" continues to inspire. For Armstrong in his twilight years, it told a story of possibility.

"It seems to me, it ain't the world that's so bad, but what we're doing to it", he said on the introduction to his 1970 version of the song. "All I'm saying is, see what a wonderful world it would be, if only we'd give it a chance."

The offertory "West End Blues" was recorded on June 28, 1928. That day in June has been described by many jazz historians as the day that changed jazz forever. Named for the lively summer resort on the western point of Lake Pontchartrain, "West End Blues" was written and originally recorded by Armstrong's mentor Joe "King" Oliver. What made Armstrong's recording so remarkable was the virtuoso solo trumpet cadenza which changed the history of music and established jazz as a soloist's art form.

The postlude "When the Saints Go Marching In" was recorded by Louis Armstrong in 1938 and remains jazz band's most requested tune. It is particularly associated with the city of New Orleans and often accompanied funeral parades. As the coffin moved to the cemetery, the music was in the style of a dirge. Following the burial, the style abruptly switched to an upbeat rendition reflecting the transcendence from death to life everlasting.

Marlene

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