

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
August 21, 2022
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost



COVID-19 Safety Recommendations

- *Wear a mask while singing in the sanctuary, and when interacting with young children.*
- *Remember that young children are not vaccinated.*

Preparation: “The Kingdom of God is where our best dreams come from and our truest prayers. We glimpse it at those moments when we find ourselves being better than we are and wiser than we know. We catch sight of it when at some moment of crisis a strength seems to come to us that is greater than our own strength. The Kingdom of God is where we belong. It is home, and whether we realize it or not, I think we are all of us homesick for it.” -- Presbyterian writer and author Frederick Buechner

Prelude

Voluntary in E Minor
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

John Stanley

Invitation to our Shared Ministry

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Call to Worship

Richard Norton, Liturgist

One: When we feel trampled by the stresses of everyday living, we gather as your people.

All: Encourage us to focus our minds on you.

One: When we are withered and depleted, we gather as your people.

All: Empower us to open our hearts to you.

One: When fears and anxieties choke our joy and diminish our growth, we gather as your people.

All: Embolden us to let our souls rest in your love.

One: When we are growing in faith and full of energy for living, we gather as your people.

All: Enable us to share the good soil of your love and grace and love.

* **Hymn #401**

Here in This Place, vs. 1-4
[Gather Us In]

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

One: In our Scripture for today, we will hear that God cannot sow seeds of justice and love in hearts that are dry and rocky. Too often, we do not tend to the garden of our own hearts, and instead are quick to criticize the gardens of others around us. We confess that our hearts need tilling, to dig out the deep roots of shame, hurt, and sin so that we can make

soil that is rich with divine compassion. With confidence in God's grace, let us confess our sins together.

All: God of steadfast love, we confess that we stumble as we seek to glorify your creation. We have not done what is right or spoken truth from the heart with love. We do not heed your word when we speak harshly about ourselves and others, and when we close our hearts off from the transformative power of your love and mercy with division and greed. Open our hearts to be transformed by your grace and compassion. Forgive us by your mercy and love, so that we might cultivate lives of integrity, love, and peace, tending to the soil of all creation. Amen.

Promise of the Gospel

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

One: Hear the good news: God is a gracious and loving gardener. God tends to all of us with unconditional love and abundant forgiveness. Through God's grace, this unconditional love and forgiveness is planted in us and all of us as a family of faith are a new creation! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

*** Act of Praise #581**

Gloria Patri

Children's Sermon

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Lisa Schrott

God of life, by the power of your Spirit come to us now. Plow our hearts with your living Word; cultivate in us a desire to deepen our love for you, to strengthen our faith. For we long to bear fruit in a world that is hurting and broken. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Luke 8:4-15

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

The Sacred in the Ordinary: Seeds and Soil

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Minute for Mission

Fellowship Hall Shopping Cart

Kent Workman

Offering

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Invitation

Offertory

Flute Solo and Gigue

George Frederic Handel

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People

Richard Norton, Liturgist

One: Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

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

* **Hymn #171**

A Sower Came From Ancient Hills, vs. 1-4

[Seachrist]

Benediction

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

Trumpet Voluntary

John Stanley

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

* *Please rise in body or spirit*

Adult Ed: *No Adult Ed scheduled this week. Enjoy a time of fellowship after the service.*

Next Week's Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

Next Week's Adult Ed: Pastor Lisa will do a sermon talk back on the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

The Prayer of Confession and Promise of the Gospel are adapted from liturgy by James E. Janeczek in *Seeds of Faith: Service Prayers for the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*. Posted on the United Church of Christ's *Worship Ways* archive:
<http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-c/p/pentecost-ordinary-time-21.html>

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Rebekah Anderson/Associate Pastor
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist
Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director
Colleen Chester, Choir Director
Edward Ennen, Sexton
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