

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
May 14, 2023
Sixth Sunday of Eastertide



Preparation: "... Jesus' listeners were given a new place to find their identity: not in their social positions of honor or shame but in God. *Who we are in God is who we are.* That's the end of ups and downs. Our value no longer depends upon whether our family or village likes us, or whether we're good-looking, wealthy, or obedient to the laws. ... Who we are in God is a beloved child. Our identity is no longer dependent on the estimation of our culture or even on our own estimation of ourselves." -- Father Richard Rohr

Prelude

Aria

Flor Peeters

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Choral Introit

This Little Light of Mine

PCO Chancel Choir

Invitation to our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Call to Worship (adapted from Mathew 23 and Psalm 66)

Angie Boldrey, Liturgist

One: As a hen gathers her brood under her wings, God desires to gather us together.

All: Gather us, O God. We are here to worship and sing your praise!

One: Come and see what God has done: awesome are God's deeds among mortals.

All: Gather us, O God. We are here to worship and sing your praise!

One: God has turned the sea into dry land, so that we may pass to safety.

All: Gather us, O God. We are here to worship and sing your praise!

One: God keeps watch on the nations—so all the earth may make a joyful noise to God.

All: Gather us, O God. We are here to worship and sing your praise!

* **Hymn #693**

Though I May Speak, vs. 1-3

[The Gift of Love]

Prayer of Confession

Angie Boldrey, Liturgist

One: Because we trust in the mercy and the grace of God, we can come to God with honest and open hearts. Let us acknowledge the places in our life where we need to be forgiven and to seek new ways of living.

All: Loving God, we give thanks that you are a loving parent to us all. From your being all life was born and all creation is nurtured. You have formed us in your image as your children and gathered us together as a brood under your wing. Yet, while we have received such love from you, we too often fail to share that love with others. Forgive us. Help us live into our call to be people of compassion, mercy and, above all, love. Like a nurturing mother, help us embrace the hurting and brokenhearted and to share your great love for all. Amen.

Promise of the Gospel

Angie Boldrey, Liturgist

One: Christ transforms, redeems and renews. Through Christ's death and resurrection, we are a new creation, ready to sing God's glory and testify to God's grace.

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

Angie Boldrey, 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 Lisa Schrott

Children's Worship Experience

Children ages 3-8 may depart for the Children's Worship Experience in the Chapel after the Children's Sermon.

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Creator God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Walk with us. Guide us with your wisdom and grace. May the Holy Spirit open us to seeking your will and your way. Amen.

Scripture

Acts 17:22-31

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

God's Offspring

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Affirmation of FaithFrom *A Brief Statement of Faith* (in unison)

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.

Anthem*O Love*

Elaine Hagenberg

PCO Chancel Choir

*O love that will not let me go;
O love, I rest my weary soul in Thee.
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thy ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.*

*O joy that seeks me through the pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.*

Minute for Gratitude & Mission PC(USA) Special Offerings Pastor Lisa Schrott
One Great Hour of Sharing & Pentecost Offering

Offering Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory *Amabile on a Swedish Folk Tune* Arr: Alice Jordan
[Children of the Heavenly Father]

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People Angie Boldrey, Liturgist

One: Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

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

*** Hymn #488** *I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry*, vs. 1-3
[Waterlife]

*** Benediction** Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude *Finale on The Gift of Love* Arr. Janet Linker
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

** Please rise in body or spirit*

Education Time: There will be no education time this morning for children, youth and adults.

Ushers: *Gary & Trudy Sturk, Jeff & Michele Arbour*

This Morning's Fellowship Team: *Thank you to Jane and Tom Bobay for preparing coffee and snacks for us today.*

Next Week's Scripture: Matthew 23:23-28

Portions of our liturgy this morning are written by the Rev. Teri McDowell Ott and provided by the *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2023.

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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

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Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott, Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Rebekah Anderson, Associate Pastor

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist

Dr. Colleen Chester, Choir Director

Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director

Edward Ennen, Sexton

Anna Thiel, Office Manager