

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**  
**April 30, 2023**  
**Fourth Sunday of Eastertide**  
**Youth Sunday Worship Service**



**Preparation:** “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” Luke 6:37-38

**Prelude** *Voluntary in A minor* Maurice Greene  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

**Introit** *God is So Good* African Christian Folk Song  
Evan Haskel, viola  
Lucas Meland, piano  
Claire Mayhew, French horn  
*Youth Instrumentalists directed by Sarah Mayhew*

**Invitation to our Shared Ministry** Pastor Rebekah Anderson

**Call to Worship** Evan Haskel

One: God has a message for *all* people. No matter our age, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, financial status, or level of ability, God calls on all of us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

**All: Let us see God’s vision of justice, love, and peace. Let us make this vision a reality by bringing God’s love into the world!**

One: God creates paths for all of us to restore the world. Let us worship the God of love and restoration.

**All: Let us follow the path God has set for us. Let us worship God together.**

\* **Hymn #726** *Will You Come and Follow Me*, vs. 1-4  
[Kelvingrove]

**Prayer of Confession** Andrew Mayhew

One: We know that God is always with us and there is nothing we could do that would make God love us any less. We know that God loves us exactly as we are and meets us exactly where we are. God delights in us. But so often we forget God’s presence and even turn ourselves away from God’s embrace. Knowing that God loves us unconditionally, let us confess our sin together.

**All: God, we confess that we’ve made a lot of mistakes. We’ve said words that hurt other people. We’ve said words that hurt us. When we’re struggling, we forget that we can find true**

**comfort in your love and instead, turn toward short-term comforts that lead us away from you. We've neglected to care for people suffering in the world. Forgive us. Guide us to be loving and faithful. Give us the strength to live out your law of justice, love, and compassion even when it's hard. Restore us and allow our hearts and lives to be transformed by the power of your forgiveness. Amen.**

**Promise of the Gospel**

Andrew Mayhew

One: Our faith reminds us that God chooses love over hatred and forgiveness over blame and we're called to do the same. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.**

**Passing of the Peace**

Andrew Mayhew

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**

*The Giving Tree*

Story by Shel Silverstein

Interpretation by the Youth of PCO

*There is no Children's Worship Experience this morning. Children are invited to stay in the service to see older students leading worship!*

**First Scripture**

Micah 6:1-8

Lucas Meland

**Second Scripture**

Matthew 5:1-12

Connor Haskel

**Prayer of Illumination**

Sophia Juarez

Gracious God, bring calm and stillness to each of us this morning. Walk with us to a quiet place where we can find healing, rest, and truth. Open every wounded heart to the healing and peace we find in your word. Speak to us clearly so that we can feel joy and hope, knowing we are loved and belong to God. Amen.

**Sermon**

Sophia Juarez

**Anthem**

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

Arr. S. Mayhew

Lizzie Conroy-Krutz, violin

Connor Haskel, cello

Alex Juarez, trumpet

Andrew Mayhew, euphonium

Maddie Pearson, trumpet

*Youth Instrumentalists directed by Sarah Mayhew*

**Minute for Mission** Gun Violence: A Student Perspective Lizzie Conroy-Krutz

**Offering** Becca Boldrey

**Invitation**

**Offertory** *Interlude* Maurice Greene

**\*Doxology #606**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Prayers of the People** Alex Juarez

One: Lord in your mercy

**All: Hear our prayer.**

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

**\* Hymn #749** *Come! Live in the Light*  
[We Are Called]

**\* Benediction** Lucas Meland

**Postlude** *Trumpet Tune "Cebell"* Henry Purcell  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

*\* Please rise in body or spirit*

**Education Time:** There will be an opportunity to greet the youth leading our worship service and celebrate this year's graduating seniors: Sophia Jildeh, Sophia Juarez, and Henry Nawyn-Hellinga

**Ushers:** *Sue Cobbett, Claire Mayhew, Lizzie Conroy-Krutz*

**Flowers:** *The flowers beautifying the sanctuary this morning were given by David & Kathi Cook in thankfulness for the children and youth of PCO.*

**This Morning's Fellowship Team:** *Thank you to the Christian Education for Children & Youth committee for supplying our snacks and to the Cones for making the coffee.*

**Next Week's Scripture:** *1 Peter 2:2-10*

**Next Week's Education Time:** *Please join us in Fellowship Hall as PCO Choir Director Colleen Chester shares about her time at PCO and her future plans. We will also hear from and celebrate our MSU Choir Scholarship students: Amira Coleman, R.J. Kilcher, Conner Lindsey and Peyton Weil.*

**Budget Update:** *The Stewardship Committee would like the congregation to remain informed of the status of the church's finances. To meet this goal, going forward, brief quarterly summaries will be included in the church bulletin from time to time.*

Budgeted revenue for the first quarter (through March 31): \$118,230

Actual revenue for the first quarter: \$117,650

Budgeted expense for first quarter: \$130,378

Actual expense for first quarter: \$100,540

Revenue over expenses for first quarter \$17,110

The liturgy for this morning is adapted from *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion*, Westminster John Knox Press, 2013 and has been reshaped and reimagined by the youth of our congregation.

The Children's Sermon for this morning was adapted from *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein, HarperCollins Publishers, 1964. The text was altered in our use to include gender inclusive language.

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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