

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
September 4th, 2022
Thirteenth 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: “When have you last had a good session with yourself? Or have you ever had it out with *you*? There comes a deep necessity which leads you finally into the closet with yourself. It is here that you raise the real questions about yourself. The leading one is, “What is it, after all, that I amount to, ultimately?” Such a question cuts through all that is superficial and trivial in life to the very nerve center of yourself. And this is a religious question because it deals with the total meaning of life at its heart. At such a moment, and at such a time, you must discover for yourself what is the *true* basis of your self-respect. This is found only in relationship to God whose Presence makes itself known in the most lucid moments of self-awareness. For all of us are God’s children and the most crucial clue to a knowledge of God is to be found in the most honest and most total knowledge of the self.”

Howard Thurman, excerpt from “The Self-Encounter” in *The Inward Journey*

Prelude

Prelude Op. 23 #4
Gail Lytle Lira, pianist

S. Rachmaninoff

Invitation to our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Call to Worship

Ron Dorr, Liturgist

One: God alone laid the foundations of the earth.

All: The morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy.

One: From the midst of wind and storms, God speaks with power.

All: We have seen the wondrous deeds of the Lord.

One: The Lord commands and raises the stormy wind and also makes the storm be still.

All: We have seen the wondrous deeds of the Lord!

One: Let us worship our Lord!

* **Hymn #463**

How Firm a Foundation, vs. 1, 2, 3, 5
[Foundation]

Prayer of Confession

Ron Dorr, Liturgist

One: God’s mercy is great. God is ready to forgive all the ways we fail to live in faithfulness. Relying on that mercy, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

All: Saving God, we confess that at times our faith is too small and our fear is too great. When life is uncertain and risky, we are not sure we can trust you with our whole hearts. Fear overtakes us, even though our lives are in your hands. We can allow the noise of the world to overwhelm your still, quiet voice. And we can fail to give you the space in our lives to truly do your transformative work. Forgive us. Draw us back into your steadfast love and shape us into the likeness of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Promise of the Gospel

One: The river of God's mercy runs deeper and wider than our sin. God removes our sins as far as the heavens are above the earth. This is the Good News of our faith.

All: Let us believe the Good News and live as a forgiven people. Alleluia! Amen.

*** Act of Praise #581**

Gloria Patri

Children's Sermon

Pastor Rebekah Anderson and Christine Beamer

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

I weave a silence onto my lips. I weave a silence into my mind. I weave a silence within my heart. I close my ears to distractions. I close my eyes to attractions. I close my heart to temptations. Calm me, O God, as you stilled the storm. Still me, O God, keep me from harm. Let all tumult within me cease. Enfold me, O God, in your peace and let some word of this be yours. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Mark 4:35-41, 6:47-52 (NRSV)

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Sermon

The Sacred in the Ordinary: The Sacred in Silence

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

Military March Op. 51 # 2

F. Schubert

Nicolas Lira and Gail Lytle Lira, pianists

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Holy Communion

Invitation

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor Lisa Schrott

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

Pastor Lisa Schrott

* **Hymn #503** *Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation*, vs. 1-3
[O Quanta Qualia]

Benediction

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Postlude

Morning Has Broken
Gail Lytle Lira

arr. L. Shackley

* *Please rise in body or spirit*

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

This Morning's Fellowship Team: *Thank you to the Schabergs for making the coffee.*

Next Week's Scripture: Genesis 8:6-12; 9:8-17

Next Week is Rally Day! We invite all children, youth, teachers and professors to bring their backpacks, school bags and computer bags for a blessing. Following worship, join us for an intergenerational art project. We will be painting landscape rocks to adorn our solar panel array. Classes for children, youth, and adults will meet for a short time after the project.

The Prayer of Confession is adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2*. Ed by Kimberly Bracken Long; Westminster John Knox Press, 2015. The Prayer of Illumination for this morning is a Celtic Christian Prayer. It comes from a collection of Scottish oral literature called the *Ortha Nan Gaidheal* and it is sometimes attributed to author David Adam.

In the sermon for this morning, you will hear a speech delivered by Jerome Ellis at the Saint Mark's Poetry Project on January 1st, 2020. I (Rebekah) first encountered Jerome's work in an episode of the radio program *This American Life* called "Made to be Broken." The full episode was produced by Sean Cole and can be found online here:

<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/713/made-to-be-broken>.

Video of Jerome's full reading can be found at:

<https://vimeo.com/481522861>.

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Colleen Chester, Choir Director
Edward Ennen, Sexton
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