

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
November 20, 2022
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Reign of Christ Sunday & Agape Meal**



COVID-19 Safety Recommendations

- *Masking is now optional during the service (including while singing).*
- *Remember that young children may not have been vaccinated.*

Prelude *Thanksgiving Suite* Charles Callahan
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Choral Introit *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*
PCO Chancel Choir

Invitation to our Shared Ministry Pastor Lisa Schrott

Call to Worship Chandra Juarez, Liturgist

One: Out of the darkness came light; and the power of God was revealed

All: in the running wave and the radio wave, in the electric spark and the shining stars.

One: Out of the dust came life; and the image of God was revealed

All: in the human face and the gentle heart, in the warmth of flesh and the depth of soul.

One: Out of justice came freedom; and the wisdom of God was revealed

All: in the need to grow and the will to love, in the chance to know and the power to choose.

One: And God looked at the creation,

All: and behold, it was very good.

* Hymn #367 *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*, vs. 1-4
[St. George's Windsor]

Prayer of Confession Chandra Juarez, Liturgist

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Confident in this ever-gracious help, we come before the Lord, confessing our sin and seeking forgiveness. Let us join together and confess our sins before God and each other.

All: God of all mercy, you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all. We confess that we have not always bowed before him, and are slow to acknowledge his rule. We give allegiance to the powers of this world, and fail to be governed by justice and love. Your faithfulness and love endure forever, yet our gratitude fades on a daily basis. For your blessings that we see and fail to acknowledge, please forgive us. Lead us back to the path of wisdom, gratitude and generosity. Gather us around a common table, assured of your presence and grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Promise of the Gospel

Chandra Juarez, Liturgist

One: The mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit help us live as your people.

All: Alleluia. Amen!

Passing of the Peace

Chandra Juarez, Liturgist

One: As a forgiven people, let us greet each other, sharing the peace of Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you. *Please greet your fellow worshippers in ways you feel comfortable.*

*** Act of Praise #581***Gloria Patri***Children's Sermon**

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Special Music*Bagatelle*

Anton Diabelli

Lizzie Conroy-Krutz (Violin)

Tyler Arcari (arr.)

Connor Haskel (Cello)

Sarah Mayhew, Director

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Gracious God, we give you thanks that you love us unconditionally. We know that your love has the power to transform our minds and hearts, and that it's your love that opens the door for us to transform our actions. Give us the strength and vulnerability to allow ourselves to be changed and to share your love with others, even those who challenge us. Guide us all and let some word of this be yours. Amen.

Old Testament Scripture

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Meditation

Unconditional Agape Love

New Testament Scripture

John 6:25-35

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Meditation

The Bread of Life

Anthem*A Jubilant Song*

Judy Phillips

PCO Handbell Choir

Directed by Irene Shutt

Minute for Mission

Giving Tree

Trudy Sturk

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation**Offertory**

Let All Things Now Living
Based on *The Ash Grove*, Welsh Folk Tune

Robert A. Hobby

* **Response #712** *As Those of Old Their First Fruits Brought*, vs. 1

* **Invitation to the Agape Meal**

Litany of Thanksgiving

Pastors Lisa Schrott and Rebekah Anderson

Generous God, we give you thanks for the gifts of the land – for sweet fruits and hearty grains. Throughout the years our ancestors brought forth their offerings of first fruits and grain to give thanks for your abundant generosity. The fruits and grain were reminders of your steadfast love and generosity and all the blessings we receive in our earthly lives. We now bring before you O, God our gratitude.

One: ... Let us offer our thanks to God

All: We give you thanks, O God.

Sung Response

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful (#654 *Glory to God Hymnal*)

(Repeat 3 times)

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful;

in the Lord I will rejoice!

Look to God; do not be afraid.

Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Lisa Schrott and the Craft Ministry

This morning we dedicate the work of our hands and the generosity of our hearts.

Prayers of the People

Pastor Rebekah Anderson and PCO Youth

One: O, Lord hear my prayer. (Please join in the sung response at the conclusion of the prayer).

Sung Response *O Lord, Hear My Prayer* (#471 *Glory to God Hymnal*)

O Lord, hear my prayer.

O Lord, hear my prayer.

When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer.

O Lord, hear my prayer.

Come and listen to me.

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

...forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors...

Sharing of Food and Story – *We invite you to share stories of gratitude around your table as you share in the offering of fruit and bread.*

*** Sending Song #300**

We Are One in the Spirit vs. 1-3

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

Refrain:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: (Refrain)

We will work with each other; we will work side by side;
we will work with each other; we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride: (Refrain)

*** Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

J.S. Bach
arr. Virgil Fox

** Please rise in body or spirit*

Education Time: History of the Agape Meal led by Pastor Rebekah.

Next Week's Education Time: Digging Deeper into Advent: From Generation to Generation. The Genealogy of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew led by Pastor Lisa. *There will not be Sunday School for children or youth next week.*

Next Week's Scripture: Matthew 1:1-17

Ushers: *Morrie & Barbara Hoevel, Ron & Barbara Dorr*

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Jane Bobay, Emily Conroy-Krutz, Kathi Cook, Steve Mayhew, Kent Workman, Dorinda VanKempen preparing our Agape Meal this Sunday.

Our Call to Worship is from St Mark's Broomhill & Broomhall Agape Night Service
<https://stmarkssheffield.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/200412-Night-Service.pdf>. The
Prayer of Confession is adapted from the *PC(USA) Book of Common Worship*. Westminster John
Knox, 2018

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The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
2258 Bennett Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864
(517) 349-9536
Website: <https://okemospres.org>
Email: office@okemospres.org
<https://twitter.com/okemospres>
<https://facebook.com/OkemosPresbyterian>



Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott, Pastor/Head of Staff
Rev. Rebekah Anderson, Associate Pastor
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist
Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director
Colleen Chester, Choir Director
Edward Ennen, Sexton
Anna Thiel, Office Manager