The Presbyterian Church of Okemos June 11th, 2023 Second Sunday After Pentecost



**Preparation:** Describing immigrants and refugees as "strangers" renders migrants as alien and distant, as people who are not of America, but apart from America. But the truth is that immigrants and refugees are often not "strangers," but people with whom Americans' lives are very much entwined. Seeking justice for migrants requires that we speak truthfully about our deep connections and interdependence.

Prelude	Ukrainian Folk Song Farewell, Dear Country Home	
	Meditation on Ukrainian Song Homeland	Vidas Pinkevicius
	Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist	
Invitation to our Shared Ministry		Pastor Lisa Schrott

Welcome New Members Zachary Krawczyk, Jack & Laurie Harkema

**Call to Worship** 

Emily Conroy-Krutz, Liturgist

Jill Schaberg

- One: In Jesus Christ, the God of heaven made a home on earth,
- All: becoming our neighbor, living next door, living with us.
- One: So come now, you who are far from home and long to draw close to God,
- All: and you who are weary and long to be cared for.
- One: Our God is with us.
- All: Our God draws near, now and always.

\* Hymn #320 The Church of Christ in Every Age, vs. 1-5 [Wareham]

### **Prayer of Confession**

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

- One: Knowing that our God walks with us in our confusion, our doubts, our failings, our struggles, we now come humbly before God to ask for mercy.
- All: Merciful God, we come before you asking for forgiveness for the times we fail to offer hospitality to those in our world who suffer injustice, oppression, and poverty; for the times we lack courage to address the causes of injustice, oppression poverty; for the times we give in to despair and resignation when confronted with the injustice of our world; and for the times we allow our fears to triumph over the call to solidarity. God, have mercy on us and on your people. Heal the brokenness in our hearts and in our world caused by injustice, indifference, selfishness and fear. Open our hearts to hear the cries of your people. Support us as we seek to respond in solidarity and with hospitality. Amen.

# **Passing of the Peace** As a forgiven people, let us greet each other, sharing the peace of Christ. The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you. Please greet your fellow worshippers in ways you feel comfortable.

\* Act of Praise #581

One:

All:

# **Children's Sermon**

# **Children's Worship Experience**

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

## **Praver of Illumination**

Holy God, open your Word. Give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation, that our eyes may be enlightened and we may know the hope to which we have been called. Amen.

Scriptures	Matthew 25: 34-40 Dr. Melissa Borja	
Sermon	Beyond "Welcoming the Stranger" Dr. Melissa Borja	
Special Music	God of Grace and God of Glory PCO Handbell Choir Directed by Irene Shutt	arr. by Kevin McChesney
Minute for Service	Commissioning of the Mission Team to Simbolei Academy Rebekah Anderson, Ellen Hoekstra, Cathy McCarthy, Jill Schaberg & Tom Schaberg	
Offering Invitation		Pastor Lisa Schrott
Offertory	<i>Grazioso</i> PCO Handbell Choir	Arnold Sherman
* <b>Doxology</b> #606 * <b>Prayer of Dedicat</b>	ion	
Prayers of the People		Emily Conroy-Krutz, Liturgist

### **Promise of the Gospel**

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ One: rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

All: Thanks be to God: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Dr. Melissa Borja

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Gloria Patri

* Hymn (see insert	) Gentle Jesus, vs. 1-3 [Refuge]	Text & Music by Philip Rice Richelle Wilson		
* Benediction		Dr. Melissa Borja		
Postlude	March on Ukrainian Song <i>Oh, In the Meadow Red Vil</i> Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist	<i>Durnum</i> Vidas Pinkevicius		
* Please rise in body or spirit				

The Lord's Prayer	• "…forgive us ou	r debts as we forgive	our debtors"
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Gary & Trudy Sturk, Jeff & Michele Arbour

Flowers:	The flowers beautifying the sanctuary today are given by David and Kathi Cook in honor
	of Irene Shutt and the Handbell Choir.

**This Morning's Fellowship Team:** Thank you to Shirley Rumminger for supplying snacks and to the Cones for preparing today's coffee.

**Music Notes:** The last hymn, *Gentle Jesus* (Refuge), was written in 2015 by PCO friend and former choir scholarship student Dr. Philip Rice in response to the Syrian civil war refugee crisis. It is only too timely to revisit the text as we focus on refugee awareness.

**Adult Education:** We welcome Dr. Melissa Borja to PCO today. Dr. Borja is a professor at the University of Michigan. Dr. Borja researches and teaches about religion, migration, race, ethnicity, and politics in the United States and the Pacific World, with special attention to how Asian American religious beliefs and practices have developed in the context of pluralism and the modern American state.

Next Week's Scripture: Acts 10: 34-36; 44-48

Ushers:

**Next Week's Adult Education:** As we prepare to recognize World Refugee Week, Stephanie Nawyn will lead a discussion on Welcoming the New Neighbor.

The Call to Worship is from *Reformed Worship* 148; Worship Ministries of the Christian Reformed Church. June 2023. The Prayer of Confession is from Offering Hospitality to Refugees from the Christian Reformed Church <u>https://dojustice.crcna.org/article/worship-resources-refugee-justice;</u>

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#### The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

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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
  - Edward Ennen, Sexton Anna Thiel, Office Manager